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Hydro Ottawa Limited
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hydroottawa.com

Hydro Ottawa's Distributed Energy Resource (DER) connection cost guidance

Last updated: May 1, 2026

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1. Purpose and cost summary

This document provides guidance on Distributed Energy Resource (DER) connection costs, based on Hydro Ottawa's typical customer interconnection costs, including fees, materials, labour, and commissioning.

Table 1: Typical* DER connection project costs (as of May 1, 2026)

DER size	Hydro Ottawa equipment and support	Interconnection costs (not including HST)
Micro (≤12 kW)	Bi-directional meter and service layout	<$1500
Small (12 < and ≤ 50 kW)	Bi-directional meter, engineering, and design review	<$6,000
Small (50 < and < 200 kW)	Bi-directional meter, engineering, and design review meter-based DER monitoring**	Data not yet available** <$10,000**
Small (200 < and < 500 kW)	Bi-directional meter, Monitoring and Control Box, engineering and design review	~$30,000
Medium and large (500 kW +)	Commercial metering, transfer trip	Project specific

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***** Typical information provided in Table 1 is not intended to be an exact specification for a project, but is intended to provide customers with an order of magnitude estimate for planning purposes. If you have questions or feedback about DER project costs, please contact DER@hydroottawa.com or (613) 738-5499 ext. 7312.

******May 1, 2026, in conjunction with the OEB version 3 Distributed Energy Resource Connection Procedures (DERCP) update, Hydro Ottawa introduced a new interconnection design option for 50-200 kW DERs, utilizing revenue-grade metering instead of a Monitoring and Control Box (MCB). As of this document revision date, actual typical project cost data is not available.

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2. General information on common cost items

A) All micro-embedded generation facility connection cost(s) ≤12 kW

The estimated fees for connecting micro DERs are presented in Table 2. There is no difference between costs for net metering or for non-exporting project connections.

Table 2: Micro-embedded generation facility connection costs (As of May 1, 2026)

Category	Costs
Service layout	One assessment per property per year is provided without charge. Thereafter, approximately $134 per layout.
Site assessment, services, bi-directional meter installation and meter costs	Approximately $500 without upstream isolation; or approximately $1200 if premise isolation is required

Note: Service upgrade costs, if applicable, are out of scope and in addition to the costs above. They are not considered as part of DER connection costs.

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B) CIA fees

Hydro Ottawa's estimated fees for the Connection Impact Assessment (CIA) process are provided in Table 3:

Table 3: CIA fees (as of May 1, 2026)

Category	**System size (Inverter capacity)**	**CIA fees (not including HST)**
Micro	≤12 kW	No CIA required
Small - simplified (Inverter-based)	Single phase ≤ 30 kW Three Phase ≤ 50 kW <15 kV Three phase ≤ 100 kW ≥ 15kV	$850
Small	≤500 kW connected to < 15 kV ≤1,000 kW connected ≥ 15kV	$1,000
Medium	≤10 MW	$4,750
Large	> 10 MW	$5,700

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C) Other common connection costs for small DERs with a nameplate capacity of 250kW or less

Table 4: Common connection costs

No.	Cost item	Average ($) or cost range per kW of the nameplate capacity ($/kW to $/kW)			Note on potentially high variability factors affecting the cost item
		DER group #1 12-50 kW	**DER group #2 50-200 kW *(After May 1, 2026)***	**DER group #3 200-250 and 250-500 kW**	
	Typical equipment	Bi-di meter	Two Bi-di meters (Note 1)	Bi-di meter, MCB	Note 2, Note 3
1	CIA	Excluded from table, see above.			
2	Metering	Up to $1,300	Up to $1,300	Up to $1,300	
3	Monitoring and control system	$0	$1,300 (Note 3)	$20,000	Note 4
4	Commissioning, project management, and administration	$4,000	$6,000	$6,000	Note 5
	Total connection cost, not including CIA	<$6,000	<$10,000	$30,000	

Note 1: Meter-based monitoring of the DER is achieved with a second bi-di meter (see note 3).

Note 2: Bi-di meter = “Bi-directional meter.” MCB = Monitoring and Control Box.

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Note 3: May 1, 2026, in conjunction with the OEB version 3 Distributed Energy Resource Connection Procedures (DERCP) update, Hydro Ottawa introduced a new interconnection design option for 50-200 kW DERs, utilizing conventional revenue-grade metering for monitoring purposes instead of a Monitoring and Control Box. As of May 1, 2026, actual typical project cost data is not available.

Note 4: Supply chain costs for MCBs have been highly variable and escalated in recent years, above the costs experienced in projects listed below in Section 3 - Guidance on cost variance.

Note 5: Labour costs in commissioning, project management and admin can vary significantly between projects, typically due to customer-driven factors, including design changes/iterations, installation defects and commissioning deficiencies.

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3. Guidance on cost variance

Table 5: Historical information on project costs. It may not be reflective of future project costs or variability.

DER group/kW size range	No.	Project type (exporting/non-exporting)	Connection cost estimate ($)	Actual connection cost ($)	Variance [actual - estimate] ($)	Variance (%)	Expansion required (Y/N)	Transfer trip required (Y/N)	Build & energization duration (months)	Notes
Group 1 (≤ 12 kW)	1	Exporting	$1,282.68	Fixed price offer, no variance			N	N	4.2	
	2	Exporting	$1,417.04	Fixed price offer, no variance			N	N	1	
	3	Exporting	$1,282.68	Fixed price offer, no variance			N	N	1.5	
	4	Exporting	$1,282.68	Fixed price offer, no variance			N	N	1.8	
Group 2 (12-50 kW)	5	Exporting	$2,885.94	Fixed price offer, no variance			N	N	24	
	6	Exporting	$5,309.82	Fixed price offer, no variance			N	N	5	
	7	Exporting	$2,954.75	Fixed price offer, no variance			N	N	2	
Group 3 (50-200 kW)	8	Exporting	$14,714.87	Fixed price offer, no variance			N	N	8	See note
	9	Exporting	$15,082.68	Fixed price offer, no variance			N	N	13	See note
	10	Exporting	$15,082.68	Fixed price offer, no variance			N	N	13	See note
	11	Exporting	$15,082.68	Fixed price offer, no variance			N	N	13	See note
Group 4 (200-500 kW)	12	Exporting	$17,929.05	Fixed price offer, no variance			N	N	10	See note
	13	Exporting	$14,751.10	Fixed price offer, no variance			N	N	15	See note
	14	Exporting	$15,082.68	Fixed price offer, no variance			N	N	14	See note
	15	Exporting	$15,082.68	Fixed price offer, no variance			N	N	14	See note
	16	Non-exporting	$23,995.21	Fixed price offer, no variance			N	N	13	See note
	17	Non-exporting	$23,995.21	Fixed price offer, no variance			N	N	13	See note
	18	Exporting	$23,995.21	Fixed price offer, no variance			N	N	15	See note

Note: Current costs are typically higher. Please see section 1, "Purpose and cost summary," for guidance. Historical customer costs excluded certain administration and project management costs.

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4. Available incentives

There are programs available through Save on Energy to reimburse commercial and residential customers who pursue non-exporting projects. Connect with our Energy Team to learn more - cdm@hydroottawa.com.

Table 6: Save on Energy Retrofit Program (commercial customers)

	Solar PV	
Type	**Size**	**Current incentive**
Non-export	0-10kW	$1000/kW
Non-export	>10-1000kW	$860/kW
Non-export	>1000kW	$860,000
Export	>0kW	$0

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Table 7: Home Renovation Savings Program (residential customers)

	Solar PV		**Battery storage (when combined with Solar PV)**	
Type	**Size**	**Current incentive**	**Size**	**Current incentive**
Non-export	0-5kW	$1000/kW	0 - 16.67kWh	$300/kWh
Non-export	>5kW	$5,000	>16.67kWh	$5,000
Export	>0kW	$0	>0kWh	$0