

# Sunsetting of the Net Metering Program: FAQs

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. When will my net metering program end?

Customers on the Net Metering Program with systems at or above 10.1 kWac will be transitioned to Net Energy Billing (NEB) on January 1, 2026. **Residential systems**, 10kWac and under will continue under the original Net Metering agreement.

### 2. Which customers will this impact on the net metering program?

Customers that are 10.1 kWAC and above are being transferred to the Net Energy Billing (NEB) program and will no longer receive the retail price for electricity exported to the grid but instead will receive a credit of 75 % of the LEAC, to be used in the month of production.

### 3. Is there any action needed for me to take for the transfer to the net energy billing program?

There are currently no actions needed on the part of the customer.

### 4. Why is this net metering program sunsetting for my account?

The Net Metering Program was initially prescribed to continue for 15 years. Subsequent legislation was enacted to preserve **Residential** early adopters.

<https://law.justia.com/codes/virgin-islands/2019/title-12/chapter-23/subchapter-iv/1149/>

### 5. How will this change impact my monthly bills in the future?

In looking at your monthly bill, the column for KWHR received, which indicates how much energy was exported to the grid, will stay the same but your credit will now be valued at 75% of the LEAC instead of the retail electricity rate.

### 6. How can I make sure WAPA has the correct system size?

The original system size was predicated on an inverter nameplate rating. That metric will continue with this evaluation. If you have increased the system size over the 10 kWac threshold, please notify the VI Energize Department at [nebapply@viwapa.vi](mailto:nebapply@viwapa.vi) to transition to the NEB program. The AMI renovation currently underway will be used to confirm.

### 7. What can I do to decrease the impact of the change before it takes effect?

Instead of counting on a credit to provide a rate reduction, it's suggested to proactively regulate some of your activities around the solar window of production thru conservation.

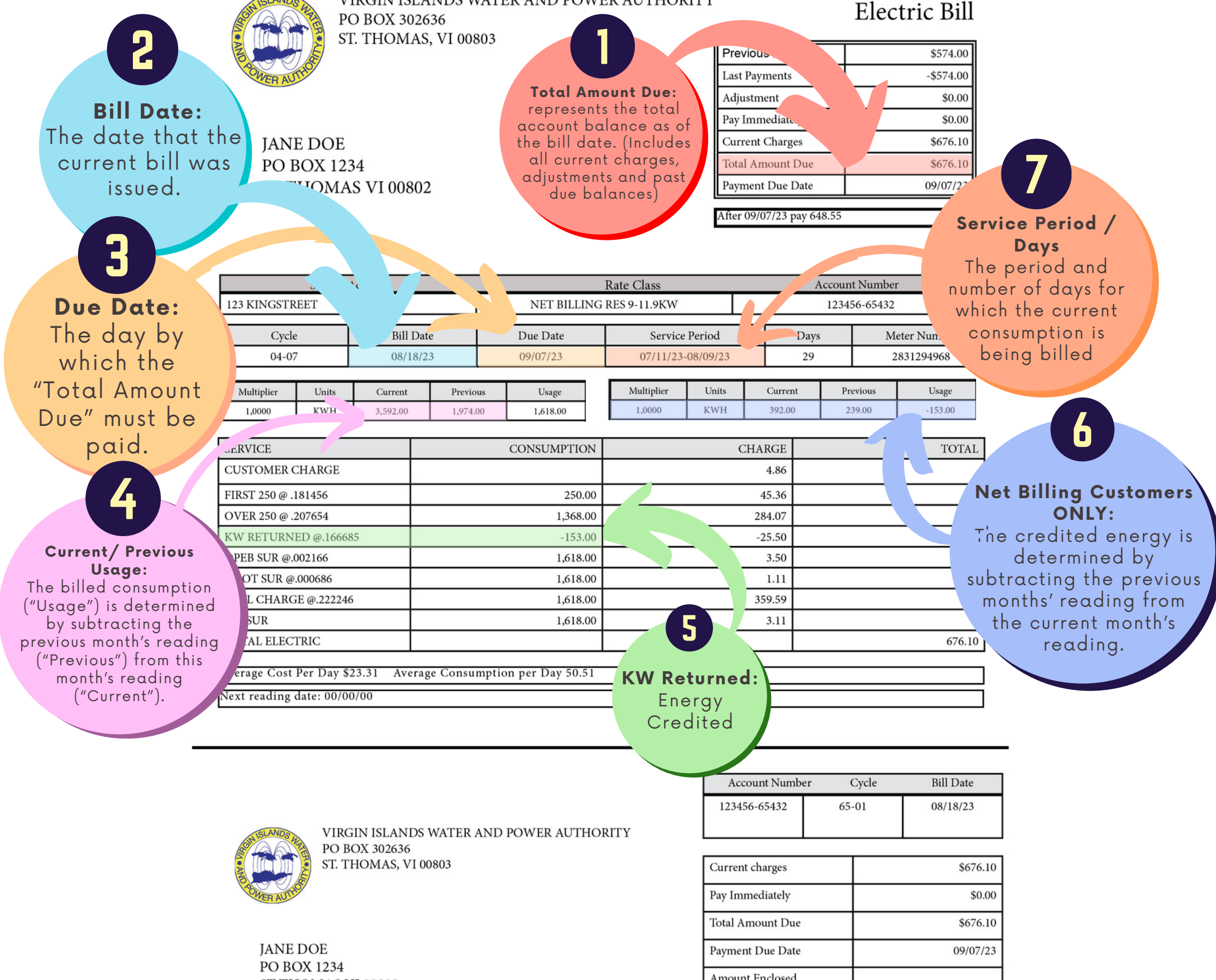
### 8. What happens if I terminate service that was once billed at a net meter rate in the past, and now, I want to reinstate the same account number in future?

The NM Agreement and Interconnection Agreement are contracts between the homeowner and WAPA. If this is cancelled, any expired legacy programs must transition to the current available programs. The new homeowner must complete an NEB application as well as an Interconnection Agreement. This would occur if the home was sold or if the account was closed and reopened at a later date.

### 9. What is the difference between net metering and net billing?

Please reference below:

| Net Metering Program                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Net Energy Billing Program                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every kilowatt hour returned to the account at the current retail rate for electricity</li> <li>System can export in excess of the monthly bill</li> <li>PV system size was limited to 20kw for residential and 100kw for commercial</li> <li>This credit is often applied to the customer's nighttime consumption as home storage was not prevalent when the program was open to enrollment</li> <li>This credit could accrue month over month but reset to zero on the last day of the year</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every kilowatt hour exported to the grid is credited at a rate equal to 75% of the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause (LEAC) (approx \$.165 /KWh 6/27/25)</li> <li>System can export in excess of the monthly bill but the fixed charges cannot be zeroed out</li> <li>The credit is reset to zero at the end of each month.</li> <li>99% include storage (batteries)</li> </ul> |



**1. Total Amount Due:** represents the total account balance as of the bill date. (includes all current charges, adjustments and past due balances)

**2. Bill Date:** The date that the current bill was issued.

**3. Due Date:** The day by which the "Total Amount Due" must be paid.

**4. Current/ Previous Usage:** The billed consumption ("Usage") is determined by subtracting the previous month's reading ("Previous") from this month's reading ("Current").

**5. KW Returned: Energy Credited**

**6. Net Billing Customers ONLY:** The credited energy is determined by subtracting the previous month's reading from the current month's reading.

**7. Service Period / Days** The period and number of days for which the current consumption is being billed

### 10. Will I lose my existing credits when the switch happens?

Credits will reset to zero on December 31, 2025 and will continue to reset at the end of each year.

### 11. Who can I talk to if I have questions about my bill or this transition?

[Customer.Service@viwapa.vi](mailto:Customer.Service@viwapa.vi) | 340-773-2250 or 340-774-3552 (option 5)

You can contact customer service and speak to the DER (distributed energy resource) representative with any questions. Inquiries beyond Customer Service's awareness, will be submitted to the NEB program manager for more detail.

### 12. Will I need to make changes to my solar equipment?

Addresses whether their setup continues to work with the new billing program. No changes are required as long as the system size is within the original amount submitted to the utility. If you've increased your system size above the 10.1kWac threshold, then a NEB agreement is needed.

### 13. Can I choose to remain under the net metering agreement?

If the inverter nameplate is under 10.1kWac of output, and within your original Net Metering Agreement, then the system is statutorily "grandfathered" for continuation under the original NM rate structure. If the system is over 10.1kWac in inverter nameplate rating for the entire system, then the system will be transitioned to the NEB rate structure. If you sell your home, the NM agreement expires.

### 14. What happens if my system is now 10kWac and I increase it in the future?

If a PV (photovoltaic) system is expanded, the owner is required to isolate this portion from the original Net Metered system, and it can have no ability to export to the grid.

### 15. Can I opt out of the net billing program if I disagree with the terms?

Unfortunately you cannot "Opt Out" of participating in the NEB program. This is currently the only program that permits grid interconnection, which is why there is an Interconnection Agreement contract.

### 16. Is this change being made because the utility is losing money from solar customers?

This program was intended to jump start photovoltaic adoption per the memorandum of understanding between the Department of Energy and Governor John Dejongh in 2009. The installed cost of a solar system was approximately 70-100% more than it is now. The decline in cost over time was noted and was part of the consideration when the expiration of the NM program was included in the legislation enacted in 2014. The incentive served it's purpose and the region has seen a robust adoption of alternative energy.

### 17. How are you making sure this program is fair to customers who invested in solar?

The program reached the enrollment cap in June of 2017. Since its inception, through today, there has been an Investment Tax Credit available as well as the cost offset that would allow a "zeroing out" of any monthly bill. This incentive made it possible to recover the customers' original cost to purchase as well as offset all or part of their usage for several years. This return on investment is higher than the returns from most markets. These customers have benefited greatly from their position as early adopters.

### 18. What documents are required to transfer net metering services over 10kWac to the Net Billing Program?

No action is currently required.

### 19. Are there any fees involved to transfer net metering services over 10kWac to the Net Billing Program?

No.

### 20. The service contract I signed from WAPA shows a maximum capacity of 20kw for residential, etc. (below), so why is WAPA making the change?

These were the permissible PV system sizing caps and are not related to the subsequent legislation enacted in 2014. As with any incentive, once it serves its intended purpose the incentive should expire, so it represents the current market realities.

**Net Metering Agreement for Small Wind and/or Photovoltaic Systems**

Installation up to a maximum of:

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| Residential | -----20 KW  |
| Commercial  | -----100 KW |
| Government  | -----500 KW |

(As per Act 7075 Bill no. 28-0009)

### 21. Where can I get a copy of this law- [Title 12, chapter 23, Subchapter IV, § 1149]?

A copy can be found at the link: [12 V.I.C. § 1149](#)

### 22. Does the change affect all classes of net meter customers (residential, commercial, or government)?

Yes, with the exception of residential customers with a 10kWac system and below.

### 23. How can I assess the size of my residential solar system?

Use the following methods to determine if the system is 10kWac or less:

1. Locate the nameplate ac rating on the inverter/s. In the case of microinverters the wattage of each will need to be added to get a total.
2. Determine the sum of the number of panels, and their nameplate wattage, and derate the dc wattage total by 15%.
3. If any record of your original installation exists, the contracted system size should be less than 11.75kWdc to be considered 10kWac or less.