Your questions answered

Solar energy billing

- Understanding what your meter measures
- Selling and buying electricity
- Seasonal solar production
Alliant Energy is here to support solar customers like you. We buy excess energy you produce on sunny summer days, and we supply energy to you during cloudy periods and at night.

These buy/sell transactions are only part of the total picture of how much energy your solar panels produce and how much energy you use.

Learn more about what’s on your bill and what is not.

Only energy through your meter appears on your bill

Your Alliant Energy bill shows the net difference between energy produced and energy used.
- If you used more energy than you produced, your bill will show an amount due for energy used.
- If you produced more than you used, your bill will show a credit (in the form of kWh to be banked) for leftover energy.

What does not go through your meter

Your Alliant Energy bill does not show total energy produced by your solar system.

Not all energy that your solar system produces is sold to Alliant Energy. Your home uses some or all of that power, first. Only the leftover energy – the net energy – is sold. Your bill reflects net sales and net usage only.

For example, if from 9 a.m. to noon, your system produced 10 kWh and you used 10 kWh:
- You didn’t buy extra energy from us, so our bill (for that period) would reflect 0 kWh used.
- You didn’t sell any leftover energy to us, so our bill (for that period) would reflect 0 kWh sold.

The 10 kWh doesn’t register to Alliant Energy’s meter, so that data won’t appear on your bill.
Seasonal effect on solar production

Cold weather and fewer daylight hours can cause your energy usage to be higher and solar production to be lower, making the gap between what you produce and what you use seem even larger.

Solar systems produce less electricity in winter for a few reasons:

- The sun is lower in the sky, so its light doesn’t hit the panels at an optimal angle.
- There are fewer daylight hours available for producing electricity.

### Buying excess energy

It’s late afternoon in winter, and your solar panels are producing enough energy to power the fridge. You are home and using energy for lights, TV, stove, washing machine and furnace. The Alliant Energy meter will measure the extra amount of energy you’re using for lights, TV, stove, washing machine and furnace. Your bill will show charges for that extra energy you bought from Alliant Energy.

Result = Amount due

### Selling excess energy

It’s noon on a hot, sunny summer day, you aren’t home and only your fridge is running. Your panels are producing more energy than the fridge is using. The Alliant Energy meter will measure the amount of leftover energy you’re producing, which is the total minus the amount used to run the fridge. Your bill will show credits because you sold this leftover energy to us.

Result = Credit (kWh to be banked)*

*The monthly meter charge cannot be offset by kWh credited or banked.

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**What can you do?**

- Verify that your solar equipment is working properly.
- Reach out to the installer to confirm that the inverter is working as it should. Ask if there are other services or technology that can give you data about solar energy you consume at home.
- Perform a breaker isolation test to find out what equipment may be running and using electricity.
- Pursue energy efficiency. Visit [alliantenergy.com/rebates](http://alliantenergy.com/rebates) for information including rebate programs and low-cost, no-cost options to improve how you use energy at your home or business.

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**Alliant Energy Renewable Hotline**

1-800-972-5325

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

sellmypower@alliantenergy.com