

ISSUE IN FOCUS



Celebrating 100 Years

SASKATCHEWAN
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Changes to SaskPower's Net Metering Program

Background:

On September 19, 2019 SaskPower announced that it had reached its 16-megawatt (MW) capacity for the Net Metering Program and would no longer be accepting applications until a review of the program is completed. The program allowed SaskPower customers to be eligible for credits to their accounts with a rebate calculation of \$0.61 per watt.

Issue:

The program which was to be in effect until November 30, 2021 or until it reached 16 megawatts of projects – whichever came first. Demand for the program was so high that in less than one year the capacity was reached.

Recommendations:

1. Net metering must continue with a 1-1 ratio.
2. Ensuring a maximum 8-year ROI to sustain sales and sector growth. The "new" program must be long-term and predictable, so parameters need to be set now for a long-term program (length of 5-7 years).
3. Provincial rebates could be phased out but should not be simply cut off. A four to five-year phase out period could work.
4. Establish a "carve out" for small scale renewables, particularly solar, of 5% to allow predictability for the sector.
5. A promotion on the value of renewable generation should be undertaken as a partnership between the solar sector and SaskPower.
6. Recognition of the reality and value of customer retention and the growing opportunities of large-use customers to go off grid for much of their power use

must be better embraced by SaskPower.

7. Consideration of a separate Saskatchewan energy efficiency coordination entity should be a priority for stakeholders to end the conflict of a utility running reduced use programing.
8. The new program must be announced within days as people are being laid off already, with more to come.

History:

Memo to SCC Members in the Renewable Energy Sector 2019