

# Micro-generation Fact Sheet

Micro-generation is the small-scale, on-site generation of renewable or alternative energy by an electricity customer. An example of a micro-generator is a homeowner with solar panels on their roof, or a farmer with a small wind turbine on their property. In Alberta, micro-generation systems can be sized as large as required to meet a customer's own electricity needs, but no larger than one megawatt.

## The Micro-generation Regulation

Alberta's Micro-generation Regulation came into effect in January 2009. It is the set of rules that allow electricity customers to generate their own electricity and receive credit for any power they don't use and send to the electricity grid.

The Regulation was extended in December 2013 to ensure Albertans can continue to benefit from micro-generation development.

## How it works

Micro-generators produce some or all of the electricity they need and are also connected to the electricity distribution system (the wires that bring electricity to customers). Through this connection, they can buy electricity from the grid when they do not generate as much electricity as they need, and can provide electricity to the grid when they produce more than they use. The Regulation allows micro-generators to receive compensation for any excess power they send to the electricity grid.

## Becoming a micro-generator

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) is responsible for overseeing implementation of the Micro-generation Regulation and has developed the application and approval process.

The AUC has a guideline that provides specific details and information on the application process. Prospective micro-generators should refer this document which is available at [www.auc.ab.ca](http://www.auc.ab.ca).

All customers who want to become a micro-generator must apply to their distribution company (also known as the wire service provider) to get approval to connect and operate a generating unit.

Albertans should seek the services of a certified electrical contractor when planning and installing a micro-generation unit.

## For further information

Contact the Alberta Utilities Commission: 780-427-4903 (for toll-free access from anywhere in Alberta, please dial 310-0000 and enter 780-427-4903 to be connected).

To find out who your distribution company is, contact the Utilities Consumer Advocate: 310-4-UCA (310-4822). Your distribution company will also be listed on your electricity bill.

If you have questions about the Micro-generation Regulation, contact [Microgeneration.Energy@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Microgeneration.Energy@gov.ab.ca)