

Upstate Forever

Support Net Metering -- Comments Due by Feb. 1

January 25, 2007

Support Net Metering in South Carolina!

Right now the relationship between public utilities and their customers in South Carolina is a one-way street. Utilities gladly sell electricity to their customers, but they are not required to purchase power produced by the customers themselves through solar, wind, geothermal and other renewable energy systems. These systems at times produce more power than the customer actually needs. The ability to sell this surplus power to the utility (thereby enabling the customer's electric meter to run backwards) can make installing a renewable energy system economically feasible for individual homeowners while simultaneously reducing our societal dependence on fossil fuels.

"Net metering" is the name for the policy that requires public utilities to purchase surplus power from their customers, charging them only for their net usage from the power grid. South Carolina is one of only ten states which have not adopted net metering, but hopefully that is about to change.

The federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires all state public service commissions to consider certain standards to encourage better use of our energy resources, including net metering. The South Carolina Public Service Commission has established a docket to meet the requirements of the federal law, and they need to hear from you!

Please write or e-mail the Commission today and urge the agency to make net metering a reality in South Carolina. E-mails should be sent to deborah.easterling@psc.sc.gov; the mailing address is: South Carolina Public Service Commission, 101 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100, Columbia, SC 29210. Please refer to **Docket No. 2005-385- E**. The deadline for comments is February 1, 2007.

You can put the message in your own words, but feel free to use this one if you wish:

I am writing to urge you to proceed as quickly as possible in establishing a policy of net metering in South Carolina. Our state needs to join the 40 other states which require public utilities to purchase surplus power from their residential customers. This requirement will increase the use of renewable energy sources, improve environmental quality, and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels (domestic and foreign).

Thank you for your consideration of my views on this important subject.

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