



Frequently Asked Questions About Alternative Energy Systems

As more consumers look for ways to reduce their traditional electric usage and/or make a positive impact on the environment, Leavenworth Jefferson Electric Cooperative (LJEC) has seen an increase in inquiries about wind and solar power generation. We have compiled general answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

How much does it cost to install a renewable power generating system?

- Residential power generating is an emerging industry. Costs could vary widely. We have heard of systems costing up to \$40,000.
- In general, the cost for LJEC to install the metering equipment necessary to monitor and safely handle the excess generation is approximately \$1,200. Every installation is different.

What equipment does LJEC require consumers to install?

- You'll need to install UL 1741 listed equipment

Are there dealers in our area?

- LJEC does not recommend or endorse any particular dealer or brand. Your best source for local dealers may be the internet. The following sites may be helpful in your search:

Wind: www.skystreamenergy.com; www.bergey.com; www.abundantre.com; www.ewindandsolar.com

Solar: www.solarhome.org; www.xantrex.com; www.ewindandsolar.com

Does LJEC pay me for my excess power generation?

- Yes, LJEC has three service riders in place that reimburse the customer for net metering, 150% of avoided costs or 100% of avoided cost, dependent on the qualifying system. Call LJEC at 888-796-6111 for additional information.

When considering the purchase of a power generating system, be wary of excessive claims of savings on energy bills or payments for power buy-back. **Be realistic with your expectations of the return on your dollar investment.** The positive impact on the environment may be your most immediate reward.

If you install a power generating system, whether wind, solar or a stand-by generator, it is imperative that you notify LJEC. If not properly installed, power could feed back through the lines resulting in injury or death to anyone working on the line.



Not every location or budget lends itself to alternative power generation. There are many ways to reduce electric usage and bills and positively impact the environment.

- Install or add 12"-15" of insulation in attics, in walls and around duct work.
- Replace old appliances with Energy-Star rated models
- Replace old, drafty windows with low-E glass windows
- Install an air-source or geothermal heat pump system (Federal and LJEC rebates available for qualifying systems)

Low-cost changes

- Replace incandescent bulbs with CFL bulbs
- Replace your furnace filter regularly
- Add self closing vents on dryer vents, bathroom vents and range hoods
- Wait to use the dishwasher or washing machine until you have a full load
- Turn off lights, appliances and electronic equipment when you're not in the room.



LJEC encourages its consumers to reduce energy usage whenever possible and recognizes the benefits of renewable energy. **When usage is reduced during the peak period of 3pm to 9pm, it helps reduce our demand which could be reflected in a lower ECA on your bill.** Peak usage are on days when the temperature is above 95 degrees.