



Utilities Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2024 at 12:00 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

Alison Yurko, Mary Dipboye, Michael Poole, Paul Conway, Kathryn Sutton (virtual)

Absent

Paul W. Smith Jr., Leon Huffman

Staff Present

Director of Water and Wastewater Utilities David Zusi, Electric Utility Operations Manager Miguel Cruz, Director of Finance Wes Hamil, Electric Utility Engineer Manager Mourad Belfakih, Integrated Resources Program Manager Lisa Vedder, Director of Communications Clarissa Howard

1. Call to Order

Michael Poole called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve the minutes of August 27, 2024

Motion made by Paul Conway to approve the minutes, seconded by Mary Dipboye . Motion carried unanimously with a 4-0 vote.

3. Public Comments (for items not on the agenda): Three minutes allowed for each speaker

Warren Weeden, Brookshire neighborhood, confirmed the city of Winter Park renewable energy plan has the expectation to reach 80% renewable energy by 2035. Mr. Weeden questioned the following:

- How much solar energy is being produced by the City of Winter Park and if there is a proposal to get more rooftop solar by ensuring net metering stays as an effective enticement
- If the citizens are able to participate in the action plan as it is being worked on
- The EV charging rate. He read that it was \$1.00 for 20 minutes which amounts to a \$0.50 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) charge for one car plugged into a station. If two cars are plugged into a station then it will amount to \$1.00 per kWh. Mr. Weeden offered that with this pricing structure, the city will discourage people from utilizing the service. Mr. Weeden mentioned that he is currently plugged into the charging station and receiving around 3 kilowatts per hour. If he were paying \$1.00 for 20 min, that would amount to \$1.00 per kWh at the end of the session.

Ms. Vedder explained that staff proposed a \$0.35 per kWh fee based on the cost of service analysis, however the UAB chose the rate of \$1.00 per 20 minutes. Mr. Poole explained the renewable energy plan does not have any benchmark goals yet, nor are there any additional plans at this time to encourage solar energy use. Mr. Poole noted that the current meeting will include a discussion on solar net energy metering rates and further explained that the overall electric utility strategic plan is being developed and the sustainability action plan encompassing electric, solar, water & wastewater, and sustainability is still in process. Ms. Vedder added that rough numbers around the solar currently being produced by rooftop customers will be discussed during the Solar & Net Metering presentation.

4. Action Items

5. Non-Action Items

a. Solar & Net Metering - Lisa Vedder

Ms. Vedder presented on solar distributed generation also known as customer owned generation, but typically called rooftop solar, and the City's net energy metering (NEM) policy. On November 28, 2012, the City Commission approved the recommendation of the UAB to implement a NEM rate mechanism for customer owned solar. In January 2024, the City adopted a resolution to become 100% renewable energy by 2050. It was clarified by Mr. Poole that the UAB makes recommendations and the Commission adopts policies and procedures.

Ms Vedder presented several graphics and discussed the following points:

- Definition of Net Metering
- Solar Production vs Load
- California's duck curve
- Meaning of arrays and the number of arrays installed between 2012 & 2023
- Summary of the billing data for NEM customers between August 2022 and September of 2024

An in-depth discussion followed on the net metering billing, the Leidos COS study and the challenge around fixed cost recovery—under NEM at full retail rates as implemented by Winter Park. The Leidos Study rates were based on the residential customer class carrying \$16 million of fixed costs.

- NEM Impact on Revenue and Revenue vs COS Impact

Discussion resulted on customers who produce excess electricity and the billing treatment.

- Options on rate design were presented, resulting in a lengthy discussion on rate design and cost of service, fixed charge and marginal costs
- A summary of NEM approaches by the 32 municipalities in the Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA)

- Challenges - WP net metering policy is 12 years old, reform is met with pushback, lobbyist and proactive groups who don't want reduction in full retail, or increased fixed charges. A handout reflecting OUC's experience was given to Board members.

Allison Yurko left at 1:20pm

Discussion continued on net metering rates, revenue impacts, and financial risk. The renewable energy and solar plan will require the input of staff, the Commission, the sustainability action committee, and UAB to come up with a master plan that addresses the issues mentioned in the net metering solar rate discussion.

- b. Recommendations on painting boxes - Mourad Belfakih

Mr. Belfakih advised the painting of the electric boxes is not in the electric budget. Mr. Poole advised the issue is not a UAB issue.

6. Staff Updates

- a. Electric Utility - Mourad Belfakih

Mr. Belfakih displayed the Monthly Electric Utility Update (July). Ms. Howard advised a survey is being conducted on the decorative lighting. To date, 87% of respondents are in favor of the new decorative lighting. There is no inventory with the light poles, they go back to the warehouse and if there was a surplus of any light fixture it will be auctioned off at a state auction.

- b. Water & Wastewater Utility – David Zusi

Mr. Zusi provided an update on the strategic plan process and informed the interviews of the stakeholders were completed. October 16th is the full UAB workshop from 8-11 am. A number of changes from the feedback of the interviews are being acted on including some citywide policy changes.

The lead and copper general letters have been sent out. The website is up. More specific letters will be generated later in October.

- c. Performance Measurement – Wes Hamil

Mr. Hamil displayed the Utility Monthly Performance Measurements. Question was asked if AI programs are being placed on personal owned servers within the city due to the increased usage. Mr. Hamil explained that usage can be determined by residential or commercial but not whether the use is from AI.

The results of the brainstorming survey from Mark McCain with Hometown Connections will be presented at the October 22nd meeting. The pre-workshop survey will be presented in December and Staff will develop a recommended short list of strategies to present at the January meeting.

- d. Educational Campaign – Clarissa Howard

Ms. Howard displayed the bill insert with the lead and copper letter updates and the press releases of the decorative street lights, the EV Car Show & Fair and the EV charging to charge. Ms. Howard mentioned the informative [32789.com](https://www.32789.com) online news site that promotes the Winter Park press releases. Sand bags are available for Hurricane Helene. Special needs assistance is through Orange County services.

7. Board Comments

Mr. Belfakih will bring the decorative lighting plan to the board in December.

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

Mr. Poole suggested Board action on Staff recommendations concerning NEM.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Approved by the board on October 22, 2024
/s/ Bahiyyah Layton, Board Coordinator

Distributed Generation Net Energy Metering Tariff & Policy Update

Utilities Advisory Board (UAB)

September 24, 2024



Agenda

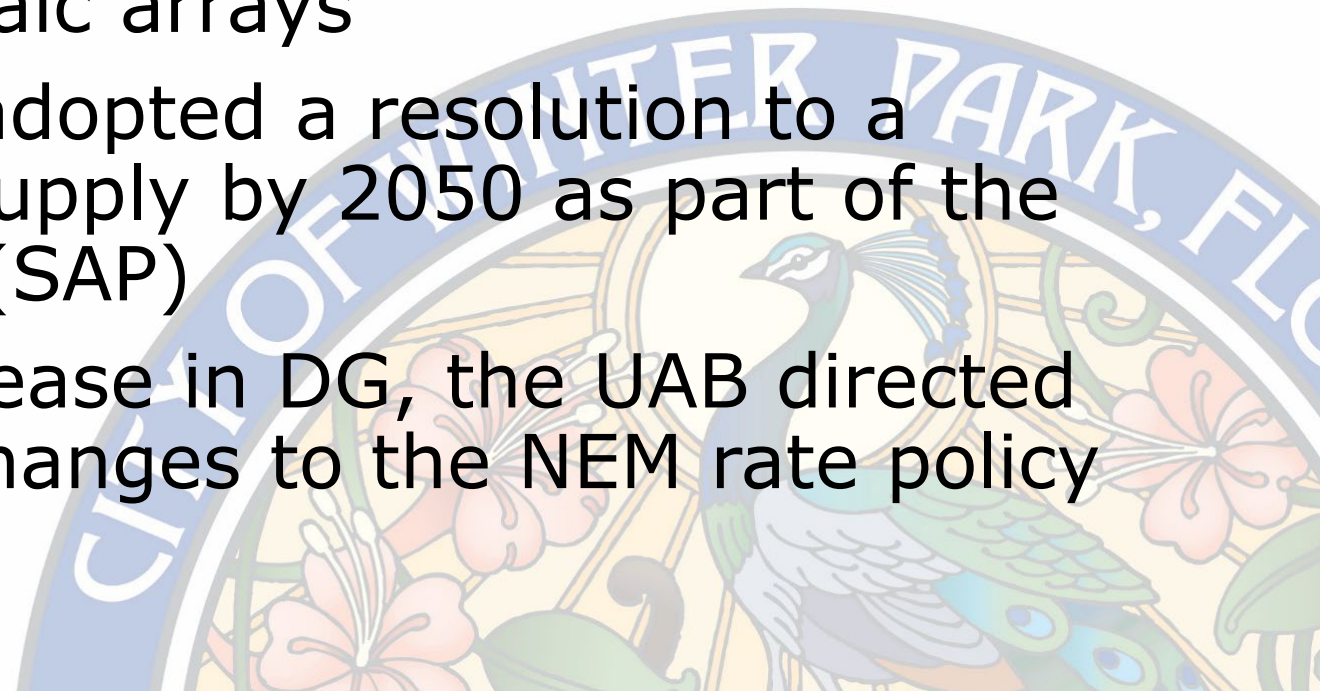
Distributed
Generation Net
Energy Metering
Tariff & Policy
Update

- Overview
- Background
- Analysis
- Results
- Recommendations
- Questions



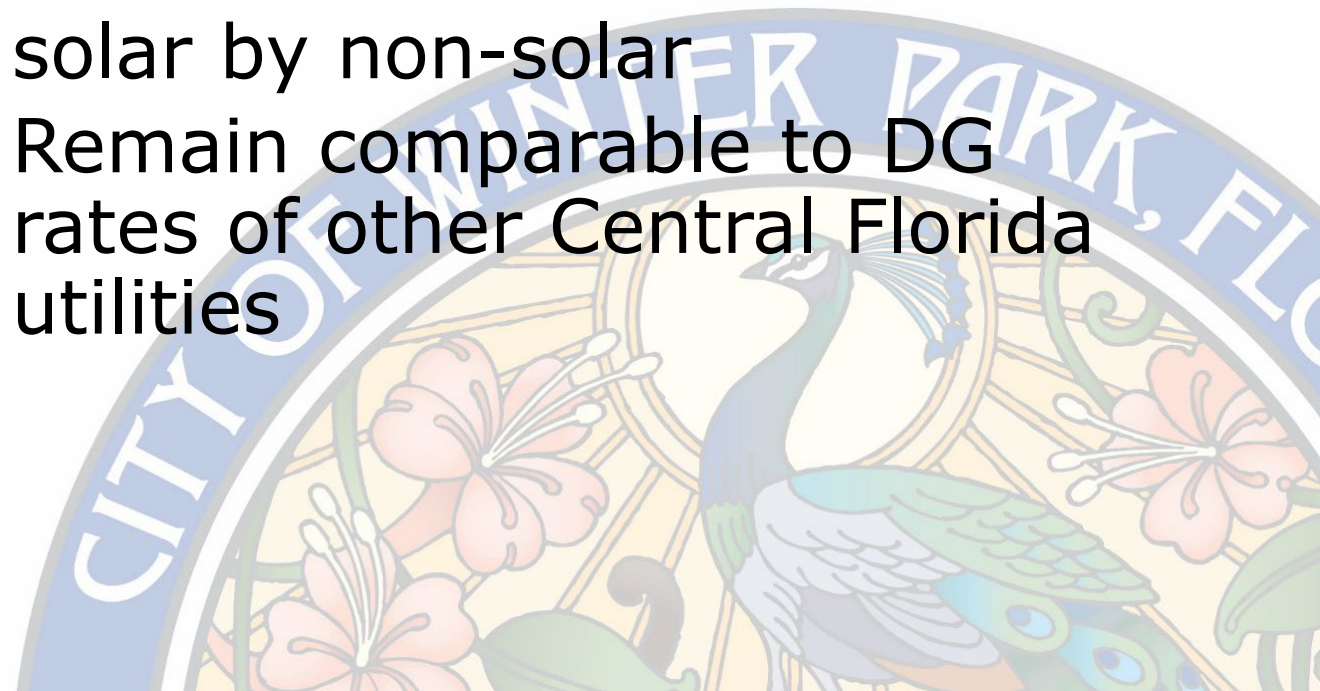
Overview

- On November 28, 2012 the City Commission approved the recommendation of the Utilities Advisory Board (UAB) to implement a Net Energy Metering (NEM) rate mechanism for customer-owned distributed generation (DG)—i.e., solar photovoltaic arrays
- In January 2024 the City adopted a resolution to a 100% renewable energy supply by 2050 as part of the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP)
- In preparation for the increase in DG, the UAB directed Staff to assess potential changes to the NEM rate policy



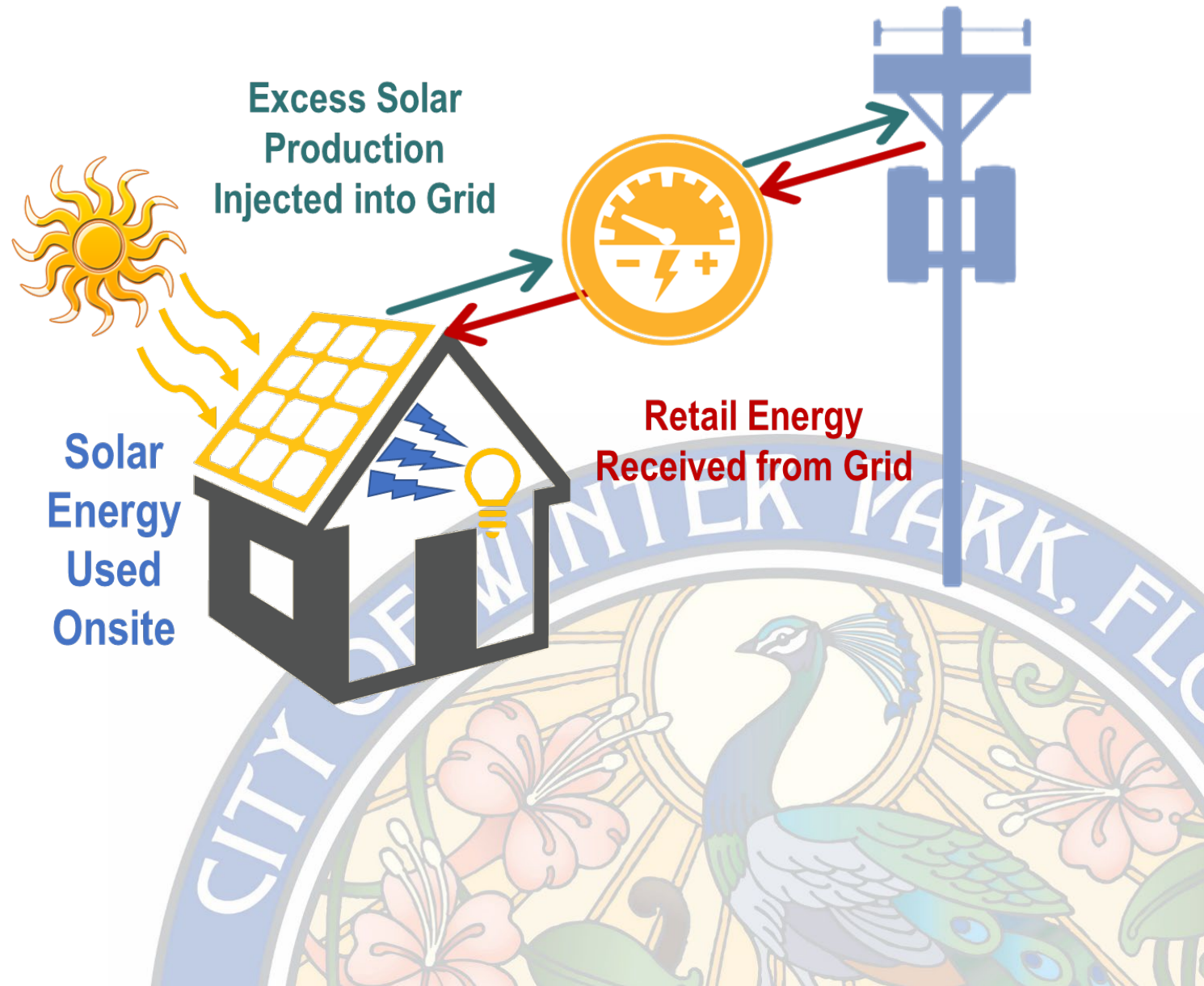
Background

- Four DG Systems added when NEM adopted in 2012:
 - Two 5 kW
 - One 7 kW
 - One 15 kW
- The UAB chose NEM at full retail rates based on three criteria:
 - Create incentive for DG adoption
 - Avoid undue subsidization of solar by non-solar
 - Remain comparable to DG rates of other Central Florida utilities



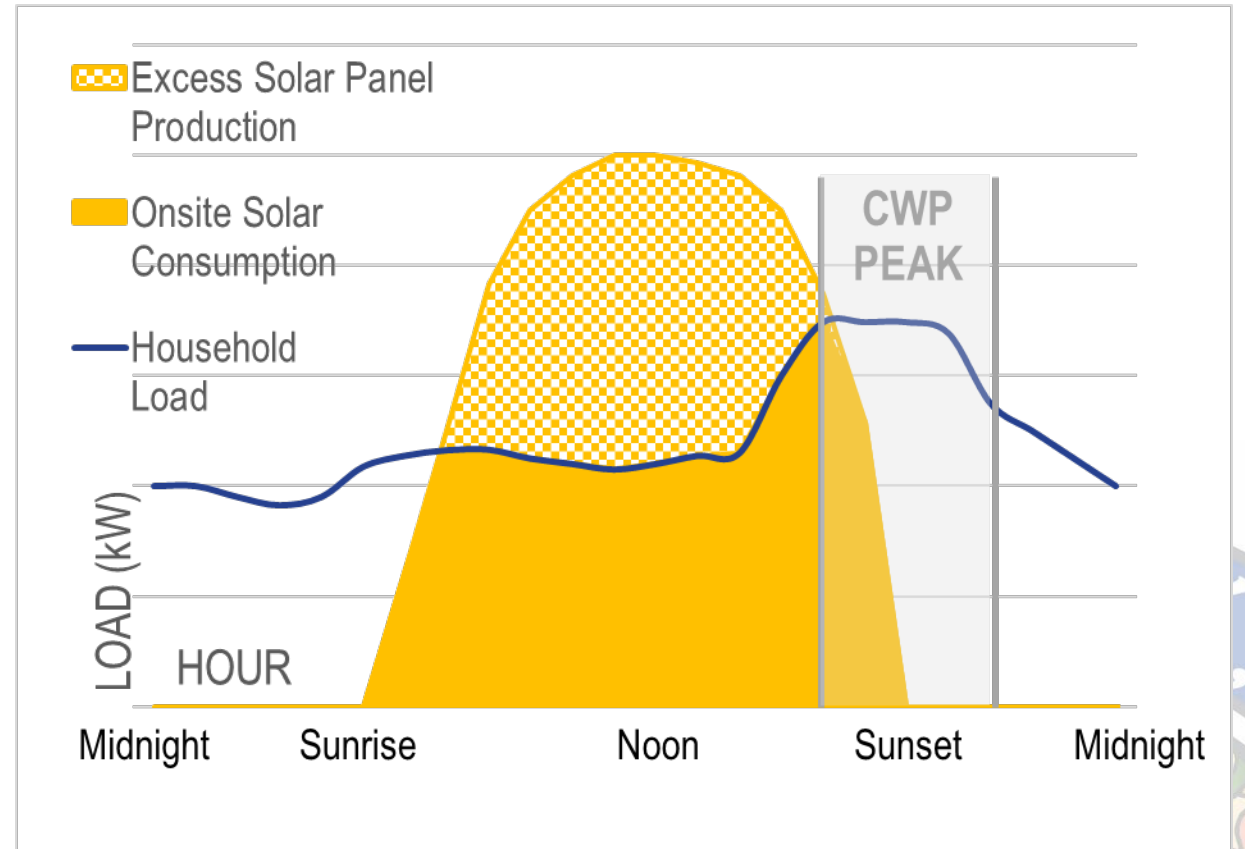
What is NEM?

- The customer receives a credit for solar energy provided to the grid as an offset to retail energy received from the utility



Solar Production v Load

- Typically Production & Load are Mismatched
- Solar Not Available to Meet Peak Residential Demand

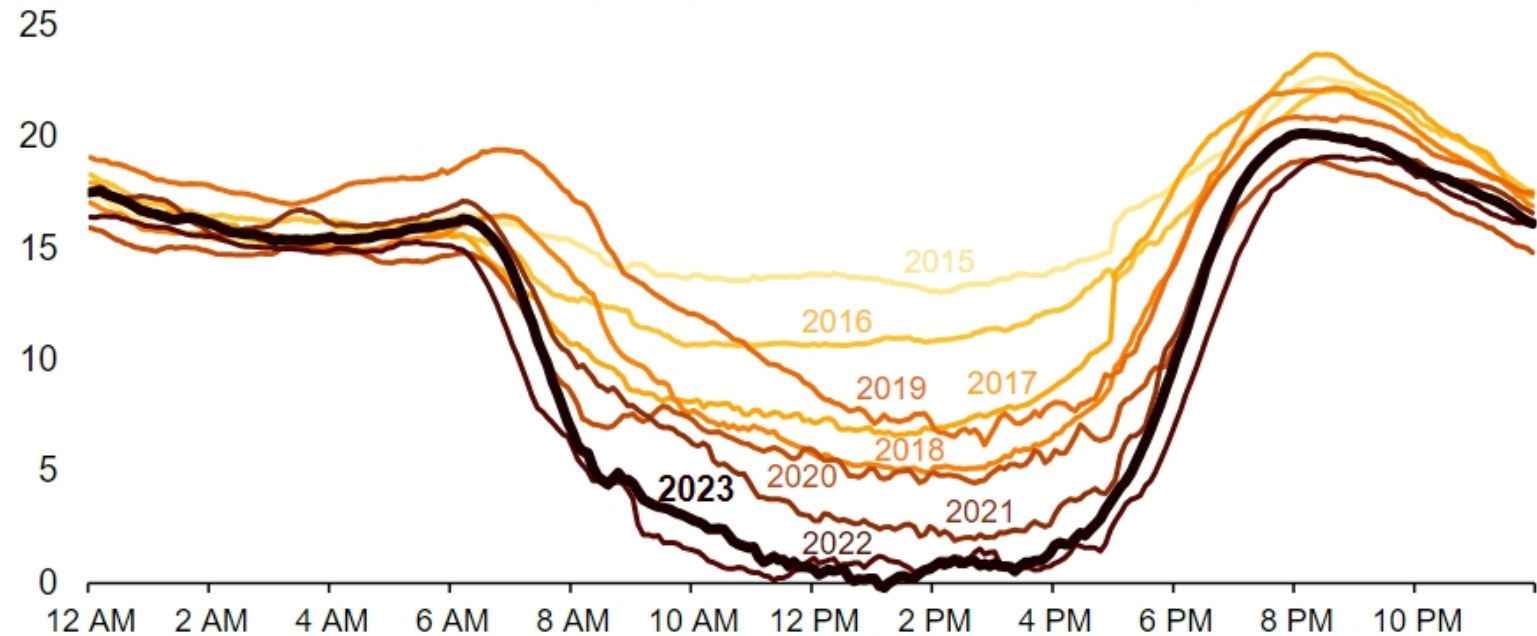


Grid Challenges

- Mismatch Creates Duck Curve

California's duck curve is getting deeper

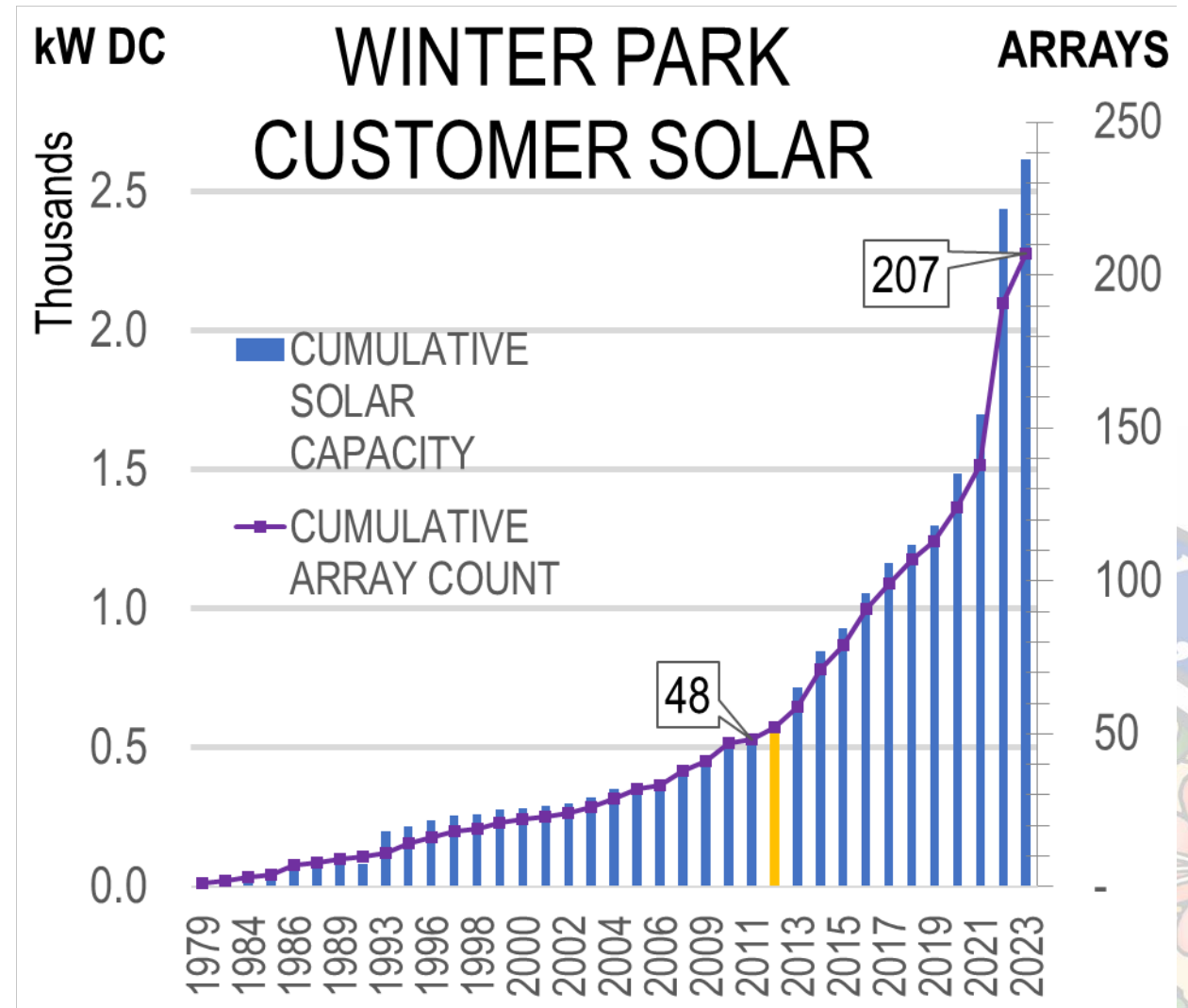
CAISO lowest net load day each spring (March–May, 2015–2023), gigawatts



Data source: [California Independent System Operator](#) (CAISO)

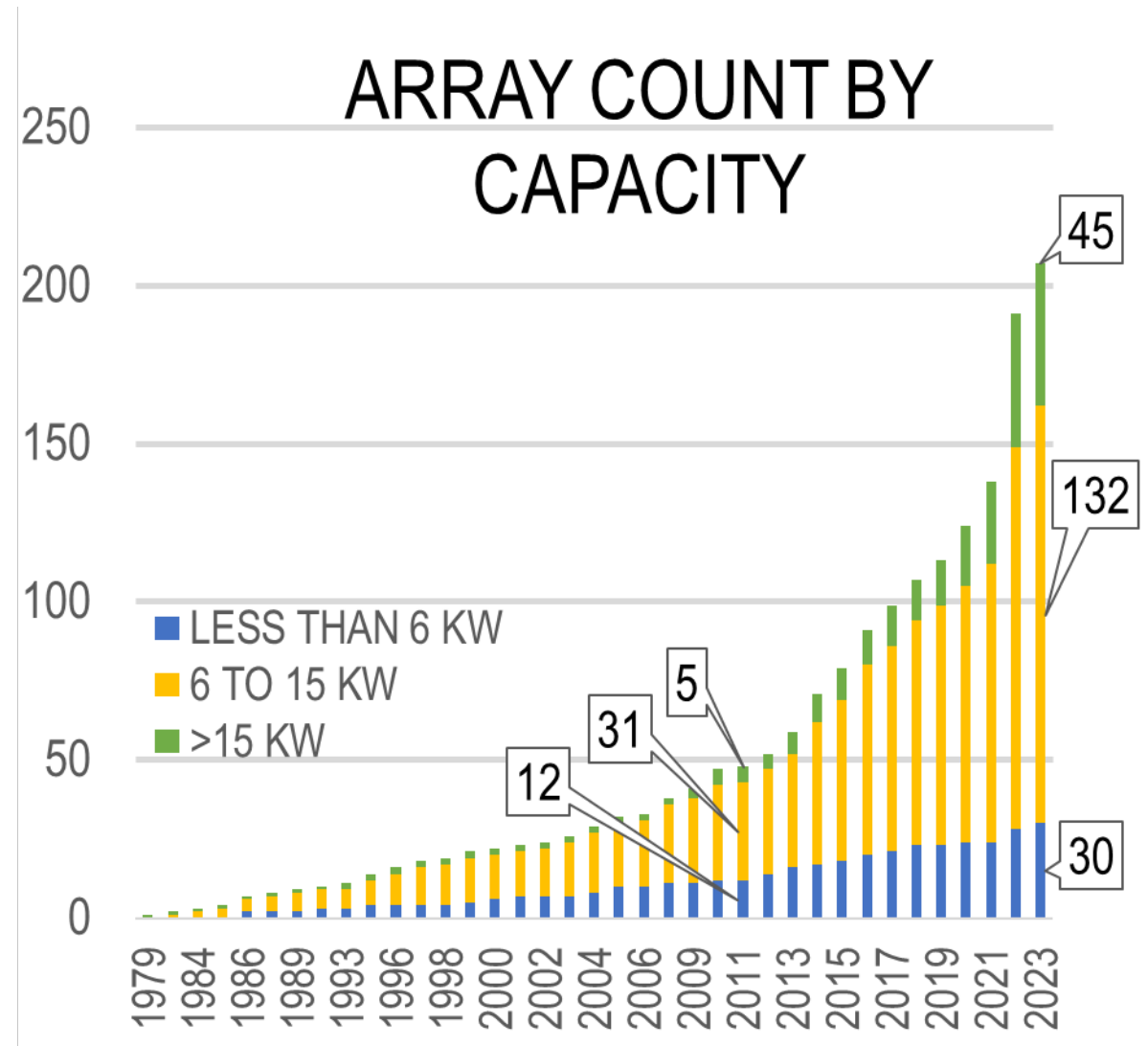
Background

- Under NEM Policy between 2012 & 2023
 - 159 Arrays Added
 - 2,070 kW DC Added



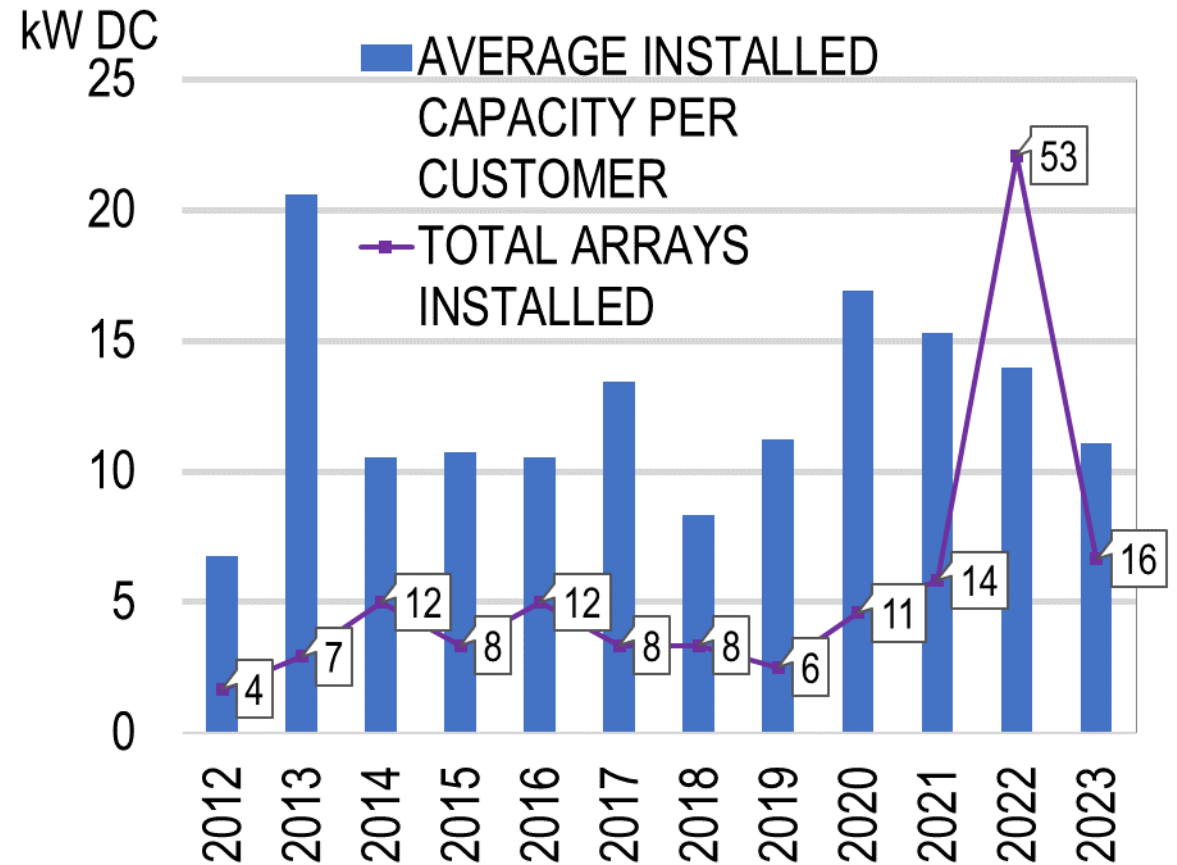
Background

- Under NEM Policy between 2012 & 2023
 - 40 Arrays >15 kW DC Added
 - 101 Arrays b/t 6 & 15 kW DC Added
 - 18 Arrays <6 kW DC Added

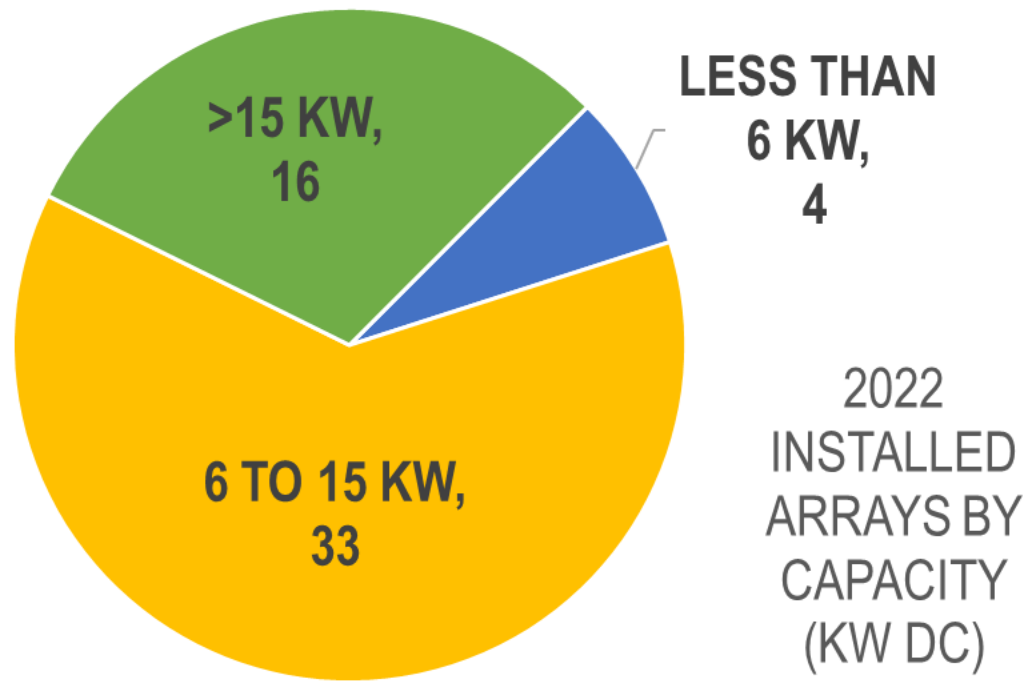


Background

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 - 40 Arrays >15 kW DC Added
 - 101 Arrays b/t 6 & 15 kW DC Added
 - 18 Arrays <6 kW DC Added



Background



- Of the 53 Arrays Installed in 2022, 16 were >15kW DC:

- 11 < 20 kW DC
- 2 >20 <30 kW DC
- 2 = 30 kW DC
- 1 = 86.4 kW DC

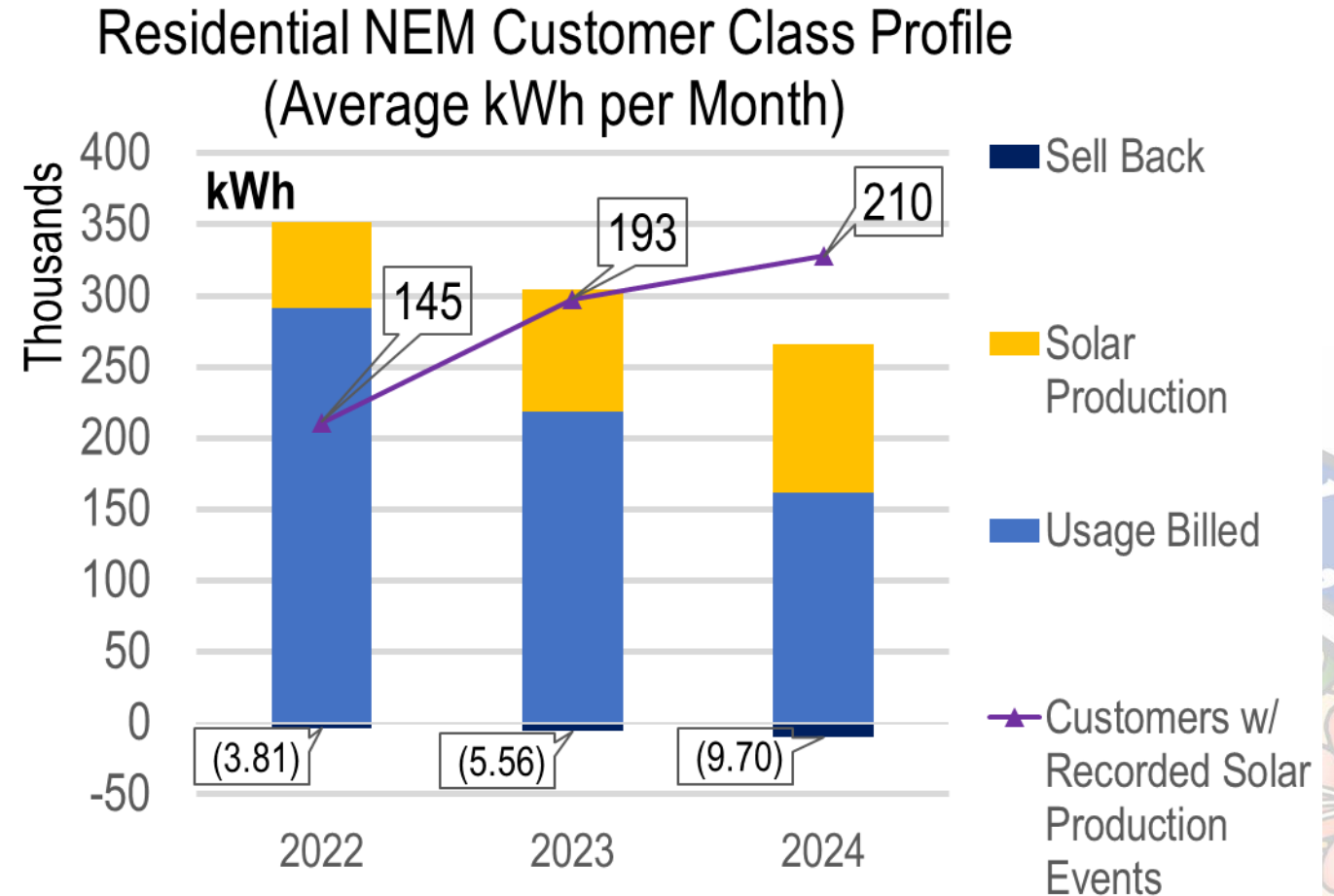
Actual NEM Billing Data Analysis

- August 2022 to September 2024
- Production meter data analyzed
 - Some customers do not have production meters
 - Zero production months excluded

BILLING SYSTEM DATA	Residential	Commercial Demand
2022 (August - December)		
Customers With Usage	214	6
Customers With Production	145	4
Negative Bill Count	81	0
Total Buyback (kWh)	(27,738)	0
2023 (January - December)		
Customers With Usage	215	6
Customers With Production	193	4
Negative Bill Count	342	0
Total Buyback (kWh)	(136,823)	0
2024 (January - September)		
Customers With Usage	217	8
Customers With Production	210	8
Negative Bill Count	365	1
Total Buyback (kWh)	(157,270)	0

Actual NEM Data

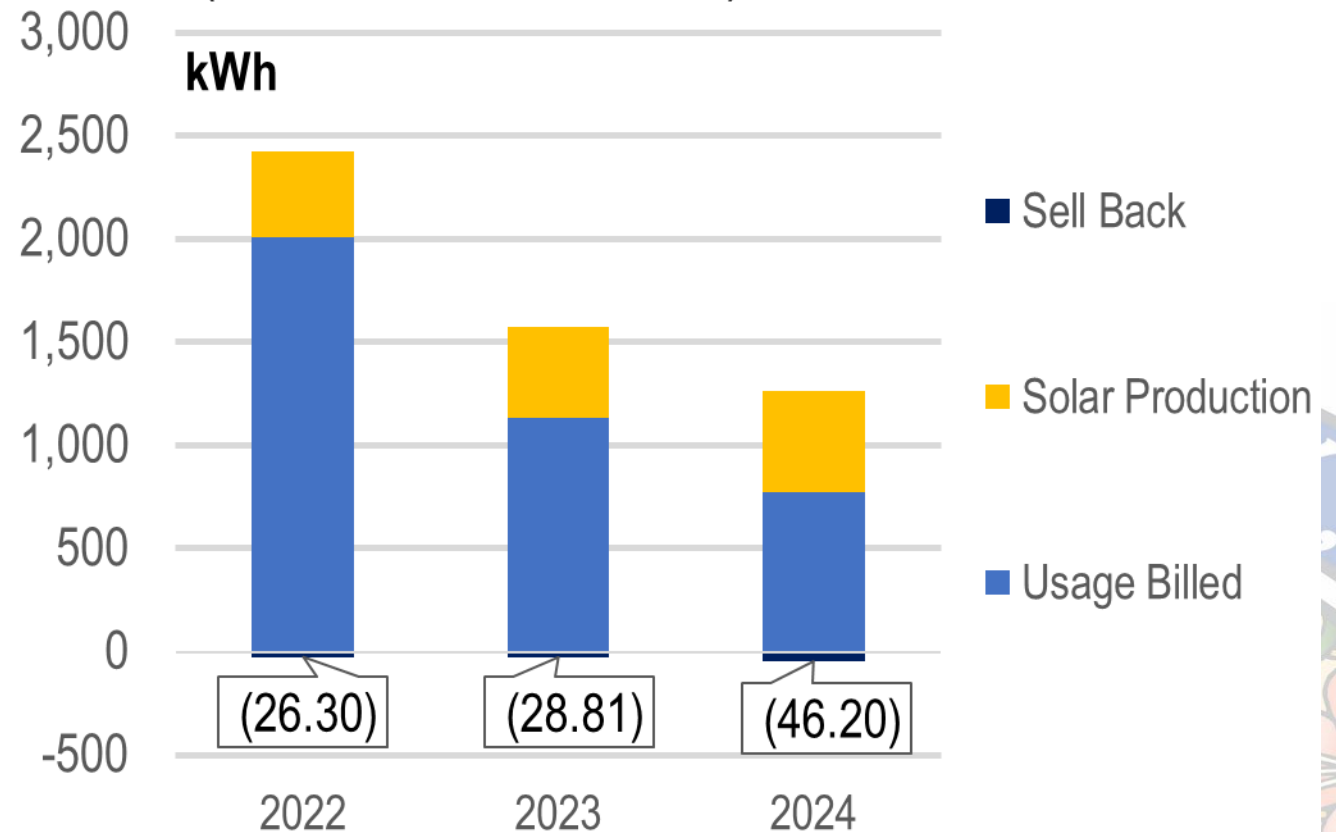
- As DG expanded the proportion of billed usage to solar decreased while sellback increased



Actual NEM Data

- As DG expanded the average billed usage per customer decreased while solar production and sellback increased

Residential NEM Customer Profile
(kWh/Customer/Month)



Data from August 2022 through September 2024

Annual Fixed Cost of Service by Customer Class (2021 Leidos COS Study)

	Residential	Commercial	Commercial Demand	Public Authority
Distribution	\$10,175,861	\$ 629,314	\$ 7,723,381	\$ 947,012
Fixed Production	\$ 4,668,288	\$ 303,303	\$ 3,903,033	\$ 483,738
Customer Costs	\$ 1,431,091	\$ 178,231	\$ 163,220	\$ 41,038
Total	\$16,275,240	\$ 1,110,848	\$11,789,634	\$ 1,471,788
Customers	12,180	1,167	1,069	269

“At Risk” Fixed Cost per Customer Month (2021 Leidos COS Study)

	Residential	Commercial	Commercial Demand	Public Authority
Distribution	\$ 69.62	\$ 44.94	\$ 602.07	\$ 293.37
Fixed Production	\$ 31.94	\$ 21.66	\$ 304.26	\$ 149.86
Total	\$ 101.56	\$ 66.60	\$ 906.33	\$ 443.23
kWh	1,285	833	15,293	6,874

Excludes Customer Charge as the current NEM policy sets the minimum monthly bill equal to the customer charge.

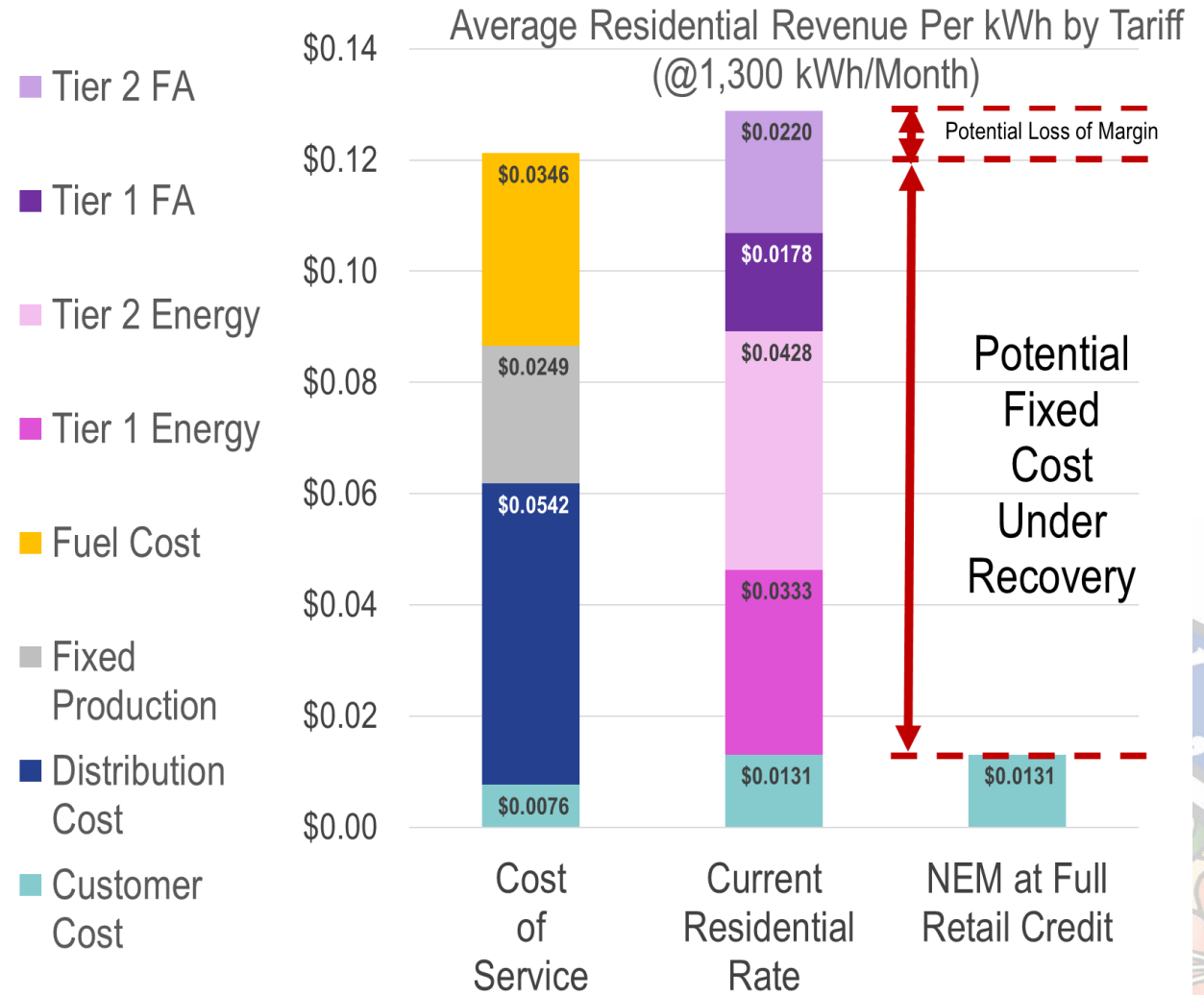
Monthly “At Risk” Fixed Cost per kWh per Customer (2021 Leidos COS Study)

	Residential	Commercial	Commercial Demand	Public Authority
Distribution	\$ 0.0542	\$ 0.0540	\$ 0.0394	\$ 0.0427
Fixed Production	\$ 0.0249	\$ 0.0260	\$ 0.0199	\$ 0.0218
Total	\$ 0.0790	\$ 0.0800	\$ 0.0593	\$ 0.0645

Excludes Customer Charge as the current NEM policy sets the minimum monthly bill equal to the customer charge.

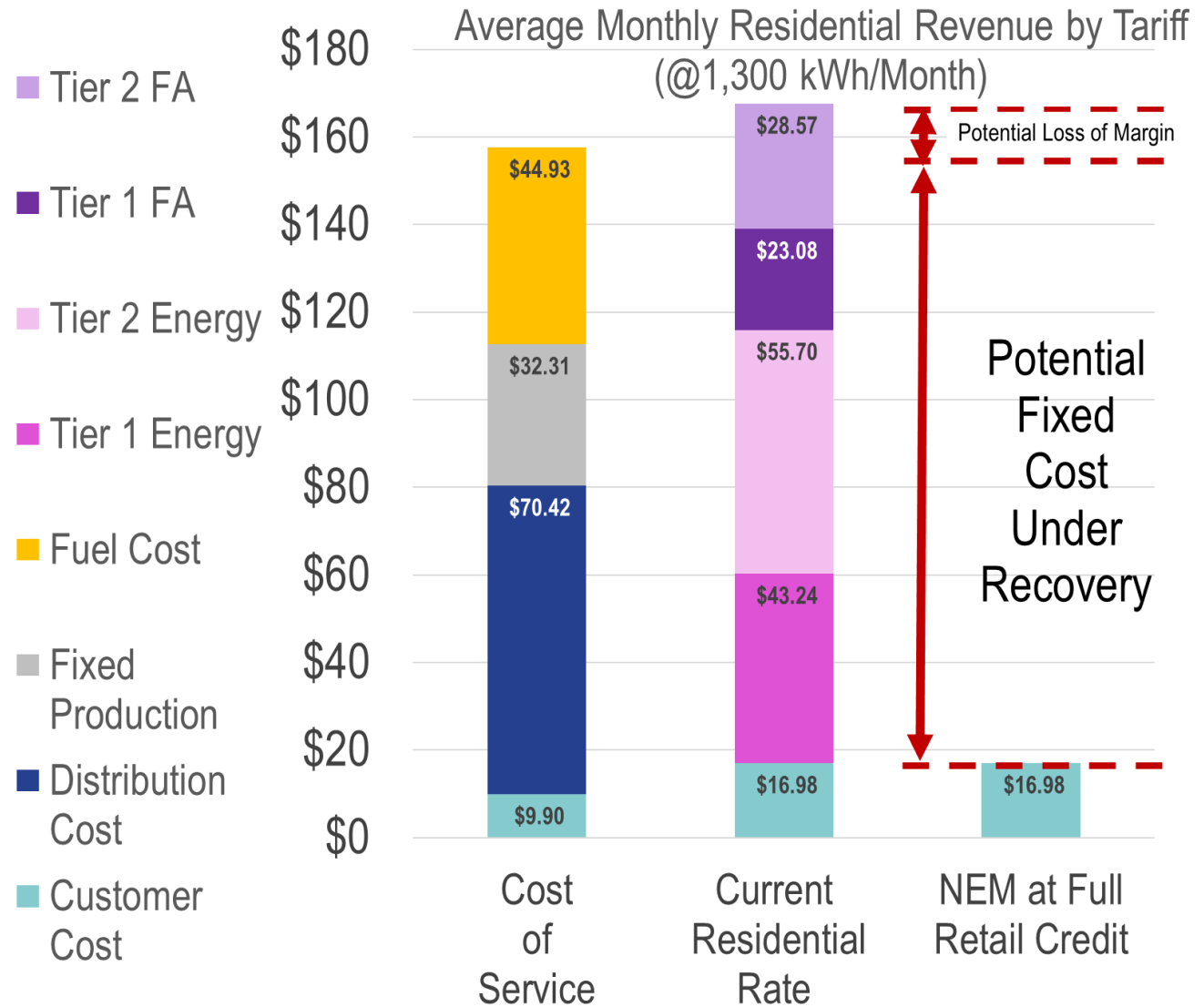
At-Risk Fixed Cost

- Given the low fixed monthly charge, under the current NEM tariff the risk of fixed cost under-recovery will grow as DG expands



At-Risk Fixed Cost

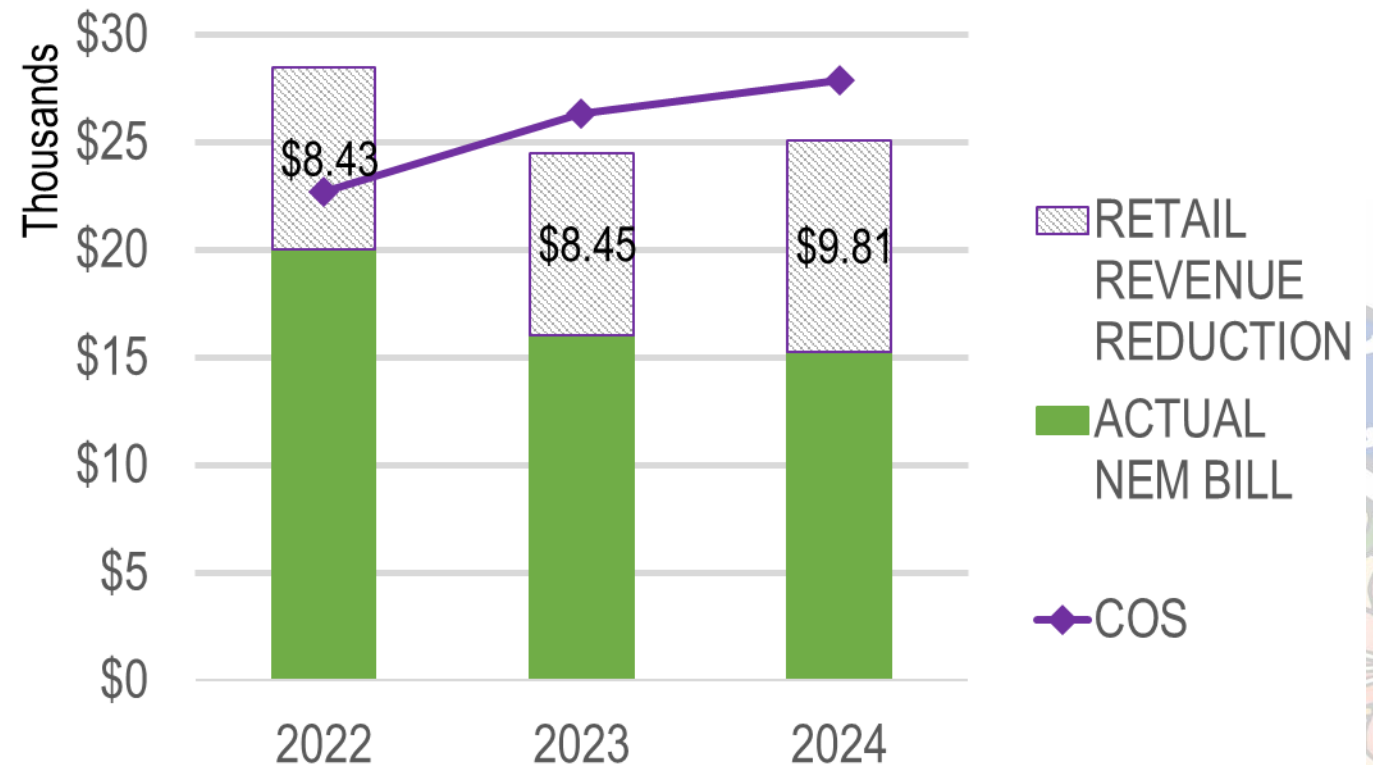
- Given the low fixed monthly charge, under the current NEM tariff the risk of fixed cost under-recovery will grow as DG expands



Impact on Revenue

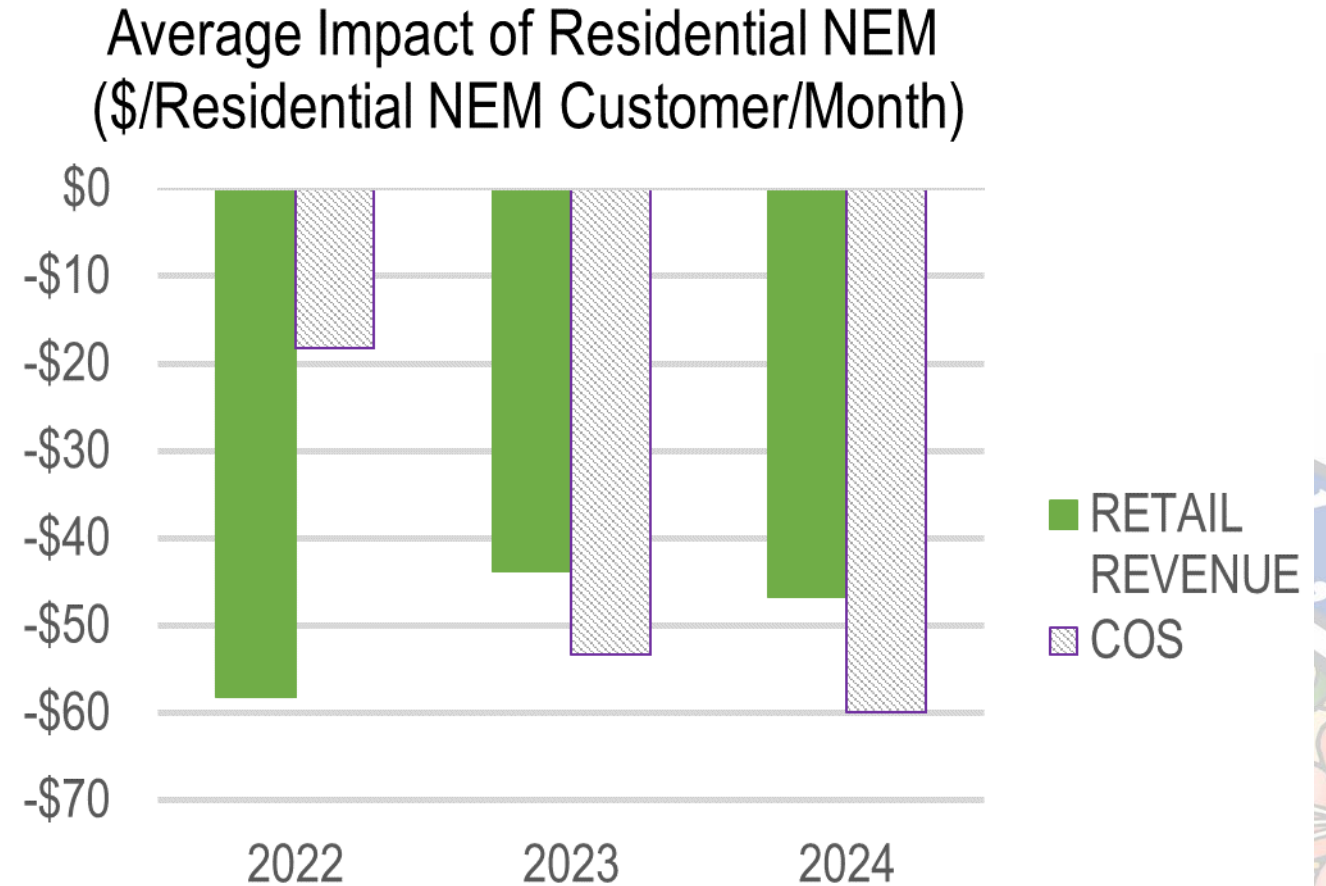
- Approximately \$120,000 annual impact in 2024

Impact of NEM on Average Monthly Residential Revenue



Revenue v COS Impact

- As DG penetration increased, the impact on fixed cost recovery increased
- The 2022 retail result reflects a twofold increase in the fuel adjustment factor

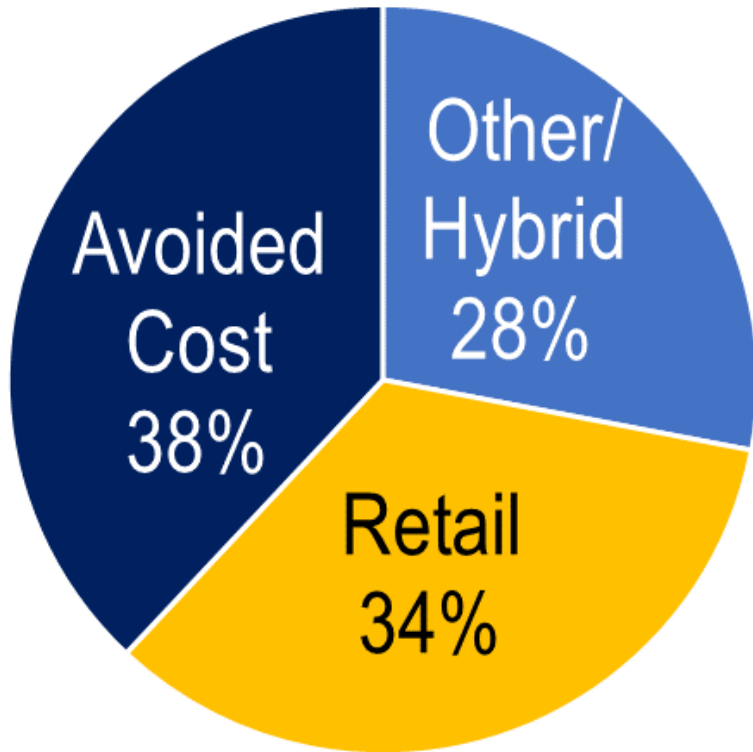


Options

- The tariffs vary on how the fixed portion of system costs is allocated
- Retail rates at Cost of Service eliminate issue
- NEM at Full Retail (Status Quo)
- NEM at Value of Solar
 - Avoided Cost
 - Margin Over Retail
 - Other
- Hybrid
- Buy All/Sell All
- Feed in Tariff



FMPA Survey NEM Buyback Approaches



- Florida Municipal Power Agency February 2024 Survey
- 32 Municipal Utilities
- Notes:
 - General categories don't always apply cleanly to given policy
 - Retail typically means crediting closer to system's average cost
 - Avoided cost typically implies either fuel or fuel + other bulk power cost
 - Other/Hybrid includes other potential credits, such as demand credits or a periodic determination of rates
 - Customer generally responsible for distribution access charges and other fees

Challenges

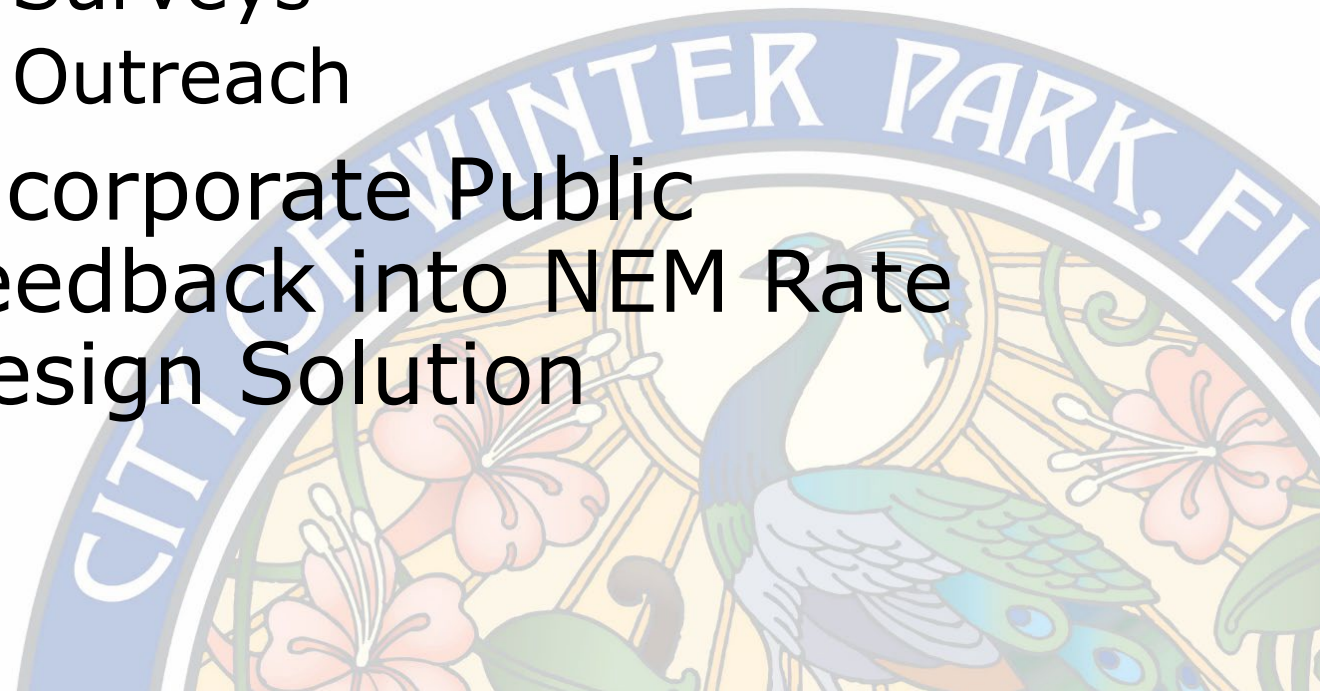
- NEM Policy is 12 Years Old
- Attempts at Reform Met with Robust Pushback
- OUC's Recent Experience Should be Illustrative

"But an even more boisterous outcry has arisen over an issue that affects just a fraction of customers: A proposal to pay rooftop solar users less than current rates for the surplus electricity they send into OUC's power lines. Opposition led by influential city council member — and rooftop solar maven — Patty Sheehan has stalled the utility from moving forward with any modernizing rate changes, and has revealed a distrustful relationship at a time when the utility is about to take momentous steps toward a very different energy future."

Orlando Sentinel Sunday September 22, 2024

Recommendation

- Ensuring fixed cost recovery is critical to Electric Utility solvency as additional DG is deployed
- Incorporate Robust NEM Stakeholder Engagement Process with FY 2025 Cost of Service Study
 - Workshops
 - Surveys
 - Outreach
- Incorporate Public Feedback into NEM Rate Design Solution



Orlando's energy future

Millions of new solar panels, 75-ton batteries — and anxious residents



The Orlando Utilities Commission intends to install a dozen or more solar plants to end its reliance on fossil fuels by 2050. This plant, called Storey Bend, is under construction in Osceola County and is to start up late this year and provide a significant boost in the amount of sun relied upon for power by the city's utility. Ricardo Ramirez Buxeda/Orlando Sentinel photos



The Orlando Utilities Commission manages the electricity it provides to nearly 250,000 homes from a secure center in east Orlando. Operations are based on decades of experience. But the swift rise of solar energy in coming years will challenge OUC's expertise. In this photo, system operator James Seymour is monitoring the hundreds of miles of wires, substations and power plants under OUC's control.

BY KEVIN SPEAR ORLANDO SENTINEL

Orlando's electricity provider and its customers could use relationship therapy as they venture together into an era of sunshine powering homes, cars and most everything else.

What the municipally owned Orlando Utilities Commission aims to do is swift, consequential and risk-taking in a region of the nation only now going full throttle to green energy. Within 16 years, OUC plans to jettison more than 90 percent of its tried-and-true ability to make electricity with generation plants that burn fossil fuels, mainly coal and natural gas, and will have erected solar panels on more than 10,000 acres, an expanse larger than Winter Park.

In that time, the utility's batteries for providing nighttime power will grow in capacity to as much as that in 35,000 electric cars.

It's difficult to overstate the enormity of the transformation, which is intended to help shrink fossil fuel carbon pollution that drives global warming, rising

sea levels, desertification, supercharged wildfires and storms, spreading pathogens, species extinctions and more.

Already, however, Orlando's utility is struggling to enlist its customers in moves it insists are necessary to chart this new course.

OUC wants to adjust rates so that using electricity during high-demand times of the day is more costly than during low-demand periods, a change it says will promote more efficient use of power. Critics say that many renters and low-income homeowners — in part because they can't afford modern, programmable appliances — have little or no ability to change when they consume electricity.

But an even more boisterous outcry has arisen over an issue that affects just a fraction of customers: A proposal to pay rooftop solar users less than current rates for the surplus electricity they send into OUC's power lines. Opposition led by influential city council member — and rooftop solar maven — Patty Sheehan has stalled the utility from moving forward with any modernizing rate changes, and has revealed a distrustful relationship at a time when the utility is about to take momentous steps toward a very different energy future.

"Right now, clearly, customers don't agree with OUC," said veteran state Rep. Anna Eskamani of Orlando, who is active with solar and climate issues in the legislature and more recently with her city.

Eskamani strongly supports OUC's larger commitment to ending its carbon pollution. But she said the utility, as it is publicly owned, needs to slow down and regain the confidence of its climate-concerned customers. "It's really important that you have the support of those you serve," she said.

OUC's chief executive officer, Clint Bullock, said in a recent meeting that the utility will "take the appropriate amount of time to reach out to stakeholders, listen to what they're saying, understand some of the studies and information that they're sharing with us and work through some of the misunderstandings and misconceptions."

While struggling with how it will charge customers in the future, the century-old OUC is moving forward with less controversy toward a monumental goal: reinventing how it makes and supplies power.

Most electric utilities traditionally prioritize one practice: burning carbon-based fuels to run electricity generators. Their prime objective decade after decade has been to tweak incremental gains in fuel efficiency.

What OUC is about to do – far outpacing any other municipal power provider in Florida – is pioneer a frontier devoid of carbon-based fuels.

“There’s no doubt that the disruption to the utility industry as we transition to a carbon-free, clean energy future is unlike anything that they’ve seen,” said Chris Castro, senior advisor at the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of State and Community Energy Programs and previously the sustainability officer for the city of Orlando.

Later this year, OUC will start up a pair of large solar plants – Harmony II and Storey Bend in Osceola County – able to provide for about 28,000 homes or roughly 10 percent of residential customers. For the first time, the sun will be a major source of the utility’s electricity. That will take some getting used to for system operators because of solar’s intermittency as conditions shift from clear skies to clouds to nighttime.

Next year, OUC will mothball one of its two, flagship generators that tower in the east Orange County skyline. They consume mountains of coal and generate tons of planet-heating pollution, although they remain in solid enough financial and mechanical shape as middle-aged plants to potentially run for many more decades.

OUC’s plan for the other coal plant is to convert it to run on natural gas by 2027.

After that, the journey to a new era of energy begins to take on increasing uncertainty. Unknowns are: where to build solar plants, what revolutionary innovations or inventions may occur – including with hydrogen, nuclear, wind, and batteries – and what it all means for OUC’s rates, its ability to keep the lights on and its continuation of approximately \$100 million in annual cash contributions to city hall’s operating expenses.

“The utility industry is being asked to transform extremely rapidly, far faster than anything we’ve done in our past with technologies that aren’t as robust as we would like them to be,” said Justin Kramer, OUC’s director of emerging technology.

“I have to balance that with people who struggle to afford power, and I have to balance equity, and clean and reliable energy, with technologies that haven’t been around for more than five or 10 years. That keeps me up at night,” Kramer said.

If it goes well, OUC intends by 2050 to have zeroed out its net contribution to

carbon pollution causing climate change.

Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, who has a permanent OUC board seat and is an original and leading proponent of reining in the city's carbon pollution, warns that the path could be bumpy.

"It's not a slam dunk," Dyer said. "It's going to take a lot of wisdom and planning and being adaptable to the changing technology."

Stephen Smith, executive director of the environmental group Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, urges utilities to lean aggressively toward transformations that are bold and rapid. His group, emphasizing analysis, holds credibility with OUC.

"There is nothing more serious in the world than what we're dealing with: climate disruption and destabilizing the atmosphere," Smith said. "The science is overwhelming that the manifestation of the effects is much more pronounced than a lot of scientists even thought it would be at this point, and it's intensifying."

He said the controversy over OUC's proposal to reduce how much it pays for surplus electricity from rooftop solar panels is not uncommon among utilities and is distracting.

"Rooftop solar is a piece of the puzzle but it's a smaller piece of the puzzle," Smith said. "The most important thing we need to be deploying faster than anything else is utility solar. You don't want to get into so much of a big fight over rooftop solar that you lose perspective on what we've got to do to deploy as much as possible."

Just how much electricity OUC will have to harness from the sun is daunting.

Of the utility's nearly 250,000 residential electric customers, about 10,000 have solar panels on their rooftops. Those panels plus those of commercial customers have a combined capacity to generate 104 megawatts, or nearly 5 percent of OUC's capacity – a squirt of energy into the city's torrent of power.

The overall demand for OUC electricity is nearly 1,600 megawatts, with the vast majority of that coming today from burning fossil fuel. About a dozen generators typically provide that power, with many more on standby.

To ensure there's enough electricity at any given time — and get it where it needs to be — OUC operates what it calls an energy management center, a spacious bunker in east Orlando equipped with secure, isolated computers that

direct millions of watts flowing across nearly 3,000 miles of the utility's transmission and distribution power lines.

The center's arrays of video screens lend to a sense of an intensive care unit, where the patient is breathing not oxygen but electricity. One of the simpler screen graphics depicts the minute-by-minute demand for OUC electricity.

Consumption dips to a low at about 4 a.m., just before the early birds' showers and coffee makers start and the graphic's line begins to steadily increase.

At sunrise, street lights flicker out and the line dips briefly. The need for power then rises until about 4 p.m., though the timing of the daily peak can be dramatically altered by thunderstorms and their cooling effects.

Every day has an operational plan, written beginning a week earlier and accounting for which generators will cost the least to operate and what to do if one of them fails catastrophically.

The overall impression is of deep institutional experience and nothing left unaccounted for – except for the solar energy on the scale that's coming.

The rise of solar energy will bring challenges never seen before, including how to respond to thunderstorm shadows galloping across millions of solar panels and causing their power outputs to plunge, and whether batteries will compensate sufficiently. That will call for new ways of daily planning.

Engineers study solar exhaustively and look to the experiences of others. OUC has set up two dozen weather stations to watch for and project the shading over solar panels from storms.

But no two utilities are alike, they note, and the sun doesn't shine as relentlessly in the Sunshine State as it does in the Southwest and West.

“Hopefully, there is not going to be a big learning curve,” said Keith Mutters, system planning and reliability director.

Nearly three years ago, OUC bought what amounts to insurance in case of a problematic implementation of solar energy.

That would be the Osceola Generating Station, a “peaker” power plant nestled in remote pinelands of Osceola County. “Not many people even know we are out here,” said Milliard Long, who is in charge of OUC's generators fueled with natural gas.

About 20 years old and last operated by a private company seeking profit in the

electricity market, the station cost \$100 million to buy and upgrade.

Groups such as the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and Sierra think the investment should have gone to solar. OUC regards the 510 megawatt plant — which is more output than from either coal plant — as an ace up its sleeve.

“As we move forward with our clean energy transition, ensuring operational flexibility is essential,” said Bullock, OUC’s leader, at the time of the acquisition.

OUC’s mainline generators are efficient but ponderous, taking much of a day to start up and put into service.

The Osceola Generating Station, by contrast, fires up “with the click of a mouse” to make electricity in 15 minutes and reach full output in 29 minutes and can power off just as quickly.

Doing the work are three jet engines strapped to generators, devouring natural gas, with a three-day supply of backup diesel fuel on site.

In the worst case of extended cloudy weather coupled with a broken natural gas pipeline, the station will keep Orlando’s lights on.

But the station is a hot rod and not an econo-machine – just one of the jet-engine generators will suck down 215 gallons of diesel fuel every minute – and running it can be pricey.

Solar energy, meanwhile, is a rising bargain, with no charge for the sun’s rays, which is another justification for projects ahead.

By 2032, according to OUC reporting to the state’s Public Service Commission, OUC “anticipates” constructing a dozen large solar plants, each covering between 500 and 800 acres, containing approximately 300,000 panels. The cost of the plants, about \$75 million each today, is expected to continue to decline.

The batteries needed to store some of this solar power during the day — then provide it when the sun doesn’t shine — come in 4 megawatt units the size of a shipping container and weighing 75 tons. Batteries are likely to be dispersed widely, plugged in next to solar plants, substations and perhaps big commercial customers. The Southern Alliance For Clean Energy measures utility solar performance by the number of solar watts per customer.

By that metric, Orlando Utilities Commission now ranks first in the Southeast for projected solar growth from 2023 to 2027, besting the giant, stockholder-

owned Florida Power and Light Co. and Duke Energy.

“It’s great that we are building more solar, but the real truth is we are not building anywhere near enough,” said Jim Fenton, director of the Florida Solar Energy Center at the University of Central Florida. “That includes rooftop solar.”

But on that matter, OUC, customers and the city remain mired in animus, and it is still to be determined whether that is reconcilable.

“Honestly, I do not trust OUC,” city council member Sheehan said. “They look at us as competition.”

OUC had planned by now to adopt its rooftop solar, time-of-day and other rate changes – calling them essential to a new way of providing electricity — until headed off by rare dissension on its board coming from the city’s leading green-energy booster.

“If we were voting today,” Dyer said at a board meeting this summer, “I would vote no on that.”