



Registration of Small-Scale Embedded Generation

The Municipality supports Small-Scale Embedded Generation (SSEG) and would like to thank you for contributing to the growth of green energy by installing a Photovoltaic (PV) system.

All permanent SSEG systems must be registered and authorised by the Municipality as per the Electricity by-law¹. This includes the following system types:

- Grid-tied with feed in (including hybrid):
 - Excess electricity generated by the PV system is fed back onto the grid.
- Grid-tied with reverse power flow blocking:
 - The output is connected to the household wiring which is simultaneously connected to the municipal grid through the meter. Excess electricity generated by the PV system is blocked from feeding back into the grid.
- Grid-tied inverters which can operate in “islanded mode”:
 - Used during general power outages.

Note: All installations must meet SANS 10142-1 requirements

Emergency equipment such as standby generators do not need to be registered (as per the SSEG requirements), but installations still needs approval by the Electrical Department.

Grace period for registration

As customers may be unaware of the requirement to register and obtain authorisation for their SSEG, the Municipality is increasing the grace period for existing systems to be registered and authorised. In order to benefit from this grace period, property owners must apply for authorisation of their SSEG system with the Municipality by 31 March 2026. After the grace period, the Municipality will be implementing a **R7 346.20 (excl VAT)** fee for the disconnection of unauthorised SSEG connections. The supply of electricity to the property in question may be disconnected and only reconnected once the Municipality is satisfied that the SSEG system is either disconnected, decommissioned or authorised and that the service fee has been paid.

Customers registering their system during the grace period may continue to operate the system². This is based on the assumption that the system is compliant with the municipal requirements. If during the registration and authorisation process, your system is found to be non-compliant, your system will need to be disconnected until such time as it is deemed compliant and has received written authorisation from the Municipality.

If systems are not authorised, they may be liable for the service fee for the removal of unauthorised SSEG supply.

¹ Under the municipal Electricity Supply By-Law (as promulgated), no generation equipment may be connected to the grid without the written consent of the Electricity Department.

² As per the Electricity Installation Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (clause 2), the property owner carries the responsibility for the safety of the electrical installation on the property. This includes everything related to the SSEG installation on the property.

The Municipality is legally required to ensure that the electricity distributed to all its consumers complies with set quality standards and that its employees are protected from inadvertent electrical shocks when working on the grid and that costs associated with maintaining the grid infrastructure maintenance are recovered from its consumers.

The Municipality has accordingly developed technical specifications for grid-connected generation equipment and associated metering configurations and tariffs. National wiring codes (ensuring public safety) have also been established. To enable the Municipality to ensure compliance with the abovementioned requirements, all permanent grid-tied electricity generators in the area supplied directly by the Municipality must be authorised in writing.

Connecting generators to the grid without obtaining the necessary authorisation can result in systems endangering the municipal staff and members of the public, interfere with the quality of supply and result in the Municipality not fully recovering costs that are due from the consumer. Unauthorised generators which are grid-tied are therefore considered to be a form of tampering and will be dealt with accordingly.

The Municipality looks forward to working with you to ensure that your PV system is safe and legal.

The application form to start the SSEG registration process, and documentation clarifying the requirements for SSEG, are available from the City of uMhlathuze's website @ www.umhlathuze.gov.za or from the electricity department offices. An electronic format is also available using the following link: <https://apply.sseg.org.za/>. Find the City of uMhlathuze logo under the list of Municipalities using the online platform. The electronic format is the preferred method.

Yours sincerely,



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DEPUTY CITY MANAGER: ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY SERVICES