



Considering Residential Solar: Yes? Maybe? Call Tricounty!

Recently, a solar company targeted Tricounty's territory and members, soliciting the installation of residential solar arrays that promise to save up to 60 percent on your electric bill. A common sales pitch is that the company sells the service, that they will take care of everything, and that there is no need for you, the member, to do anything. Members have also been told not to contact Tricounty.

They do everything, you do nothing, and you save 60 percent. Sounds good, right?

Well, there are a lot of potential pitfalls and problems overlooked in this plan. For example:

- Finding out the solar array was not built to Tricounty's rules or specifications.
- The member is not told in advance about the net metering process or net metering rate schedule.
- The member is not told in advance about the liability insurance requirements.
- The member doesn't understand what they are signing, including terms up to 20 years, what the interest rate is, and that there may be a lien filed against the property.
- The savings don't actually cover 60 percent of your electric bill.
- Other unforeseen or hidden costs and problems.

SOLUTION: Tricounty is here to assist our members with residential solar array installations by providing information and requirements so that our members can make a well-informed decision.

We recommend you:

- **DO** your research.
- **DO** ask questions.
- **DO** it for the right reasons, which will be different for everyone.
- **DO** contact Tricounty in advance.

Below is the general, but not all-inclusive, process required by Tricounty for the installation of a residential solar array.

- Tricounty's member or property owner must contact Tricounty in advance.
- Tricounty provides our member with the cooperative's policies and technical guidelines that must be followed.
- Both an application for a distributed resource and an agreement for interconnection and parallel operation of a net metered qualifying facility must be executed by the member in advance.
- Tricounty will explain the Ohio kWh tax responsibilities, liability insurance requirements, and Tricounty's net metering rates to the member.
- The contractor provides Tricounty with the system specifications and one-line diagrams of the system.
- Tricounty reviews the submitted documents and determines if a system study will be required.
- Tricounty will approve or disapprove the installation to be interconnected to our system.
- If approved, and when the project is completed, Tricounty will do a final inspection to ensure main disconnects are installed and accessible to Tricounty and verify Tricounty is listed as an additional insured on the member's liability insurance policy before interconnection is allowed.
- Upon satisfactory inspection, Tricounty will change out the meter to a bidirectional meter and convert the member's account to a net metered account with the appropriate rates and facility charges.

We would like to emphasize that we are here for our members in assisting them in making a well-informed decision to meet their goals and objectives while maintaining the reliability, safety, and integrity of our electric system.