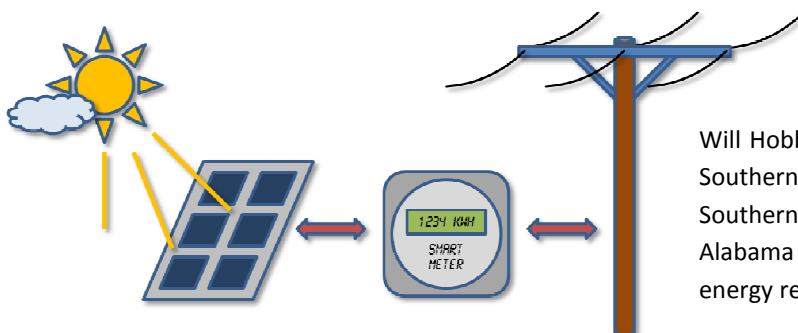


Alabama Power Interconnection Process



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One of the first questions a home or business owner asks when considering installing a solar PV array is, “What do I need to do to connect to my utility’s electric grid?” or before that, maybe even “Can I connect to the utility’s grid?” Luckily for Alabama Power customers, the answer to the second question is “Yes”, and the answer to the first is fairly simple.

The steps in the interconnection process for Alabama Power are as follows:

- **Contact Alabama Power:** Let them know you are interested in interconnecting your PV system to the grid. Judy Ray is the person who handles this communication, and she can be reached directly at 205-257-4460 or jwray@southernco.com. Judy will send you a packet of information, including rules, rate options, guidelines and an application by mail or email. She will also be able to explain this information if you have questions.

- **Fill out and send back your application:** Read through the material that Judy sends to you, and fill out the application with the required information about your planned PV system. The application is only three pages long, and requires fairly basic information that your solar installer should be able to help you fill out in no time at all. Once your application has been approved (mostly regarding to safety and reliability issues), you can...

- **Install your solar PV system:** You and your installer can now move ahead with the installation of your new PV system and disconnect equipment. Once it’s installed, contact Judy to arrange for an inspection.

- **Have your disconnect switch inspected by Alabama Power:** The safety of our customers and employees is our number one priority. We will send out a crew to inspect your disconnect switch, to insure that it has been installed according to Alabama Power’s requirements.

- **Sign a contract:** Written permission from Alabama Power is required in order for a generator to operate in parallel with Alabama Power’s system. That permission is gained through a Rate PAE contract or an Interconnection Agreement. Most customers opt for Rate PAE (“Purchase of Alternate Energy”), where your home uses energy from your PV system, and excess energy is sold back to Alabama Power according to Rate PAE. Some customers do not choose to be on Rate PAE, but choose to sign an Interconnection Agreement instead. When a Rate PAE Contract or an Interconnection Agreement has been executed, the last step is...

- **Turn on your system!**

We will do our best to work with you through the process, and we don’t want it to be drawn out or difficult for anyone involved. And again, safety is everyone’s highest priority, which is one of the biggest reasons why the state Public Service Commission requires that customers work with their utility to go through this process.

For more information, contact Judy Ray and go to our website, www.alabamapower.com, and click on “Renewables” under the “Environment” tab on the homepage.