

## ***FAQ for Residential and Rate 280 (Small Commercial) Customers as of October 16, 2019:***

### **If I already have a solar power system, does anything change for me?**

No. If you do not make any changes to your system, credit for excess power generation for residential and small commercial customers will be handled based on the rules that were in place at the time you submitted a completed application.

- **Systems installed before January 1, 2018** are subject to the same net metering and Energy Credit Bank rules in place at that time for the life of the system.
- **Systems installed on or after January 1, 2018** are subject to slightly different rules under what is known as *Phase I Net Energy Metering (NEM)*:
  - There is no annual settlement or payment for excess credits in an account's Energy Credit Bank. Excess credits will remain in the Energy Credit Bank for use on future bills.
  - The net metering benefit will expire 20 years from the in-service date (Commercial Operation Date – C.O.D.). At that point, customers will be compensated based on the rules in effect at that time.
  - Any excess credits in the Energy Credit Bank at the end of 20 years will be subject to forfeiture.

### **If I'm installing a new solar power system, how will I be compensated?**

- Customers who install new solar projects receive compensation under Phase I NEM as described above.

### **I'm installing a new energy generation system other than solar, how will I be compensated?**

- If it is a Renewable Energy System (see below), you will receive compensation based on the Phase I NEM rules described above.
- If the energy generation system is not a Renewable Energy System, you will receive compensation based on the Value Stack Rules.

### **What is a Renewable Energy System?**

- The New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, signed into law on June 18, 2019, defines a Renewable Energy System as a system that generates electricity or thermal energy (for heating or water heating) using any of the following technologies:
  - solar photovoltaics (PV)
  - solar thermal
  - wind (on land and offshore)
  - hydroelectric
  - geothermal electric or ground source heat
  - tidal or wave energy
  - ocean thermal
  - fuel cells that do not use fossil fuels in the process of generating electricity

### **Can I add or change my current solar system?**

- Yes, you can add to, upgrade or add battery storage to your system, but it will then be subject to the Phase I NEM rules described above.

### **Can I install a stand-alone battery system without a renewable energy system?**

- Yes, you can add a stand-alone battery, however, any energy that is sent back to the system will receive compensation under the Value Stack.

### **What is Value Stack compensation?**

- See Value Stack Compensation under the Commercial FAQs.