

FOR CUSTOMERS OF FOREST GROVE LIGHT & POWER WHO HAVE INSTALLED CO-GENERATION SYSTEMS:

HOW TO READ THE CITY'S NEW "NET METER" AND TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE NUMBERS MEAN:

On the outside of your home, where your old electric meter used to be, we have installed a new, electronic bi-directional electric meter. This meter has 3 displays that continually cycle 24-hours a day. Each display has a label to the left side of the numbers to identify which quantity is being shown. Listed below are the 3 displays in the order in which you will see them rotate:

88888: This display signals the beginning of the rotation. It indicates that the display sequence is about to start.
NE: This is the first display. The letters NE stand for "Net". This is the display that the meter-reader reads monthly, and that your monthly bill is based upon. The "Net" display shows the total amount of power, in KWH, that you have purchased from the Power Company, MINUS any power that your Co-Gen system has delivered back to the Power Company.

DE: This is the second display, (the letters "DE" stand for "Delivered"). It shows the total amount of power (KWH) to date that has been delivered to your home from the power company since the meter was installed. It DOES NOT reflect any power your system may have generated back to the power company.

RE: This third and final display shows the total amount of power (KWH) that your system has generated back to the power-company. The letters "RE" stand for "Received".

Note: The "Net" display (the first one) equals the Delivered (second display) MINUS the Received (third display) or---→
 $NE = DE - RE.$

The ONLY display that the meter reader records are the "Net", or first, display. This is the only quantity that is used to calculate your monthly electric bill. You can see that in this way, any power that your Co-Gen system generates back to the City is fully credited to you at our normal billing rate.

The 2nd and 3rd displays (Delivered and Received) are only shown for the benefit of those who may be interested in this information, such as the homeowner or the contractor who installed the system. Also, when reading the City's Electric meter, remember that the words "delivered" and "received" refer to the flow of electricity from the Power Company's point of view.



MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION ABOUT CO-GEN SYSTEMS :

Most residential Co-Gen systems are designed so that the electricity that they produce is used WITHIN the home to replace power that WOULD HAVE BEEN purchased from the Power Company. The Co-Gen system generates electricity back to the Power Company ONLY when it is able to supply all the electrical needs within the residence and still have an excess generation capacity.

There is a KWH display on your inverter that shows the total amount of power that has been generated since the unit was installed. This doesn't indicate where the power went (for example, used within the home, and/or sold back to the Power Company), it only shows the total KWH your system has generated. Also, remember, the KWH shown here is power that WOULD HAVE BEEN purchased from the Power Company if you didn't have your co-gen system.

During an actual power outage, your Co-Gen system is designed to shut itself off immediately. The Co-Gen system will only function when the electricity from the electric utility is in a "normal" condition. This immediate shut-down is required by the National Electric Code as well as your local electric utility's regulations. The reason for the immediate shutdown rule is that a severe safety hazard can exist if an independent generation system attempted to "back-feed" electricity onto a temporarily inoperative distribution system. Serious injury or death could result when Utility Repairmen, Linemen, Public Safety or Emergency workers, and even the general public would come in contact with downed powerlines that were NOT expected to be energized.

Please contact your electric utility, Forest Grove Light & Power, at 503-992-3250 for more information if needed.