

Consumer guide to grid-connected rooftop solar - Part 11

The [previous issue](#) explained the calculations for net feed-in and the billing arrangement. Part 11 will explain the billing procedure using an example.

Per unit price of power imported from grid: The price of power imported from grid supply will be the as per [respective tariff](#) based on their consumer category ie., consumer with 112 kW connected load is eligible for installing grid connected rooftop solar.

Billing Procedure: The total price of exported power will be calculated by multiplying the number of units exported and per unit net-feedin price fixed for the consumer category upto 112 kW capacity. This will be considered as credit.

The total cost for import will be calculated based on present tariff, as mentioned in the previous section. This will be considered as debit. During every billing cycle (i.e., bi-monthly), the billing will be done as follows:

- If the cost of debit is greater than credit, then the consumer needs to pay the excess debit amount. (i.e., bill amount in INR = debit - credit)

Solar net meter	Import (Units)	400
	Export (Units)	350

Debit (for 400 units) = Rs.830
Credit (for 350 units) = Rs.798
Bill amount = Rs.32

Therefore, the consumer would have to pay Rs.32 for this billing cycle

- If credit is greater than the debit, then exceeded credit will be added in the consumer's account. It will be adjusted in the next billing cycle, if required. Otherwise, it will be carried forward in the consumers' account.

Solar net meter	Import (Units)	400
	Export (Units)	600

Debit (for 400 units) = Rs.830
credit (for 600 units) = Rs.1,368

The consumer has a credit value of Rs. 538 and this will be adjusted during the subsequent billing cycle or will be carried forward in the consumer's account. This process will continue until the end of the settlement period, which is 12 months (i.e., 1 April to 31 March).

According to [Tamil Nadu Solar Policy 2019](#), TANGEDCO will pay the cumulative credit to the consumer for the year. This has to be paid to the consumer within 15 days from the date of billing, by cheque. The payment shall not carry any interest if settled within 15 days from the date of bills being raised. Beyond this period, payments will attract interest equivalent to the interest rate on security deposit and it is [5.70%](#) per annum for the financial year 2019-20. (to be continued...)

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Electric Vehicles (Part - 9)

The [previous issue](#) gave an overview on FAME - India scheme. This issue will explain the guidelines and standards for charging infrastructures. Also it will focus on the initiatives taken by the government of Tamil Nadu. .

Guidelines and standards for charging infrastructures

[Guidelines and standards for charging infrastructures](#), issued by the Ministry of Power, permit private charging at residences and offices and is deemed as a de-licensed activity. Any individual or entity can set up a public charging station (PCS). Such stations should meet the technical as well as performance standards and protocols laid down by the Ministry of Power (MoP) and Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Any charging station or chain of charging stations may also obtain electricity from any generation company through [open access](#). In a grid of 3 km x 3 km, at least one PCS should be available. One charging station should be set up at every 25 km on both sides of highways and roads. For long range EVs (e.g. long range SUVs) and heavy duty EVs (e.g. buses, trucks) there should be atleast one charging station every 100 km along each side of the highways. Within cities, such charging facilities shall be located in transport nagars and bus depots.

As per the guidelines, rollout of EV public charging infrastructure will be done in two phases. In phase I (1-3 years from 2019), all mega cities (i.e. Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Surat, and Pune) and important highways (i.e. Mumbai - Pune expressway, Ahmedabad - Vadodara expressway, Delhi - Agra Yamuna expressway, Delhi - Jaipur, Bengaluru -Mysore, Bengaluru - Chennai, Surat - Mumbai expressways, Agra - Lucknow expressway, Eastern Peripheral Expressway, Delhi - Agra NH2 expressway, Hyderabad ORR expressway, and five connected highways to each mega city) connected with each of these mega cities will be taken up for rollout. In phase II (3-5 years from 2019), big cities such as state capitals and headquarters of Union Territories shall be covered for distributed and demonstrated effect. Further, important highways connected with each of these cities will be taken up for coverage.

Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicles Policy 2019

Several Indian states e.g. Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, etc. have released their EV policies to support adoption of EVs. Following this, Tamil Nadu also unveiled the Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicles Policy in 2019.

The Government of Tamil Nadu envisions to attract INR 50,000 crore of investment in EV manufacturing and create a comprehensive EV ecosystem in the state. Such investment is expected to create 1.5 lakh new jobs. The policy intends to provide demand side incentives as follows:

Vehicle category	Demand side incentives
Electric two wheelers	100 % road tax exemption till 30.12.2022 Waiver on registration charges as per Government of India's notification
Three seater auto rickshaws	100 % road tax exemption till 30.12.2022 Waiver on registration charges as per Government of India's notification Permit fee will be waived for e-autos till 30.12.2020
Transport vehicles such as taxi, tourist cars, etc.	100 % road tax exemption till 30.12.2022 Waiver on registration charges as per Government of India's notification Permit fee will be waived for electric transport vehicles till 30.12.2020 Subsidy will be provided to STUs to enable purchase of electric buses
Light goods carriers (including three wheelers)	100 % road tax exemption for all carriers registered till 30.12.2022 Waiver on registration charges as per Government of India's notification There will be no requirement of permit
Private cars	100 % road tax exemption for all carriers registered till 30.12.2022 Waiver on registration charges as per Government of India's notification

(to be continued...)

Tamil Nadu News

Tangedco gives relief to commercial establishments by allowing self-assessment of meter reading

In a circular issued on April, Tangedco has allowed self-assessment of electricity readings until May 3 for LTCT industrial and commercial consumers. In a major relief for low tension current transformers (LTCT) of industrial and commercial consumers, the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) has allowed 'self-assessment' of electricity readings during the COVID-19 crisis. Tangedco, in a circular issued by the Accounts Branch on Tuesday, has instructed that self-assessment of electricity meters would be allowed in place of the payment of the previous month's billing, as was earlier the case.

Tangedco had earlier directed domestic consumers and LTCT industrial and commercial consumers to pay the previous month's bill amount as the current month's, due to the assessment not being carried out during the lockdown. The circular states that the move comes in the wake of industrial and commercial consumers making a representation to Tangedco that as a majority of the commercial establishments are going to be shutdown from March 24 to May 3, the direction to pay the previous month's bill for April would be very high compared to the actual usage.

Tangedco has instructed the LTCT industrial and commercial users to self-assess their electricity reading by taking a photo image of the meters and send it through Whatsapp, SMS or e-mail to their respective Assistant Engineers/Junior Engineers of the Section Office. Based on the self-assessed reading furnished by the consumers, Tangedco officials would raise a bill and communicate the same to the consumers. The consumers should in turn pay the electricity bills through various online payment facilities including internet banking, mobile banking, and payment gateways. This self-assessment facility is open only till May 3, the circular has stated. The mobile number of the AEs/JEs are available at the website www.tangedco.gov.in.

Source: [The Hindu](#), April 22, 2020

India News

Discoms obligated to pay for electricity within 45 days: Power Ministry

As per the relief granted last month, the distribution companies will need to either deposit or give Letter of Credit (LoC) for 50 per cent of the cost of power they want to buy. With its relief being construed as a moratorium on payments, the Union Power Ministry has clarified that electricity distribution companies will continue to be obligated to pay for power within 45 days of presentation of the bill. It, however, lowered late payment charges for the period between March 24 and June 30. In a letter addressed to heads of power/energy departments of all states, the Union Power Ministry on Monday said there has been some "misconception" regarding its last month order that had relaxed norms for a payment security mechanism.

"It is made clear the obligation to pay for the power within 45 days of the presentation of the bill remains the same," it said. As per the relief granted last month, the distribution companies will need to either deposit or give Letter of Credit (LoC) for 50 per cent of the cost of power they want to buy. The remaining will have to be paid within the period given in the PPA, failing which the delayed payment surcharge will apply, it said. On March 28, the Union Government approved a financial relief package for the power sector that provided for easing of payment security mechanism for three months and reduced payment security amount by half for future power purchases.

This was done to help discoms battling non-payment in nationwide lockdown. In the letter on Monday, the ministry said late payment surcharge is applicable in case of nonpayment of dues within the stipulated period. This surcharge in most cases goes up to 18 per cent per year. "Keeping in mind the present situation, the Government of India have vide letter dated March 28, 2020 advised the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) to reduce the rates of late payment surcharge applicable for the period March 24, 2020, to June 30, 2020," it said. From July 1, the delayed payment surcharge shall apply at the rate given in the power purchase agreement (PPA)." The obligation to pay for power within 45 days of the presentation of the bill or as provided in the PPA remains unchanged," it said. "However, Discoms may also raise funds, if required, to meet this crisis. Source: [Business Standard](#), April 6, 2020

Consumer Focus

The petitioner is a domestic consumer having a single-phase connection under Tariff IA. The petitioner's meter was damaged during the December 2015 floods and was replaced with a new meter in January 2016. TANGEDCO levied charges for the defective period, an average consumption amount of Rs. 3751/-. This was paid by the consumer.

TANGEDCO suspected discrepancies in the meter reading made by the assessor. It downloaded the data using Meter Reading Test (MRT) and found variations in the meter readings and assessor's entries. However, TANGEDCO worked out the consumption charges as Rs. 3020/-, the outstanding to be paid by the petitioner. Further, disciplinary proceedings were initiated on the assessor for incorrect meter readings.

The petitioner, on his part, was aggrieved by the discrepancies and based on his own calculations, an excess amount of Rs.1123/- was to be refunded to him, and not Rs. Rs.731/- as calculated by the utility. Therefore, the petitioner registered a complaint with the Consumer Grievance Redress Forum (CGRF) for refund of the amount. However, the CGRF ruled in favour of TANGEDCO.

Therefore, the petitioner appealed to the Electricity Ombudsman to redress his complaint.

On investigation, it was found that there were variations in the units submitted by the utility. It did not match with the downloaded data. This difference worked out an excess payment of Rs.968/- made by the petitioner. Further, the Ombudsman ordered that the excess amount shall be refunded with interest. Payment may be made by cheque and/or adjusted upto two assessment periods. The interest shall be computed from the date on which the excess amount has been paid. This decision was taken as per Tamil Nadu Supply Code 12(2) referring to "Errors in billing". It states, "12. Errors in billing xxxx xxx xxx (2)Where it is found that the consumer has been overcharged, the excess amount paid by such consumer shall be refunded along with interest at the rate applicable for security deposit. The interest shall be computed from the date on which the excess amount was paid."

Source: [Ombudsman case](#)

ECC VOICE

திருநெல்வேலி டவுன் பகுதி,மேலத்தெருவில் வசிக்கும் திரு.கந்தசாமி என்பவர், வீட்டின் மின் இணைப்பில் பெயர் மாற்றம் செய்ய மின் வாரியத்திடம் விண்ணப்பம் அளித்துள்ளார். விண்ணப்பத்தில், அவர் வசிக்கும் வீடு அவரது பேரிலும் மற்றும் மின் இணைப்பு அவரது பாட்டி திருமதி.தங்கம்மாள் பெயரிலும் பல வருடங்களாக இருப்பதால், அதனை தன் பெயருக்கு மாற்றி தருமாறு கேட்டிருந்தார்.

விண்ணப்பம் அளித்து சில நாட்கள் ஆகியும், அவருடைய மின் இணைப்பில் பெயர் மாற்றம் செய்யப்படவில்லை. அதிருப்தி அடைந்த திரு.கந்தசாமி, திருநெல்வேலி மின் நுகர்வோர் மையத்தை அணுகி அவரது புகாரை தெரிவித்தார். புகாரை பெற்ற மின் நுகர்வோர் மையத்தின் ஆலோசகர் திரு. ஷண்முகம், பெயர் மாற்றம் செய்வதற்கான வழிமுறைகளையும் மற்றும் அதற்காக சமர்ப்பிக்க வேண்டிய படிவங்களையும் விரிவாக விளக்கினார். இப்படிவங்களுடன், மின் இணைப்பு பெயர் மாற்றம் சம்மந்தமான விவரங்களை "Indemnity Bond"- ல் பூர்த்தி செய்யுமாறு ஆலோசனை வழங்கினார். பின்னர் இந்த ஆவணங்கள் அனைத்தையும் உதவி பொறியாளர் / பழையபேட்டை அவர்களிடம் சமர்ப்பிக்குமாறு அவர் அறிவுறுத்தினார்.

அவ்வாறே செய்த திரு.கந்தசாமியின் மின் இணைப்பு, 10 நாட்களில் பெயர் மாற்றம் செய்யப்பட்டது. அவர், மின் நுகர்வோர் மையத்திற்கு நேரில் வந்து, தமக்கு தகுந்த ஆலோசனைகளை வழங்கியதற்காக தனது நன்றியினை தெரிவித்தார்.

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Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG) is a non-profit, non-political and professional organization that works towards protecting citizen's rights in consumer and environmental issues and promoting good governance processes including transparency, accountability and participatory decision making.

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World News

Free electricity for March and April for low-income households

Power distribution utilities will no longer charge households whose monthly electricity use fall below 50 kilowatts per hour for the March and April billing periods, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases announced on Wednesday.

Task force spokesman Karlo Nograles said in a televised briefing that the assistance aims to provide relief for 3 million consumers of electric cooperatives across the country whose primary sources of income and livelihood have been disrupted by the COVID-19 crisis.

Aside from the free supply, the National Electrification Administration announced last week that 90 electric cooperatives in Luzon had granted a 30-day grace period on electricity bills whose due dates fall within the duration of the Luzon-wide quarantine. They also cancelled penalties, interests and charges for late payments.

No water and power interruption : Nograles also assured there would be adequate supply of water in Metro Manila and electricity in Luzon during the enhanced community quarantine on the island. "The National Water Resources Board has given 46 cubic meters per second to Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System until April 30 to ensure the continuous supply water in Metro Manila," the official said.

This is equivalent to an allocation of about 4000 million liters per day, the NWRB said. The Department of Energy, meanwhile, said its current megawatts capacity "is greater than the actual peak demand ... in Luzon."

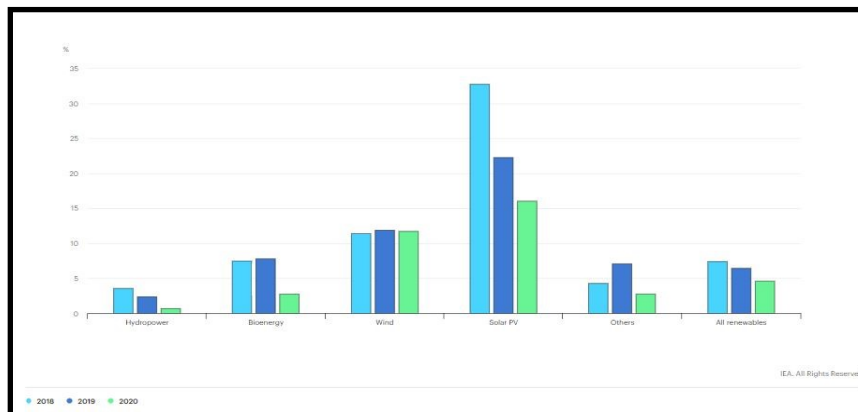
On March 17, Presidente Rodrigo Duterte ordered most people in the northern Philippines, except for those rendering vital services, to stay at home. The lockdown is intended to stem the spread of COVID-19. It was originally scheduled to last until April 12, but was extended until 11:59 p.m. of April 30.

Source: CNN Philippines, April 15, 2020

Publications / Regulations

- Global Renewables Outlook 2020, IRENA
- Energy Subsidies - Evolution in the Global Energy Transformation to 2050, IRENA
- Extension of Off-grid and Decentralised Solar PV Applications Programme Phase - III, MNRE

Annual growth for renewable electricity generation by source, 2018-2020



Source: IEA.ORG