

2020 Net Metering Update

By Chris Pike

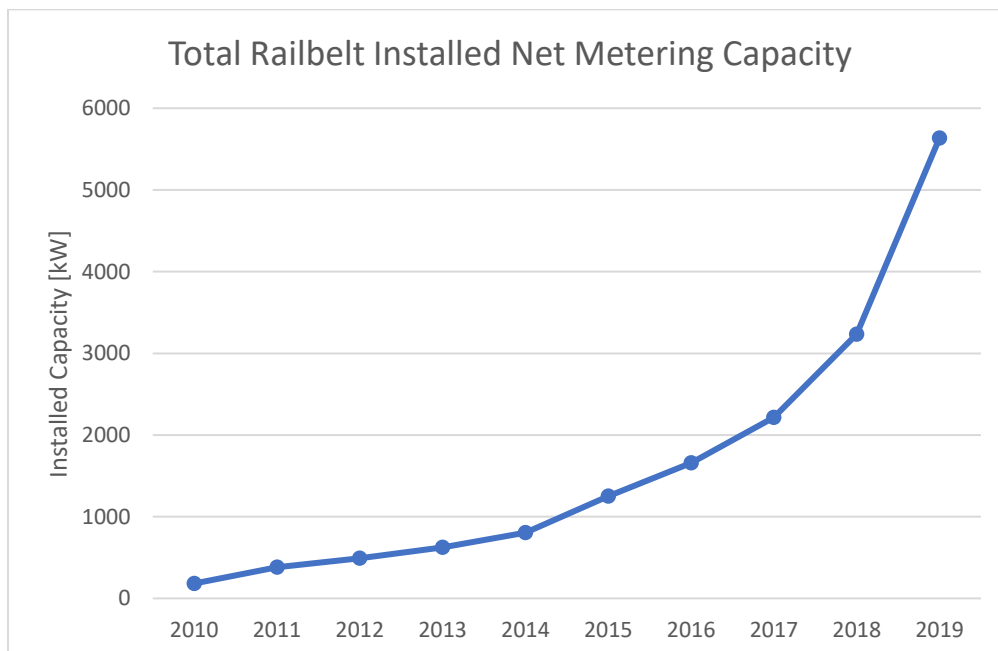
Alaska Center for Energy and Power

Introduction

Net metering capacity on Alaska’s Railbelt continues to grow at an increasing rate. The data below were compiled from recent Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) filings submitted in February and March of 2020. In 2019 Homer Electric Association (HEA) was the first utility that saw the total installed net metered capacity exceed 1.5% of its average annual load. In May 2019, HEA filed documentation with the RCA to increase its net metering cap to 3% of its average annual load. In recent years, nearly all new net metering capacity is due to solar photovoltaic (PV) installations. Solarize programs are already underway for the summer of 2020 in both Fairbanks and Anchorage. In addition, Solarize programs are being planned in Homer and Soldotna/ Kenai.

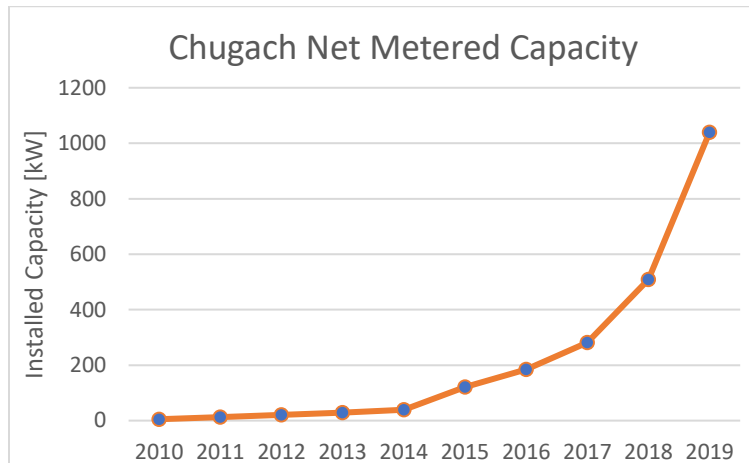
Railbelt Wide

- At the end of 2019, Railbelt net metered renewable energy systems had an installed capacity of 5636 kW.
- The installed net metered capacity at the end of 2019 was a 74% increase over that at the end of 2018, which was 3233 kW.
- There are 1159 net metered customers on the Railbelt grid. Breaking this down, 1087 customers have solar PV systems, 63 customers have wind turbines, 1 customer utilizes biofuel generation, and 8 customers have both wind and solar PV. With the exception of the one biofuel net metered system, all new capacity in 2019 is due to solar PV installations.



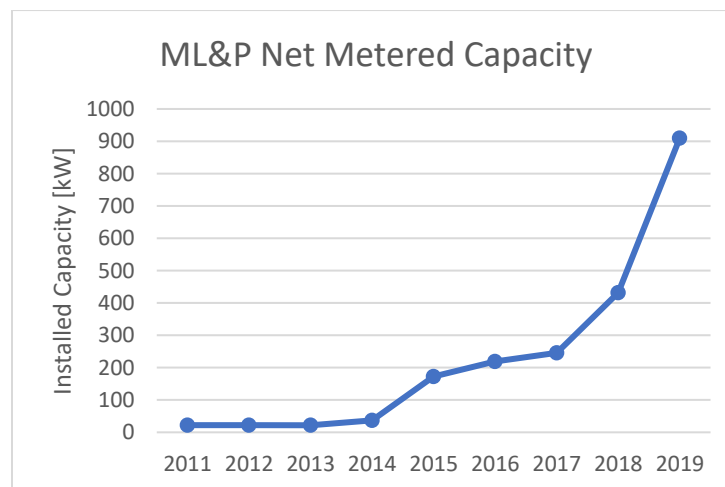
Chugach Electric Association (CEA)

- At the end of 2019, Chugach Electric had 1040 kW of installed net metered capacity.
- This amount is 57% of the 1.5% threshold interconnection amount of 1810 kW (1.5% of average annual load).
- Chugach net metered customers are made up of 248 with solar PV and 3 with wind turbines. All net metered systems installed in 2019 were solar PV.



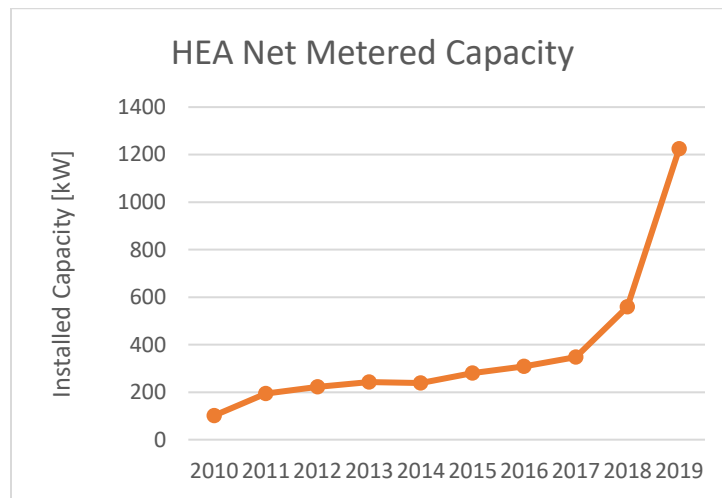
Municipal Light and Power (ML&P)

- At the end of 2019, ML&P had 909 kW of installed net metered capacity.
- This amount is 58% of 1.5% threshold interconnection amount of 1581 kW (1.5% of average annual load).
- ML&P net metered customers include 184 with solar PV and 1 with a wind turbine, which was added in 2019.



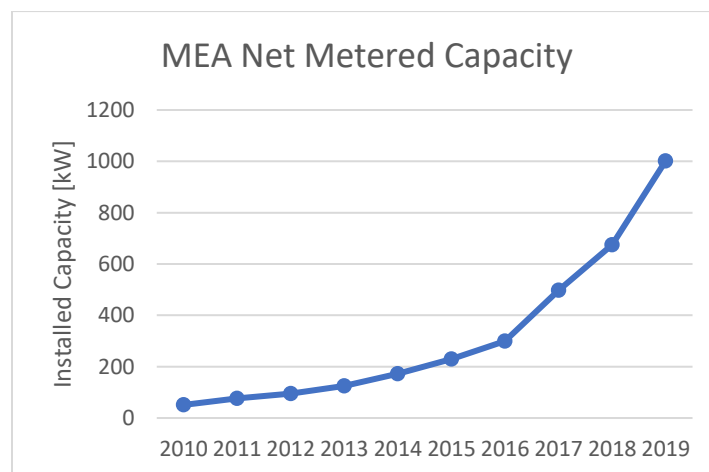
Homer Electric Association (HEA)

- At the end of 2019, Homer Electric had 1224 kW of installed net metered capacity.
- This amount is 161% of the 1.5% threshold interconnection amount of 760 kW (1.5% of average annual load).
- In May of 2019 Homer Electric raised its net metering limit to 3% of its average annual load (1520kW).
- Homer Electric net metered customers include 210 with solar PV, 32 with wind turbines, and 1 with generation from biofuel. With the exception of the one biofueled installation all capacity installed in 2019 was solar PV.



Matanuska Electric Association (MEA)

- At the end of 2019, MEA had 1002 kW of installed net metered capacity.
- This amount is 81% of the 1.5% threshold interconnection amount of 1235 kW (1.5% of average annual load).
- MEA net metered customers include 174 with solar PV, 21 with wind turbines, and 8 with both solar PV and wind turbines. All added capacity in 2019 was solar PV.



Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA)

- At the end of 2019, GVEA had 1460 kW of installed net metered capacity
- This is 74% of the 1.5% threshold interconnection amount of 1969 kW (1.5% of average annual load)
- In 2019 GVEA raised its net metering limit to 3% of its average annual load (3938kW)
- GVEA net metered customers include 274 with solar PV and 6 with wind turbines. All added capacity in 2019 was solar PV.

