

Reading Your Country Energy Meter on a Grid Feed Solar System

The Country Energy meter cycles continuously through the following displays;

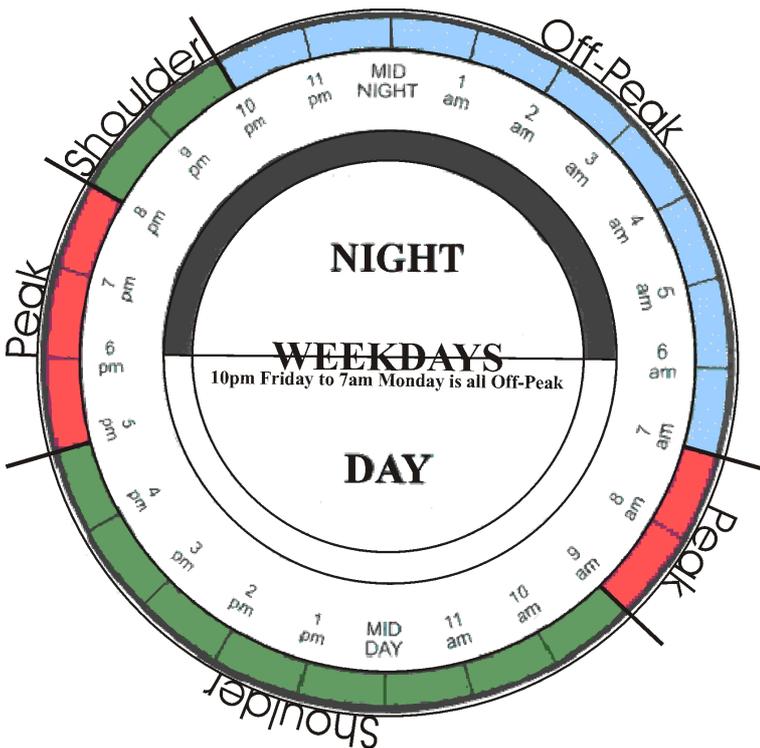
- 1) Display test (Lots of characters making no sense)
- 2) Meter program
- 3) Date and time
- 4) 001- Power usage during peak period in kilowatt/hours
- 5) 002- Power usage during shoulder period in kilowatt/hours
- 6) 003- Power usage during off peak period in kilowatt/hours
- 7) 101- Net power exported during peak period in kilowatt/hours
- 8) 102- Net power exported during shoulder period in kilowatt/hours
- 9) 103- Net power exported during off peak period in kilowatt/hours

In order to accurately record the energy you return to the grid your current meter will be replaced with a 'Smart Meter' programmed to record energy flows in both directions. This records the energy you use from the grid (imported) and the energy you return the grid (exported).

Country Energy currently meters small scale generation units in a net fashion. This means that any electricity generated powers your home first reducing your grid consumption. If you're producing more than you're consuming at any instant, the excess will feed back into the grid and be recorded against the 'export' registers on your bidirectional meter. If you are consuming more than your producing at any instant you will use all available generation, and draw the difference from the grid.

Therefore your retailer will not purchase all of the generation, as a portion of it is consumed in the premise. Monitoring what is generated in line with what is exported will allow you to understand not only how net metering works, but what percentage of the generation you are using in the home.

The Country Energy Meter records the net import export in three time of day bands as depicted here:



Time of Use Clock for time of use tariffs

The display on your Sunny Boy inverter or the small kiloWatt hour (kWh) meter (next to the double circuit breaker) on the PV Edge inverter will show a total gross generation reading of what is produced by your solar system (not what is returned to the grid).

If you export (see displays 7, 8 & 9) more power to the grid than you consume (see displays 4, 5 & 6) then you are a net exporter; if you consume more than you export, you are a net consumer.

On your Country Energy Statement:

- The export line item on the bill is the total export.
- The amount returned to the grid is the net amount generated (after premise consumption from the array).
- The total credit/debit of the bill is netted out at the bottom dollar (after charging for consumption and service fees).

Please note:

1. that there is a software error in the Usage Bar Graph in that it adds (rather than subtracts) the amount of export to the total. While this graph is incorrect, the Statement will be correct. Country Energy is looking into this problem.
2. that all the display readings, including the kWh meter, are cumulative. You may therefore want to take a record of these readings at regular intervals (eg at the same time on the first day of each month).

For more information visit "www.countryenergy.com.au", then follow the links through "Green Energy" to the section on "Small Scale Generation".



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