

Your questions answered

# Solar energy billing

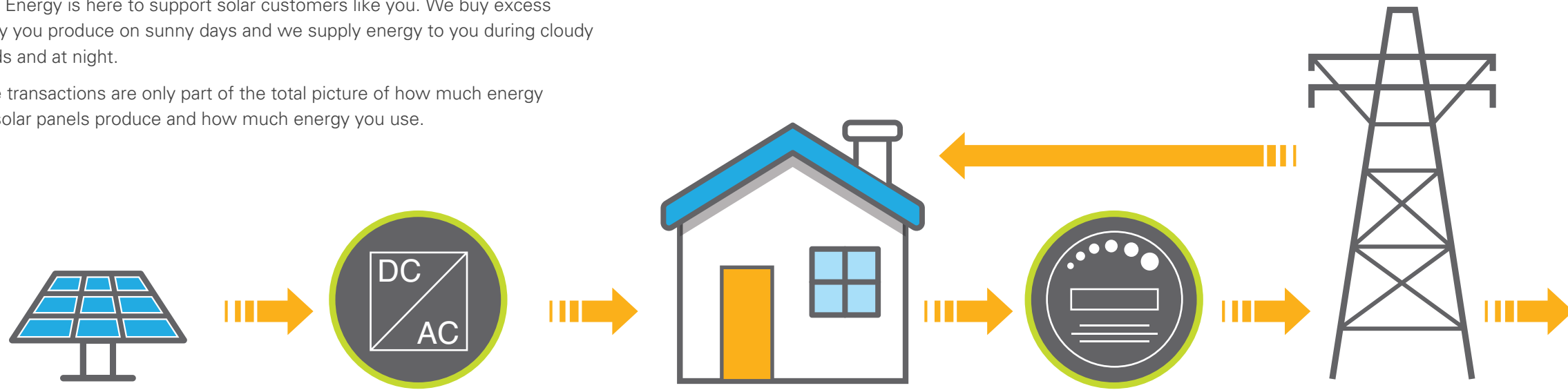
- What your meter measures
- Selling and buying electricity
- Seasonal solar production



## What is on your bill and what is not

Alliant Energy is here to support solar customers like you. We buy excess energy you produce on sunny days and we supply energy to you during cloudy periods and at night.

These transactions are only part of the total picture of how much energy your solar panels produce and how much energy you use.



1

Solar panels convert energy from the sun into electricity.

2

An inverter converts the electricity produced by the solar panels from direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) for use in your home.

3

Energy is used to power your home.

4

A bi-directional meter tracks the energy used versus the energy produced from your solar panels. Any excess energy from your solar panels not used in your home goes back to the electrical grid.



Excess power is sold to Alliant Energy and offsets charges on bill.



If there is no excess power to sell, generation still lowers usage on bill.



When no power is generated, full usage is charged on bill.

## What does not go through your meter

Your Alliant Energy bill **does not show total energy produced by your solar panels.**

Not all energy produced by your solar system is sold to Alliant Energy. The power produced is first delivered and used in your home and any excess leftover after use in your home is sold. We only buy the energy you do not use, the net energy. Your bill reflects net sales and net usage only.

## Only net energy appears on your bill.

The data from your system's inverter includes all power generated. Your Alliant Energy bill shows the net difference between energy produced and energy used in your home each billing period.



## What you can do if your bill is higher than expected:

- Verify solar equipment works properly. Verify panels are not shaded.
- Reach out to the installer to confirm the inverter works as it should. Ask if there are other services or technology to give you data about the solar energy you consume at home.
- Perform a breaker isolation test to find out what equipment may be running and using electricity.
- Pursue energy efficiency. In Iowa, an energy audit is free if Alliant Energy supplies your heating fuel. Rebates are available at [alliantenergy.com/rebates](http://alliantenergy.com/rebates) for some energy-efficient upgrades.

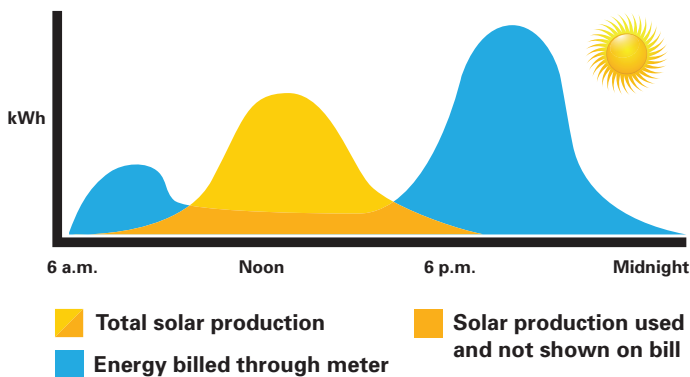
# Seasonal effect on solar production

Winter weather and fewer daylight hours can cause your energy usage to be higher and solar production to be lower, making the gap between what you produce and what you use seem even larger.

Solar systems actually work more efficiently in colder weather, so they're able to make the most of available light. However, they do produce less electricity in winter for a couple reasons:

- The sun is lower in the sky, so its light doesn't hit the panels at an optimal angle.
- There are fewer daylight hours.
- Snow or ice can cover panels and block the sun.

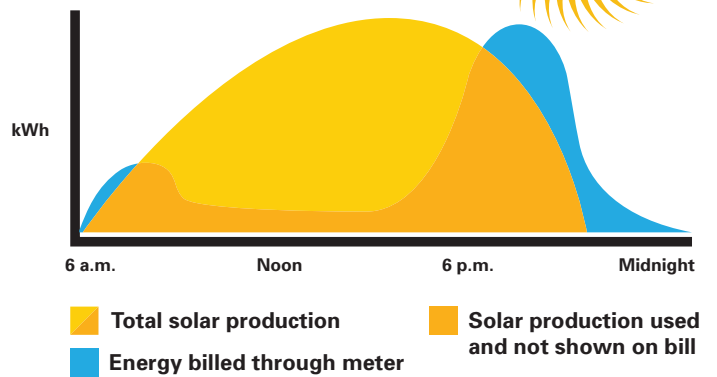
## Winter



### Buying excess energy

It's late afternoon in winter and your solar panels are producing only enough energy to power the fridge. You are home and using energy for the lights, TV, stove, washing machine and furnace. The Alliant Energy meter will measure the **additional amount of energy you use** for your lights, TV, stove, washing machine and furnace. Your bill will show charges for the energy you bought from Alliant Energy to power what your solar panels could not.

## Summer



### Selling excess energy

It's noon on a hot, sunny summer day. You aren't home and only your fridge is running. Your panels produce more energy than the fridge uses. The Alliant Energy meter will measure the **amount of leftover energy you produce**, which is the total minus the amount used to run the fridge. Your bill will show credits because you sold this leftover energy to us.

Alliant Energy  
Renewable Hotline

1-800-972-5325

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
sellmypower@alliantenergy.com

