

District of Summerland Resumes Distributed Generation Program

SUMMERLAND – The District of Summerland is now accepting new applications for its Distributed Generation (Net Metering) Program after Council made changes to program criteria at its April 15 meeting. The revisions are designed to both expand the program and ensure its financial sustainability.

Net metering is a billing arrangement where residents who generate their own electricity, for example through rooftop solar panels, can offset their electricity bills by sending excess power to the grid.

The initiative, launched in 2019 to encourage early adoption of home renewable energy systems, was put on a temporary hold in July 2024 pending a program review.

In its first five years, the program experienced rapid growth with 134 participants together with numerous requests to expand the program parameters to allow for non-residential participants and larger capacity electrical services.

Council resolved to ‘grandfather’ the previous program conditions for existing participants at least until Council has further opportunity to explore the strategic elements of renewable energy, and also to reopen the program to new participants based on the following revised criteria:

- all rate classes permitted
- services larger than 200 amps permitted
- one-time bi-directional meter to be billed at cost
- the banked Energy Rate to be set at the wholesale rate

Residents who are considering installing solar or other renewable systems are encouraged to stay informed through the District of Summerland website at www.summerland.ca/netmetering, where updates and revised program details will be shared as they become available.

Quote:

“There is a lot of interest in Summerland in sustainable energy and the net metering program is a good example of how the District and residents can work together to make a difference. Small-scale rooftop solar complements large-scale initiatives like our battery and solar project, all of which serve to demonstrate how Summerland is a proactive forward-thinking community.”

~ Mayor Doug Holmes

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