



(Interstate Power & Light, Jackson County)

- **Net Metering?**
  - **YES, at the Retail Rate.** Alliant offers inflow/outflow net-metering crediting exported energy at full retail rate (excess generation put onto the grid is bought at the market rate).
  - **Any unused credit forfeited annually** (i.e. not refunded to the customer) when the annual term cycle resets (April or January).
  - Alliant’s current full retail rate net metering policy **is expected to sunset in 2027**. Their new “Value of Solar” program will reduce the benefit of a customer exporting solar generation to Alliant.
  - To get the benefit of full retail rate net metering, **we recommend installing solar before the end of 2026**. Any preexisting system will be grandfathered into the current net metering policy.
- **System Size Limit:**
  - Up to 1 MW (the Iowa investor-owned utility limit).
- **Retail Rate:**
  - Approx. **\$0.15 / kWh**. Commercial rates vary by customer.
  - Rates are expected to **increase** dramatically in the next few years as Iowa Utility Commission approves statewide energy rate increases.
- **Rebates/Incentives:**
  - Efficiency rebates (e.g. heat pumps, EV chargers, LED lighting, appliances), but **no direct solar-PV incentives**. Solar customers benefit from federal ITC (30 %) and Iowa’s **100 % solar sales tax exemption and property tax exemption**.
- **Solar Friendliness:**
  - **Friendly but Complicated.** Alliant’s net metering is the best in Jackson County, but it will end in 2027. Alliant is cited as difficult to interconnect with, regarding infrastructure required and the

bureaucratic process. Alliant supports right-sized public and private solar projects when convenient.



(MVEC, Jackson County)

- **Net Metering?**
  - **No; offers Avoided Cost credits.** MVEC’s customer-exported generation policy credits customers at a rate equal to MVEC’s “avoided cost” (i.e. what it would have cost MVEC to generate and transmit the electricity itself instead of purchasing it). Avoided costs are variable, causing credit rates to fluctuate.
  - Avoided costs are less than the retail rate for that same electricity, which means ROI for a system that overproduces energy is significantly lower than a system with retail rate net metering.
- **System Size Limit:**
  - Up to 500 kW (larger systems allowed upon review process).
- **Rate:**
  - Approx. **\$0.12 / kWh**. Commercial customers receive a slightly lower rate but may have demand charges depending on use case.
  - Special rate offers, like MVEC’s “Heat Plus Rate”, are discontinued if the customer has their own distributed generation.
- **Rebates/Incentives:**
  - Efficiency rebates (e.g. heat pumps, EV chargers, LED lighting, weatherization), but **no direct solar-PV incentives**. Solar customers benefit from federal ITC (30 %) and Iowa’s **100 % solar sales tax exemption and property tax exemption**.
- **Solar Friendliness:**
  - **Complicated.** MVEC does not offer any incentives for solar development, and their net metering policy is less than ideal for solar customers. They offer some energy efficiency incentives that are not allowed for solar customers. MVEC supports right-sized

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systems for public and private customers, and their interconnection process is fairly streamlined for smaller systems.

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## Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utility

(MMEU, City of Maquoketa)

being advocates of solar energy and local generation wherever possible.



(PMEU, City of Preston)

- **Net Metering:**

- **✗ NO, but excess generation is still credited.** MMEU offered a net metering policy until July 10, 2019. Customers with solar before this date were grandfathered into the policy, which remains in effect until December 31, 2033.
- Despite not having a net metering policy, MMEU will credit customers at a rate below retail for any customer-exported solar generation during a billing period in accordance with WPPI's "Schedule for Purchase of Excess Distributed Generation" policy.

- **System Size Limit:**

- Up to 500 kW (larger systems allowed upon review process).

- **Rate:**

- Approx. **\$0.12 / kWh**. Commercial customers receive a slightly lower rate but may have demand charges depending on use case.

- **Rebates/Incentives:**

- Efficiency rebates (e.g. heat pumps, EV chargers, LED lighting, appliances), but **no direct solar-PV incentives**. Solar customers benefit from federal ITC (30%) and Iowa's **100% solar sales tax exemption** and **property tax exemption**.

- **Solar Friendliness:**

- **Friendly.** MMEU and their power purchase provider, Wisconsin Public Power, Inc. (WPPI), actively support right-sized solar arrays for private and public purposes within their service area. Interconnecting with MMEU is made fairly easy. Though they do not offer net metering, MMEU & WPPI have a reputation for

- **Net Metering:**

- **✗ NO, but excess generation is still credited.** PMEU is another utility with power provided by Wisconsin Public Power, Inc. (WPPI). Like MMEU, they do not have a net metering policy, but customers may be credited for customer-exported solar generation in accordance with WPPI's "Schedule for Purchase of Excess Distributed Generation" policy.
- Preston's specific power purchase agreement with WPPI may vary from Maquoketa's, so be sure to check in with the utility to learn more about their local distributed generation policy.

- **System Size Limit:**

- Up to 500 kW (larger systems allowed upon review process).

- **Rate:**

- Approx. **\$0.17 / kWh**. Commercial customers receive a slightly lower rate but may have demand charges depending on use case.

- **Rebates/Incentives:**

- PMEU has a handful of energy efficiency incentives (e.g. water heating & HVAC, appliances) but **no direct solar-PV incentives**. Solar customers benefit from federal ITC (30%) and Iowa's **100% solar sales tax exemption** and **property tax exemption**.

- **Solar Friendliness:**

- **Somewhat Friendly.** PMEU's power purchase provider, Wisconsin Public Power, Inc. (WPPI), actively supports right-sized solar arrays for private and public purposes within their service

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area. Interconnecting with PMEU is made fairly easy. PMEU does not yet actively pursue publicly-owned solar, and an absence of a net metering policy makes customer-owned solar generation expensive.

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(BMU, City of Bellevue)

- **Net Metering:**
    - **✗ NO, may offer bill credits for excess generation.** BMU is a municipal utility with power provided by MVEC. BMU may offer the same or similar policy for buying back customer generation as MVEC, so it is best to inquire with a utility representative when determining export generation credits.
  - **System Size Limit:**
    - Up to 500 kW (larger systems allowed upon review process).
  - **Rate:**
    - Approx. **\$0.10 / kWh**. Commercial customers receive a slightly lower rate but may have demand charges depending on use case.
  - **Rebates/Incentives:**
    - Efficiency rebates (e.g. heating & cooling, geothermal, appliances), but **no direct solar-PV incentives**. Solar customers benefit from federal ITC (30 %) and Iowa's **100 % solar sales tax exemption** and **property tax exemption**.
  - **Solar Friendliness:**
    - **Complicated.** Like MVEC, BMU does not appear to offer any incentives for solar development and has no net metering policy. They offer some energy efficiency incentives. BMU supports right-sized systems for public and private customers, and their interconnection process is fairly streamlined for smaller systems.
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## Summary of Jackson County Utilities' Solar Friendliness

Utility / Provider	Rate (¢/kWh)	Net Metering Available?	Notes on Net Metering	Rebates or Incentives	Solar Friendly?
Alliant	~15.14	✓ Yes; Retail Rate	Full retail credit; unused credits forfeited annually	Efficiency rebates; federal ITC; Iowa sales/property tax credits	Friendly, Complicated
MVEC	~12.11	✗ No; Avoided Cost	Avoided cost rate credit; cannot bank credits	Efficiency rebates; federal ITC; Iowa sales/property tax credits	Complicated
MMEU	~12.14	✗ No; Policy Expired	No net metering; export generation credits still issued	Efficiency rebates; federal ITC; Iowa sales/property tax credits	Friendly
PMEU	~16.55	✗ Not Stated	No net metering; export generation credits likely issued	Efficiency rebates; federal ITC; Iowa sales/property tax credits	Somewhat Friendly
BMU	~10.11	✗ Not Stated	No net metering; export generation credits likely issued	Efficiency rebates; federal ITC; Iowa sales/property tax credits	Complicated

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### ✓ Key Takeaways

- **Alliant Energy** is the **only utility** among these that clearly offers **state-mandated net metering** under Iowa law. This metering policy is only required to be in effect until 2027, at which point Alliant's pilot "Value of Solar" program will likely replace net metering.
  - **Municipal and co-op utilities** in Iowa - MVEC, Maquoketa, Preston, Bellevue - are **not required** to offer net metering. MVEC is the only other utility that offers explicit crediting for export generation, however the rate of credit is significantly less than retail rate net metering.
  - Maquoketa and Preston utility bill credits for generation are more difficult to identify. **Speak with a utility representative** to learn more.
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## Jackson County Energy District Recommendations

If you're considering solar installation:

- **Contact your utility directly** to ask:
    - “Do you offer **net metering** or any **credit-back program** for export solar generation?”
    - “What are your **interconnection requirements** and system size limits?”
    - “Do you offer any **solar-specific rebates** or incentives?”
  - Meanwhile, take advantage of:
    - **Federal Investment Tax Credit (30 %)**
    - **Iowa sales tax exemption (100 %)**
    - **Iowa property tax exemption** (usually for 5 years after installation)
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