

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Sub: Implementation of the Expert Committee recommendations for implementation of Solar Rooftop in the State.

Read: 1. Government Order No: Energy/346/VSC/2023 dated:11.01.2024.
2. General Manager (DSM), BESCOM letter No: BESCOM/DSM/GM/DGM/AGM-5/2023-24/284 Dated:04.05.2024.
3. Meeting Proceedings dated:20.05.2024.

PREAMBLE:

The Hon'ble Minister of Energy, GoK in the meeting held on 21.12.2023, reviewed the solar rooftop progress in the State and noted that the progress is less compared to the targets set. To facilitate the implementation of solar rooftop schemes on a larger scale, Hon'ble Minister directed the formation of an Expert Committee, chaired by the Managing Director, BESCOM to study and simplify the current procedures and the Online Billing Software system and to submit a report to the Government. Accordingly, the Expert Committee vide G.O. Read at (1) above was constituted.

General Manager (DSM), BESCOM vide letter read at (2) above has submitted the report of the Expert Committee to the Government.

The overall recommendations of the Expert Committee to ease the implementation process of the solar rooftop in the State is as below:

- ESCOMs should take up extensive awareness activities for creating awareness among consumers and for reaching out to more Consumers.
- The focus should be on small Consumers i.e. in the range of 1kW to 3kW capacity of solar rooftop plants.
- Capacity building program to be taken by ESCOMs to enhance the knowledge of ESCOM officers & employees.
- Training regarding installation of SRTPV plants to be imparted to Licensed Electrical Contractors for increasing the Vendor base.
- All the ESCOMs should follow uniform procedure in respect of installation of solar rooftop plants.
- ESCOMs to develop common billing software for billing of SRTPV installations.

In the meeting held on 20.05.2024 under the Chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government, with representatives from Karnataka Renewable Energy Association (KREA), the challenges in implementing solar rooftop projects in the State was discussed. It was decided that directives based on the Expert Committee's recommendations would be

issued to all distribution companies. Hence, the following order.

GOVERNMENT ORDER NO: ENERGY 346 VSC 2023
BENGALURU, DATE: 24.05.2024

In the circumstances explained in the preamble and to expedite the implementation of solar rooftop schemes in the State, the Government is pleased to accept the recommendations of the Expert Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Managing Director, BESCOM. The ESCOMs are hereby directed to adhere to the following directives:

1. BESCOM will be the Nodal to create a common URL and website for solar rooftop applications, including the application process. Login credentials to be provided for all other ESCOMs to use the same platform.
2. Application procedure, all guidelines, orders and regulations to be hosted in the same website. Daily reports on registered applications and their current status to be made available on the site.
3. An online process for applications, power purchase agreements and synchronization to be implemented and followed across all ESCOMs shall be made.
4. BESCOM to ensure the solar billing software is made available online by 31.05.2024.
5. BESCOM to develop the procedure and standard operating procedure (SoPs) for SRTPV implementation and circulate to all other ESCOMs, who in turn should follow without any deviation.
6. Synchronization must be completed within 5 working days after completion as per KERC guidelines. Records of Synchronization must be submitted to accounts section within 3 days of synchronization accounts shall update their records within 2 days of receipt.
7. ESCOMs to penalize officers for delays in synchronization as per KERC guidelines.
8. A mobile app to be developed by BESCOM for the synchronization process, similar to the smart meter procedure.
9. BESCOM to prepare and demonstrate a sample billing, incorporating all KERC regulations and applicable charges, ensuring all ESCOMs follow the same charges regarding electricity tax, etc.
10. ESCOMs must implement KERC's 22.01.2024 order to consider all SRTPV applications from 1kW to 150kW as deemed feasible. The workflow sent by BESCOM to KERC has been approved by the Government and must be followed by all ESCOMs.
11. Once KERC issues any regulations or orders on SRTPV, ESCOMs must comply immediately without awaiting further approval from KERC.
12. All ESCOMs to follow a uniform procedure for signing and approval of PPAs:
 - up to 500kWp signing and approval by concerned O&M sub-division AEEs

- Above 500kWp upto 1000kWp signing by Executive Engineers of concerned O&M divisions and approval by the corporate office.
 - Above 1000kWp signing by Executive Engineers of concerned O&M divisions and approval by KERC.
13. All ESCOMs to follow a uniform procedure for SRTPV plant synchronization:
up to 17.5kW by concerned O&M AEEs without requiring LT rating certification and
above 17.5kW in the presence of concerned Meter Testing Division AEEs.
 14. If meter testing is done in one of the designated laboratories in the State, it should be valid across the State.

ESCOMs to follow the above directives and to submit the compliance on the directives to the Government.

By order and in the Name of the
Governor of Karnataka,


(Vinod Kumar D M)

Under Secretary to Government,
Energy Department.

To:

The Compiler, Karnataka Gazette, Government Press, Bangalore for publication.

Copy to:

1. The Managing Director, Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.
2. The Managing Director, BESCOM/CESC/HESCOM/GESCOM/MESCOM.
3. The Managing Director, Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited, Bengaluru.
4. PS to Hon'ble Energy Minister, Government of Karnataka, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.
5. Secretary, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, No. 16, C-1, Miller Tank Bed Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.
6. Director (Technical)/Additional Director (Finance), Energy Department, Bengaluru
7. Additional Director (Tech. Monitoring)/Joint Director (Projects)/Executive Engineer (Elec) – EMC-3, Energy Department Vikasa Soudha, Bengaluru.
8. PS to Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Energy Department, Vikasa Soudha, Bengaluru.
9. P.A to Additional Secretary to Government, Energy Department, Vikasa Soudha, Bengaluru.
10. Spare copies/Office copies/Section file.