

AC Customs LLC
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Hello,

My name is Andrew Clark and I am the owner of AC Customs LLC. I was born and raised in North Central Kansas and have lived here most of my life. I first became interested in Renewable Energy in 2007 when the Smoky Hills Wind Farm was under construction. I saw an article in the Salina Journal about Cloud's Wind Energy Program and enrolled that next August. I later joined CCCC as a Renewable Energy Instructor, where I created the Solar Energy Program, which I am told has 6 students currently enrolled. I now run my own company installing Solar Projects for customers all around Kansas and surrounding states occasionally. I have made Beloit Kansas my home where I have a wife and 3 kids. We have solar on our house and a Tesla in the garage, along with a battery to keep the lights on when the power goes out. One thing that differs with my project from my customers is that I don't have a cogeneration agreement with the City of Beloit to feed back power onto the grid. Here in Beloit, they have a discriminatory policy towards solar. If I want to get net metering for my solar project, I would be charged \$2.50/kilowatt of capacity for my project monthly. That means for my 10kW array that saves me \$150 per month, I would pay \$25 every month just to have it installed, even if it would happen to stop working. That is an extra fee on top of the \$18 they charge everyone for providing electricity. They claim that they would lose money on my meter if they didn't charge that solar "grid capacity" but the likely event is that they lose revenue on my meter and want a way to recapture that. I decided then and there that I wasn't going to give them any power if they were going to discriminate against my solar project. I installed my own meter that measures how much power I use instantaneously and it adjusts my solar inverter so that it only produces as much as I'm using. It's called Zero Export and it's the only thing I can do to fight back against bad policy. Until now. I am here today as I have been waiting for the opportunity to speak out against this discrimination. I also have a few other potential customers that are being discriminated against and causing solar to not even be an option for them. Do to the fact that none of the regulation that investor-owned utilities have trickled down to rural utilities, some of them have made policy so bad that it would cost them more to install solar than it would benefit them. Making their own power locally would cost them more than buying it from some big corporation. The City of Washington has a policy that charges \$9/kilowatt of solar per month. So that same 10kW that saves me \$125 after the fee, in Washington I would pay \$90 per month and only save \$40. Would take 42 years to get a return on investment, compared to 10 years if you live outside of city limits near Washington. That is the definition of Discrimination. Let's get more competitive on our electric rates so that we can build up these small towns instead of running off new business and closing up old businesses. It's time for a change! Solar can save Rural Kansas. Who's with me?

Thank you for your time,

Andrew Clark

Owner, AC Customs LLC