



## MLGW 2024 Distributed Generation Process Overview

MLGW offers customers the ability to generate renewable electricity onsite and interconnect to MLGW's electric grid through various options. Learn about options, policies and system requirements at [www.mlgw.com/greenpower](http://www.mlgw.com/greenpower), watch MLGW's **Shining the Light on Solar** virtual meeting at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uxj4mNlnWJs>, visit [www.tvagreenconnect.com](http://www.tvagreenconnect.com) or email [solar@mlgw.org](mailto:solar@mlgw.org). This document is organized in phases: Research, Application, Construction, and Testing.

RESEARCH

1. **Customer** *always* should consider energy efficiency improvements to reduce property's energy consumption first. Find personalized recommendations in My Account at [www.mlgw.com](http://www.mlgw.com) (residential and small business only); other resources are available at [www.energyright.com](http://www.energyright.com) (including efficiency incentives) and <https://mlgw.bizenergyadvisor.com/>
2. **Customer** should research potential system sizes, costs and simple payback based on regional data by contacting MLGW, using the Tennessee Valley Solar Calculator at <https://edt.tva.gov/> and other resources. Note: Calculator does not include MLGW construction and ongoing charges.
3. **Customer** should research solar companies thoroughly before selecting one to develop a project plan for consideration. MLGW and TVA recommend that installers maintain at least Associate-Level certification from the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP). Find solar installers at [www.nabcep.org](http://www.nabcep.org) and Tennessee Solar Energy Industries Association, <https://tennesseiasolar.com/>. Green Connect participation requires use of a solar installer who is part of TVA's Green Connect Quality Contractors Network, [www.tvagreenconnect.com](http://www.tvagreenconnect.com)
4. **Customer** should decide which interconnection option to pursue. All options require a separate generation meter. Options A and C include a monthly MLGW Electric Service Availability charge.
  - a. Self-Generation with or without battery storage: Use generated electricity onsite, with any instantaneous excess sent to the grid without financial benefit.
  - b. Dispersed Power Production: Sell 100% of generated electricity to TVA under 5-year agreement, at avoided cost, which varies monthly. Customer should pursue a Dispersed Power Production (DPP) contract with TVA after step 9 below. TVA pays customer via direct deposit.
  - c. Self-Generation with Dispersed Power Production with or without battery storage: Use generated electricity onsite and sell any instantaneous excess to TVA under 5-year agreement, at avoided cost, which varies monthly. Customer should pursue a Dispersed Power Production (DPP) agreement with TVA after step 9 below. TVA pays customer via direct deposit.
5. **Customer or Contractor** should submit an MLGW *Application for Interconnection of Distributed Generation*, along with check for application fee and required technical documents listed therein. Download the PDF from <http://www.mlgw.com/about/greenpowerswitchdocs> **Do not order, purchase or allow installation of equipment until MLGW has approved the project (step 8).**

APPLICATION

6. **Contractor** should submit project to Memphis/Shelby County Office of Construction Code Enforcement (or applicable suburban jurisdiction) and await approval. This step can be taken simultaneously with MLGW processes.
7. **MLGW** will review application for technical requirements. Most projects are reviewed within 4-5 weeks, based on volume, other workload and document completeness. Depending on proposed system size, location and available infrastructure, an interconnection study may be necessary. If a study is required, you will be notified.
8. **MLGW** will notify **Customer and Contractor** of application's approval and next steps, including sending the MLGW *Interconnection and Parallel Operation Agreement* for customer signature. Project simultaneously moves to MLGW Builder Services Center for Work Request creation and to Customer Engineering for design and quote. **Contractor** should communicate with Customer Engineering Representative during this phase. Access MLGW Telephone Directory for Contractors at <http://www.mlgw.com/images/content/files/pdf/TelephoneDirectoryforContractors.pdf>
9. **Customer** will sign and return the MLGW *Interconnection and Parallel Operation Agreement* along with liability insurance documentation. MLGW will sign and return the executed agreement.

10. **Customer** will receive the construction cost quote for project Work Request from MLGW Customer Engineering, generally mailed in 4-8 weeks, depending on workload. **Customer or Contractor** should pay amount due, noting Work Request number. <https://www.mlgw.com/builders/customerengineering> Project cannot proceed without payment submitted via instructions in construction quote. Cost quote includes separate generation meter and socket, meter installation labor, required system upgrades (if any) and one System Acceptance Test. (Green Connect projects are not charged cost of the initial test but will be charged for any additional test attempts necessary.)
11. **Contractor** should obtain generation meter's electric meter socket from MLGW Electric Meter Shop, 2425 Covington Pike, Memphis, after construction quote is issued. (Pick-up weekdays, 7:00 am - 2:30 pm.) **Contractor** will be given a flyer for scheduling meter removal and putback with Electric Meter Shop, 901-372-5641. (Do not contact other MLGW departments; Electric Meter Shop staff must handle as they can insert temporary plate in new meter socket to restore power.)
12. **Contractor** should notify applicable Code Enforcement agency of construction completion and request final inspection.
13. **Code Enforcement** from applicable local jurisdiction will inspect electrical work and notify MLGW of approval via an electronic system update. Builder Services Center will post the inspection to customer's Work Request. *This is not a same-day process, so plan accordingly.*
14. **Customer and Contractor** should await MLGW construction (as applicable) and interconnection. This step is triggered through the Work Request after MLGW has received Code Enforcement's computerized notice of passing final inspection.
15. **Customer and Contractor** should await MLGW visit to verify generation meter socket wiring and second visit to install the generation meter. These activities are triggered through the Work Request after any MLGW construction work is completed. *System must be off to avoid unauthorized generation until project passes MLGW System Acceptance Test.*
16. **Customer or Contractor** should notify MLGW of readiness for the acceptance test once all construction, including generation meter installation, has been completed. Email [solar@mlgw.org](mailto:solar@mlgw.org) to provide dates/times of availability for MLGW to schedule acceptance test.
17. **Customer or Contractor** should await scheduled date for MLGW site visit for system acceptance test. **Contractor or Customer** must be present during test. (**Customer** must be present for Green Connect projects.)
  - a. Upon successful test, the system will begin generating solar power. MLGW will complete the *System Acceptance Form* and send copy to **Customer** and **Contractor** within a few days.
  - b. If system fails (including incomplete installation), **Contractor** shall make necessary changes and pay additional \$200 fee to repeat the test. \$200 fee must be paid (by check, payable to MLGW) prior to scheduling next test date and repeating steps 16-17.

## Federal Tax Incentives and Potential Funding Sources

Homeowners, businesses and some non-taxable organizations may qualify for Federal incentives, which were changed by the Inflation Reduction Act passed in August 2022. Consult your tax professional and visit:

- Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit: <https://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program/detail/1235/residential-renewable-energy-tax-credit>
- Business Energy Investment Tax Credit: <https://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program/detail/658/business-energy-investment-tax-credit-itc>

Businesses and some non-profit organizations in Tennessee may qualify for a low-interest energy efficiency and renewable generation loan through Pathway Lending. Find details at <https://www.pathwaylending.org>

Commercial property owners in City of Memphis may include solar generation in a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency program (C-PACER) loan application. Project cost for solar, energy efficiency, resiliency and other proposed measures must exceed \$1 million to qualify. Email [info@EDGEMem.com](mailto:info@EDGEMem.com) for details.