

Circular to Solar PV Industry and Customers of Makana local Municipality concerning the installation of solar PV or other Embedded (grid-connected) Generation.

In keeping with national move to promote embedded generation, the Municipality of Makana is aligning their policies and by-laws for Embedded Generation (EG).

What is an Embedded Generator?

An Embedded Generator is a generator connected to the distribution network, directly, or behind the customer's meter. Often such generators are 'Small-Scale Embedded Generators' (SSEG), meaning not larger than 1Megawatt (MW) capacity. If such a connection is on the customer's side of the meter, it is still 'Embedded' as it is linked to the distribution network. A solar PV system connected to the customer's distribution board via an inverter is a common example. SSEG refers mostly to solar PV generation, although it also includes other forms of generation (e.g. wind, diesel).

How to install an SSEG which the municipality will accept

While municipal policies and by-laws are being finalised, customers wishing to install SSEG are to comply with the SALGA and AMEU endorsed approach, which is laid out in the document ***Requirements for Embedded Generation: Conditions and application process to become an embedded generator in the Municipality of Makana***. The relevant Application Form is to be completed and submitted to the Electricity and Energy Department before commencing installation. This enables the municipality to check that the system safety and power quality characteristics are adequate, amongst other checks. Upon receiving written approval from the municipality, installation followed by Commissioning may take place. More information is provided in the abovementioned "Requirements." document, including regarding the installation of a bi-directional meter.

Customers are advised not to pay for any equipment until approval from the municipality has been obtained for the proposed SSEG.

Consequences of non-compliance

Where SSEG systems do not comply as above, these customers will be disconnected in due course, as the municipality cannot allow such systems on their network for safety and other reasons. This will result in the customer's money being wasted.

Where to obtain the necessary documents and forms

The ***Requirements for Embedded Generation*** document as well as the ***Application Form*** and ***Commissioning Report*** are available from the municipality:

Renewable Energy Office Directorate of Engineering and Infrastructural Services (Makana municipal website)

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