

# Brugel changes the compensation mechanism. What impact for your HelloSun installation?

From January 1, 2020, the compensation mechanism for solar panels in Brussels is modified following an announcement by Brugel (energy regulator in Brussels) do not panic, you will find below an explanation of the changes made and of their impacts on your installation:

This modification corresponds to our initial communication on this subject, only the effective date has been advanced by three months. Indeed, the new regulation has been in effect since January 1, 2020, instead of being effective on April 1, 2020.

## What was the situation before this change?

Previously, the Brussels PV installations of less than 5 kWp had a counter "turning upside down". It can happen that you do not consume all the electricity produced by your solar panels. This is the case on very sunny days and when you are not at home. In this case, the surplus electricity produced is injected into the network and it is said that your meter "turns upside down". Conversely: in the evening and / or on days without sun, your solar panels do not produce electricity, but you consume it. In this case, you are consuming the grid electricity purchased from your supplier. In reality, you do not start paying for electricity until you have consumed as much as you injected.

### Clearly, this means that:

- When your panels produce more than you consume: your billable total decreases because the counter "turns upside down"
- When you use more energy than your panels produce: your billable total increases because your meter runs normally. (Which is perfectly normal)

### To use Brugel's exact words:

*"The principle of compensation means that all the electricity injected into the Brussels regional distribution network - produced by a photovoltaic installation at a time when the potential consumer does not use it in real time - is mathematically deducted each year from the amount of electricity purchased from the grid. "*

## What has been the situation since January 1st, 2020?

Your electricity bill is made up of two main parts:

### **A) the costs of pure energy** (ie, the energy you buy, called the "commodity" part)

*Nothing changes for this part: your meter continues to turn upside down for all the green electricity that your panels will produce.*

### **B) Network costs** (i.e., transmission and distribution costs)

*This part is modified: you will no longer be compensated for this fraction of your invoice. You will therefore pay the network fee for the electricity that you actually use on the network.*

## **Why make such a decision?**

This change is justified for social, ecological and economic reasons.

- End discrimination and treat consumers fairly. In a compensation system, “classic” consumers are discriminated against “prosumers” in relation to the costs of the distribution network, since “prosumers” only contribute to these costs because of the net quantity of energy withdrawn (after compensation), even though they use the distribution network for all the gross quantities withdrawn;
- Ensure the maintenance and development of the Brussels electricity network. It is this same network which is used to supply you when there is less sun and which allows you to make profitable the solar energy which you do not consume
- Encourage prosumers to self-consume their energy production and therefore reduce their energy consumption from the network. This is normal from an ecological point of view, as it minimizes the need for fossil fuels in parallel.

## **It is important to emphasize one point:**

Unlike the Flemish Region and Wallonia, There is no "prosumer" tariff. Indeed, BRUGEL is committed in this direction. This means that there are no taxes to pay. The change to the compensation mechanism constitutes a withdrawal of a benefit that had been granted, not the addition of a fee.

**Starting in 2020, you will continue to make large savings that will amount to several thousand euros over the lifetime of your Hellosun installation.**

## **For more information?**

Visit Brugel's website by [clicking here](#) to access the official article and some examples of calculations.