



# THE FUTURE OF CLEAN ENERGY CHOICES IN IDAHO

What you need to know about the debate over rooftop solar.

## IPC-E-17-13 IDAHO POWER--NEW SCHEDULES FOR CUSTOMERS WITH ON-SITE GENERATION

### OVERVIEW

Idaho Power contends that current net metering pricing structure for residential and small general service (R&SGS) customers with on-site generation does not reflect the cost of serving those customers, nor does it appropriately reflect the benefits and costs of interconnecting customer- owned on-site generation to Idaho Power's system. The Company states that inaccuracies in electricity pricing could result in unfair cost shifting between customers who choose to install on-site generation and those who do not. The Company has requested that the Public Utilities Commission grant approval creating a new classification for customers who install onsite generation and interconnect to Idaho Power's system. Idaho Power is not proposing to change the rates for these customers at this time, but it would allow them to do so in the near future.

### OUR TAKE

Idahoans should have a right to offset their own electricity usage with on-site renewable energy. Idaho Power must conduct benefit-cost studies prior to making any changes to existing net metering program. Idaho Power's proposal to place customers who self-generate into their own customer class is premature and discriminatory.

### CALL TO ACTION

Please join us for upcoming Idaho Public Utilities Commission public hearings and make your voice heard! **RSVP with online at [www.sierraclub.org/idaho](http://www.sierraclub.org/idaho)**

## Public Hearings

### *Boise Hearing*

Thursday, March 1st, 7:00 pm  
Idaho Public Utilities Commission  
Hearing Room  
472 W. Washington St  
Boise, ID 83702

### *Pocatello Hearing*

Monday, March 5th, 7:00 pm  
City Council Chambers  
911 N. 7th Ave.  
Pocatello, ID 83201

## Written Comments

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is receiving written comments until March 9, 2018. Include case reference (Case# IPC-E-17-13 83201).

### *Online:*

<http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/casecomment.aspx>

### *Mail:*

Idaho Public Utilities Commission  
P O Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0074

TALKING POINTS ON BACK 

## IDAHO POWER'S HAS NOT COMPLETED A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF ROOFTOP SOLAR

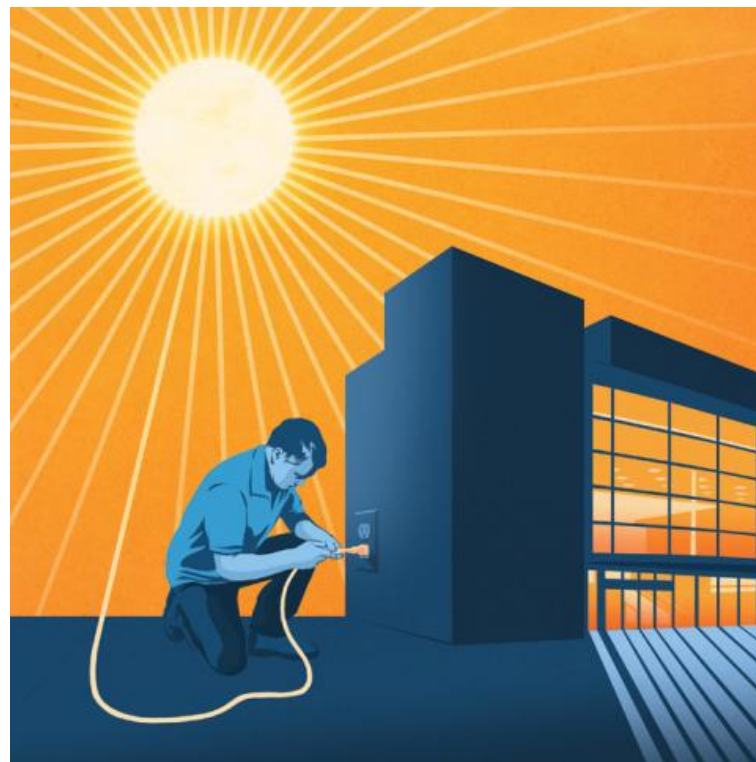
- Idaho Power claims that solar customers, which today constitute less than 0.19% of all customer demand, unfairly shifts costs of providing electricity service to other residents. However, the Company has yet to complete a comprehensive cost-benefits study to demonstrate there is even a cost-shift issue that needs to be addressed.
- In contrast, a 2016 report by the nonpartisan Brookings Institute found that net metering "frequently benefits all ratepayers when all costs and benefits are accounted for" in states that had performed analysis.
- Idaho Power's own analysis of rooftop solar identifies a cost shift that amounts to less than 0.02% of its annual revenues within the customer class.
- Without conducting a cost-benefit analysis, Idaho Power has not put PUC in a position to make informed judgments about cost shifting by failing to account for the long term benefits rooftop solar provides, such as avoiding the need to build new power plants and transmission and distribution infrastructure.
- Completing a comprehensive benefit-costs study is necessary before any changes to existing net metering policy are implemented. If it is determined that the fair value of energy exported to the grid is less than retail rates, any changes to existing policy should be focused on the value energy exported to the grid. Idahoans should continue to have the right to offset their own electricity usage at retail rates all customers pay, just like customers have the right to pursue energy efficiency.

## ROOFTOP SOLAR IS BOOMING IN IDAHO, BRINGING CLEAN POWER AND JOBS TO IDAHO COMMUNITIES

- Solar is booming in Idaho, driven by rapidly falling costs and interest in harnessing solar power's tremendous potential to generate clean power. Idaho Power received nearly 900 net metering applications in 2017, which is great, but still one of the lowest installs per capita compared to neighboring states.
- Rooftop solar provides significant value to all Idaho residents and businesses, helping to creating hundreds of jobs statewide. In fact, a recent report shows that solar jobs grew in 2017 to 654 in Idaho.
- Rooftop solar is a zero-emission renewable energy resource that leverages millions in private investments to diversify Idaho's energy mix, reduces Idaho's reliance on out-of-state fossil fuel energy, improves air quality and reduces future energy costs.

## IDAHO POWER'S NEW RATE CLASS THREATENS IDAHO'S SOLAR INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMERS

- The proposal to create a new rate class is only the first step in attacking the financial benefits of rooftop solar -- this change produces uncertainty for current and future solar customers that will destroy the rooftop solar industry in Idaho.
- Idaho Power is targeting small customers who choose to self generate electricity, punishing them for reducing energy use and rewarding higher energy use customers. The proposal effectively seeks to eliminate consumer choice, energy independence and a consumer's ability to do what they wish on their rooftops.
- If Idaho Power is proposing to treat solar customers differently, why not create a separate rate class for urban vs. rural customers, or customers who have A/C vs. those that don't?
- The only state to create a separate rate class for solar customers is Kansas. Do we want to be like Kansas?



For more information about our energy programs or to volunteer, contact Zack Waterman (zack.waterman@sierraclub.org, 208-384-1023).

#### Sources:

1. <https://www.thesolarfoundation.org/national/>
2. <https://www.idahopower.com/pdfs/AboutUs/PlanningForFuture/irp/IRP.pdf>
3. <https://www.brookings.edu/research/rooftop-solar-net-metering-is-a-net-benefit/>

