

Micro-Generation vs. Community Generation

What's the difference?

Micro-Generation

Micro-generation is a way for homeowners and small businesses to generate electricity for their own use, as outlined in the Micro-Generation Regulation.

Micro-generation projects:

- Use renewable or alternative energy sources like wind, solar, biomass, hydro, combined heat and power or other technologies
- Must be less than five megawatts
- Sized to the consumer's electricity needs
- Must be located on-site or adjacent to where the electricity is being used
- May result in credits on electricity bills

Project examples include solar panels powering a house, a micro-wind turbine powering a farm, or a small hydro plant powering an irrigation system.

Community Generation

Community generation provides flexibility for organizations or communities to generate electricity for sale to the grid. The Small Scale Generation Regulation sets the groundwork for community generation.

Community generation projects:

- Use renewable or alternative energy sources like wind, solar, biomass, hydro, combined heat and power or other technologies
- Are connected to the distribution system
- Are sized to fit within the local distribution system
- Are unrestricted by geographical locations within Alberta
- Supply electricity to the grid
- Result in financial compensation
- Confer social, environmental and/or economic benefits to communities

Project examples include a solar panel array owned by a community group who earns revenue from the production of electricity, or a small wind farm that creates local jobs.