



COUNTIES POWER



DISTRIBUTED GENERATION UP TO 10 KILOWATTS INFORMATION PACK



What is Distributed Generation?

Distributed generation refers to any device, such as a photovoltaic solar array, which enables the generation of electricity and has potential to push excess electricity back into the power network.

This information pack contains details for those who are looking to connect any small scale distributed generation system of up to 10 kilowatts to Counties Power's electricity network. Further information about distributed generation connection and the Electricity Participation Code [Part 6](#) can be found on the Electricity Authority's website www.ea.govt.nz.

Please note that Counties Power does not need to be informed about generation systems which will not be connected to the electricity network.

How do I connect a distributed generation device of up to 10 kilowatts to the Counties Power network?

If your distributed generation system has a generation capacity of up to 10 kilowatts you will need to complete the [Distributed Generation application form \(DG1\)](#) and submit this to Counties Power for processing. If your device has a capacity over 10 kilowatts, please refer to Distributed Generation above 10kW information pack.

It is recommended that you check the [list of pre-approved inverters](#). If your inverter is on this list, your application will be processed faster. If your inverter is not pre-approved, you need to provide additional information on how your distributed generation device meets both the AS4777 standard and the Counties Power Distribution Code.

Please read the [Distributed Generation Requirements \(NW031\)](#) document for details on Counties Power congestion, curtailment and interruption policies and additional technical requirements to connect a distributed generation device to our Network.

Please send your completed DG1 application form to Counties Power by post or scan and email distributedgeneration@countiespower.com.

How long will my application take to process?

Counties Power will review your application within 2 business days, and send a written response that your application has been received. If your application is incomplete, we will notify you that more information is required. You will need to provide the additional information within 10 business days.

Counties Power will review and respond in writing within 30 business days of receiving a fully complete application.

If you are using an inverter which has been pre-approved, your application will be processed faster and you can expect a written response within 10 business days.

Can my application be declined?

Counties Power may decline your application for the following reasons:

- Distributed generation device does not meet AS4777 standards and/or Counties Power Network Standards
- Information relating to your application is incomplete

What is the application fee?

- Counties Power do not currently charge a processing fee for distributed generation applications, though this is subject to change in the future:

What if my installation is in an export congestion zone?

Counties Power does not currently have export congestion zones on its network, and there are none expected for distributed generation connections of up to 10 kilowatts over the next 12 month period (10 March 2015).

What happens after my application has been approved?

Install, Inspect and Test your Installation

If your application to connect a distributed generation device has been approved, you are permitted to have your distributed generation device installed on the Counties Power network. Your connection will be governed by the Electricity Authorities [Regulated Terms](#).

When your installer has completed the work they will issue a certificate of compliance (COC) and then arrange for a registered inspector to test and inspect your installation. Counties Power must be notified 5 business days prior to the testing, as Counties Power may send a qualified technician to observe the

testing of your installation. The registered inspector will issue a Record of Inspection (ROI) if the installation has passed all regulated checks.

A copy of the COC and ROI must be provided to Counties Power within 10 business days of the installation being inspected.

You are not permitted to operate your distributed generation device until a meter is installed at your site. Refer to the next section for instruction on how this can be achieved.

Contact your Electricity Retailer

You need a contractual arrangement with an electricity retailer in order to have a meter installed on your site. This will allow you to buy additional electricity and sell excess generated electricity.

Your contracted electricity retailer will nominate a Meter Equipment Provider (MEP) who is responsible for installing a meter on your site.

The MEP will require a copy of the Certificate of Compliance ([COC](#)) and the Record of Inspection (ROI) for your installation before they can install a meter at your site.

If Counties Power is chosen as the MEP we will send an electrical inspector to your site within 5 business days to install your electricity meter. Where all the electrical requirements are satisfied, your site will be lived in for use.

Electricity Retailers on our Network

The following Retailers currently supply electricity across our Network:

- Contact Energy
- Energy Online
- Genesis Energy
- GLOBUG
- Mercury Energy
- Meridian Energy
- Nova Energy
- Opunake Hydro
- Powershop
- Prime Energy
- Pulse Energy
- Simply Energy
- Trustpower

Additional reading

Electricity Authority publications

- [Electricity Authority regulated terms](#)
- [Small-scale distributed generation - Fact sheet 7](#)
- [Guideline for the connection of small scale distributed generation \(equal to or less than 10 kW\) to a local network](#)
- [The Electricity Industry Act 2010](#)