

NDLAMBE MUNICIPALITY

Port Alfred



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Please address all correspondence to The Municipal Manager.

NDLAMBE MUNICIPALITY: ELECTRICITY CAPACITIES

In July the municipality communicated with residents about the proposed electricity tariff changes. This message is to give you some feedback and changes to the approach followed. The following message was included in the communication dated 11 July 2024:

Small consumer tariffs.

- Small (less than 3 x 100 Amps) domestic and commercial tariffs will be linked to the capacity limit of the supply:
 - Indigent consumers will be limited to 20 Amps single phase.
 - A 20 Amp single phase tariff is available for poorer low consumption consumers.
 - Consumers with capacity exceeding 20 Amp single phase will be charged:
 - A basic charge, a capacity charge based on the capacity limit and an energy charge.
 - Consumers need to select the capacity they require.
 - The municipality initially proposed that consumers using less than 400 kWh/m would be placed on 20 Amps.
 - All SSEG consumers, those with PV systems installed, must be on a minimum of 30 Amp single phase capacity.
 - The actual capacity at premises will be changed by the municipality over the next few months.

Experience to date:

Only 250 consumers have made their selection of capacity. Experience in town, as the actual capacity is reduced, has shown that 20 Amp capacity is not enough for many consumers. This is because many consumers only use their premises for a few days in the month / year and many consumers have PV systems installed at their premises. That distorts the relationship between consumption and capacity required.

In view of this the following adapted approach will be followed:

- Consumers can still make their selection of capacity before **27 August 2024**.
- In cases where consumers have not made their selection the capacity will be applied as per previous communications but subject to a **minimum of 30 Amps** single phase.
- Consumers in poor areas such as Wentzel Park and Thornhill will not be subject to the 30 Amp minimum, but rather on 20 Amp.

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- It is important to note that consumers will only be allowed to make one capacity change selection every 12 months. It is thus important that consumers select the maximum capacity they need for the whole year. It is not possible to select 20 Amps now, upgrade to 60 Amps in December and then downgrade to 20 Amps in January.

Small Scale Energy Generators

- Small Scale Energy Generators (SSEG) consumers refer to consumers who install renewable power generators which are connected to the consumer network.
- These consumers will all be charged on a TOU tariff with the following charges:
 - A basic charge, an additional SSEG service charge, a capacity charge based on the installed capacity but with a minimum of 30 Amps single phase, TOU energy charges.
- These customers must apply to the municipality to be authorised by the latest end of September 2024 or be subject to disconnection.
- They will be required to pay for a 4 quadrant 4 wire smart meter with modem. This is to allow the measurement of power on TOU and forward and reverse flow of electricity.
- These consumers will be compensated for the export power at a rate equal to 80% of Eskom's Megaflex energy rates applicable to Ndlambe but subject to a maximum of the municipal energy charges to the consumer for each month.

Experience to date

- Many SSEG consumers have not yet applied for a legal SSEG system. This will make them subject to disconnection as from 1 October 2024.
- Many consumers are complaining about the payment required for a 4 quadrant meter.
- Many consumers do not want to export power onto the network.
- Many consumers are complaining about the high Small consumer TOU basic charge.
- Most consumers who have applied for an SSEG system has also applied to convert to 1 phase.

Various alternatives have been considered in this respect to assist consumers. This included allowing consumers to remain on or convert to a pre-payment meter and at a later stage pay for the required Smart meter. A conversion to pre-payment single phase carries a cost of R1597.72. It is believed that the benefit for being credited for export power should over time off-set the additional monthly fixed charges and additional cost of a Smart meter, especially if R1500 will be required to convert to pre-payment in any case.

The following will thus be applied:

- A lower basic charge is proposed for single phase Small consumer TOU tariff.
- The cost of a 4 quadrant Smart meter single phase meter payable will be R5250.00

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- SSEG consumers still need to apply as the deadline was set as end of September 2024 after which they will be subject to cut-off.

Attached to this communication kindly find the SSEG application form as well as the application form for installation or conversion to the various meter installation options. Completed forms and any enquiries can be emailed to **electricity@ndlambe.gov.za**.


Conclusions

The municipality remains committed to supplying quality services to its residents and to respond to feedback obtained.

Consumers can obtain detailed information in order to understand the potential impact on their electricity cost and management of loads, to apply for the required capacity and to apply for SSEG at <http://www.Ndlambe.gov.za/>.

All consumers are challenged to make an effort at managing their electricity usage within the minimum supply capacity thereby keeping their bills and the municipal costs low.

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ADV. R DUMEZWENI
MUNICIPAL MANAGER