

Solar Interconnections

Understanding Your Bill

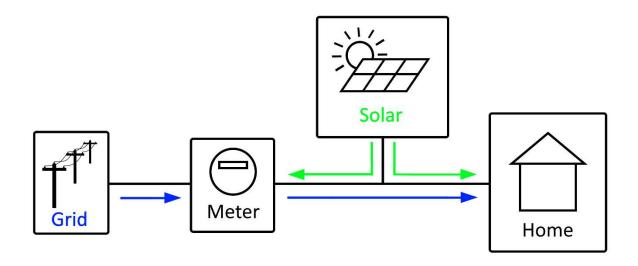
for aggregated accounts

Revised February 2023

How Energy Flows with a Solar Interconnection

With a typical electric service, energy generally only flows in one direction: from the grid to the member. With a solar interconnection, however, energy is able to flow in both directions: from the grid to the member and vice versa.

It is important to understand how energy flows with a solar interconnection. Please see the below graphic that shows the flow of energy.



Please note that not all of the energy generated by your solar array will be sent back to the grid. Your home will absorb some (or all) of the generated energy, and any excess will be sent to the grid.

The energy produced by your solar array that is consumed by your home is not shown on the bill. This value is unknown to DEC as that energy does not pass through the meter.

It should also be noted that there may be times where your solar is exporting excess energy to the grid (perhaps on a temperate, sunny day), and there may be times where the grid is powering your home (at night, for example). Over the duration of your billing period, DEC's meter records how much energy you *take* from the grid as well as how much energy you *send* to the grid. The difference between these two values is what is shown on the bill.

Any excess energy exported to the grid throughout the duration of a billing period may be credited towards future bills. This excess energy is called "banked kilowatt-hours" and is shown on your bill as well.

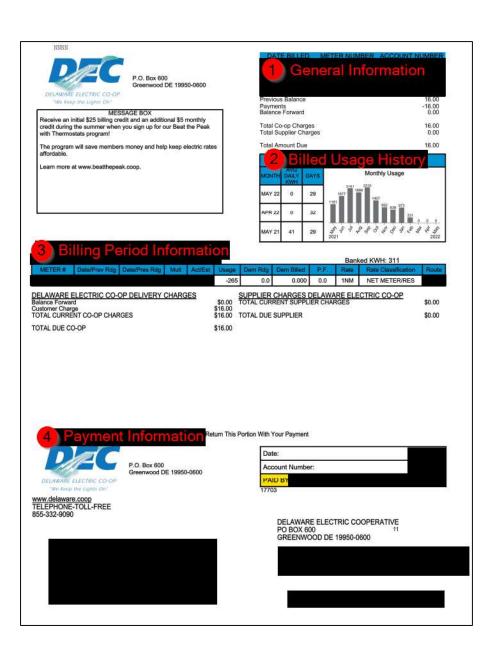
Banked kilowatt-hours will reset once per year after the March billing period. At this time, any banked kilowatt-hours not consumed by the member are forfeited. However, the majority of members with solar interconnections have empty (or near-empty) banks by this time, so this will not make a difference to most members. This is in accordance with Title 26, Chapter 10 of the Delaware Code.

Understanding your Bill

See below for an overview of a DEC electric bill. Your electric bill with a solar interconnection may look different than a typical bill. Please see the following sections for explanations of a few different billing scenarios due to having a solar interconnection.

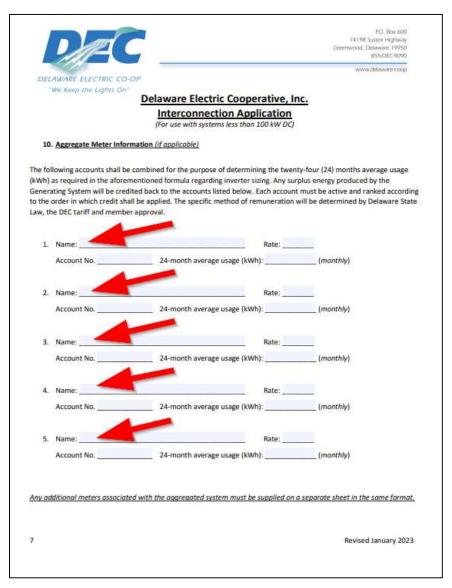
Please note that the banked kilowatt-hours shown on the bill are the value of your current bank. The kWh credits towards your other accounts due to the solar have already been factored out.

It should also be noted that the \$16 Customer Charge is billed no matter how much your solar produces. Unless there is a cash credit on your account, your bill will be \$16 minimum.



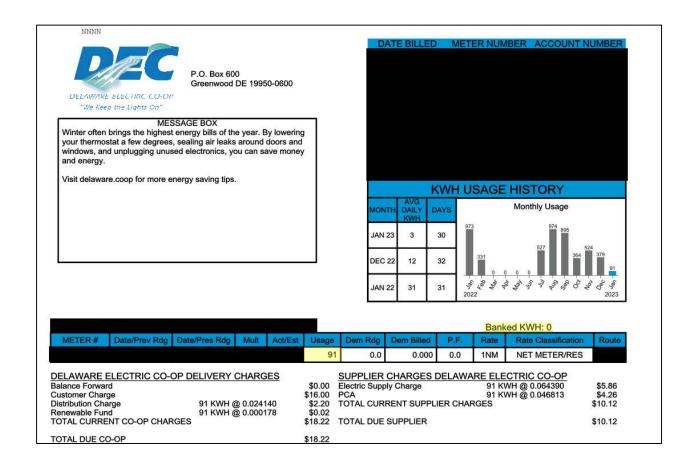
For interconnections that make use of account aggregation, multiple accounts can benefit from the production of a solar installation. In this case, kilowatt-hours produced by the solar array are credited to your various accounts on a priority-basis. This means that any energy produced by your solar array will first be used to credit the bill for Account #1. If Account #1 has its usage covered, then any remaining energy is credited towards Account #2. If Account #2 has its usage covered, then any remaining energy is credited towards Account #3 – so on and so forth.

When the interconnection is initially applied for, the order that you would like to prioritize the various accounts in is listed on the application. Please see below.



If a new account is being created solely for the solar installation, then it will automatically be given priority #1. The bill for the account with priority #1 will show the banked kilowatt-hours. The bills for the rest of your accounts will not show the bank.

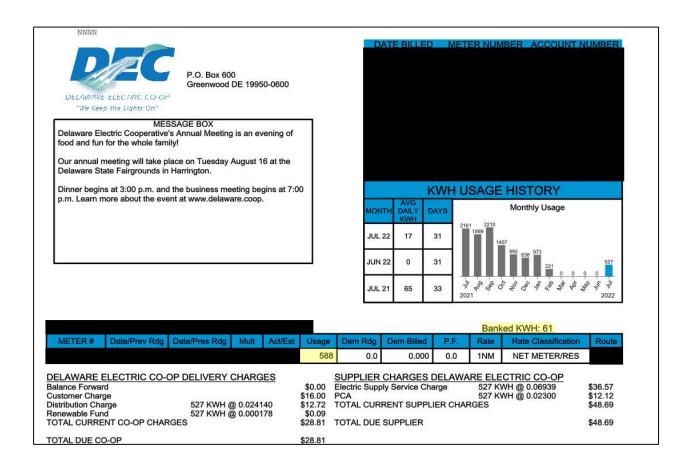
Scenario 1: Your priority #1 account consumed more energy than your solar produced



In this example, your priority #1 account (which also includes the solar array) consumed more energy than the solar produced.

Looking at the above image – you will be billed for the usage of 91 kWh, plus the bills from the rest of your various accounts.

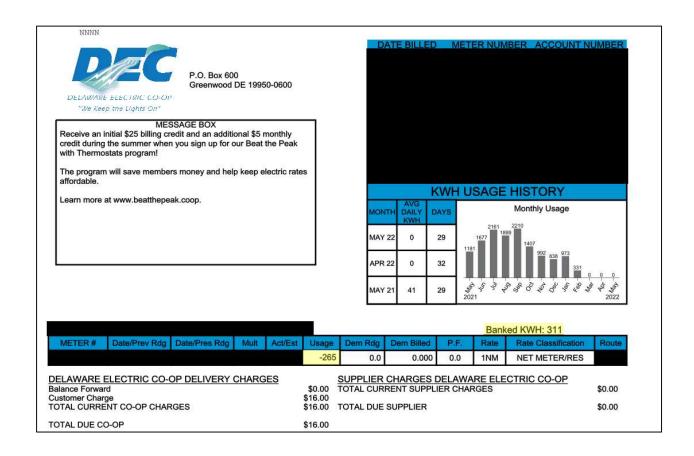
Scenario 2: Your priority #1 account consumed more energy than your solar produced, but you had excess generation in the past credited towards your current bill



In this example, your priority #1 account (which also includes the solar array) consumed more energy during the billing period than your solar array was able to produce. However, you had generated excess energy in the past. You will be billed for the net amount of energy that you used from the grid minus the amount of excess kilowatt-hours that were in your bank. If your bank is greater than the net amount of energy that you used from the grid for each account, then you will not be billed for usage.

Looking at the above image – you will be billed for the usage of 527 kWh. This value is calculated by taking the 588 kWh that were consumed minus the 61 kWh that were in your bank. Following this bill, your bank would be empty. You will also receive bills for the rest of your accounts.

Scenario 3: Your solar produced more energy than you consumed



In this example, your solar produced more energy during the billing period than your priority #1 account (which also includes the solar array) consumed. Your priority #1 account will only be billed for the Customer Charge (as well as Balance Forward, if any). Your priority #2 account will have any excess kWh generated from account #1 credited toward its bill. If the excess generation fully covers the usage for account #2, then any remaining excess generation is credited toward account #3 and so on.

Looking at the above image – you will not be billed for any usage for account #1. The -265 kWh shown on the bill is the amount of net energy that you sent to the grid in excess of what you consumed with account #1. This amount was added to your bank, which was able to fully cover the remainder of your accounts leaving 311 kWh left over to be put towards next month's bill. Assuming no other miscellaneous charges, each account should only be billed for \$16 (the Customer Charge).