

## INTERIM GUIDELINES FOR CONNECTION OF PRIVATE PV SYSTEMS TO THE ELECTRICITY GRID

A photovoltaic (PV) system is a renewable energy technology that has been designed to capture energy from the sun and transform this into electricity using photovoltaics (solar panels).

In support of the uptake of private PV systems by residents and businesses on St Helena, Connect Saint Helena Limited (Connect) is investing in a Grid Impact Assessment to ensure that the increasing number of private PV systems being connected to the grid does not affect grid stability.

In the interim, pending the advice from the Grid Impact Assessment, there will be a temporary freeze on the approval of connection of private PV systems to the grid. Persons considering the installation of a private PV system may still continue with the application process in readiness for the completion of the Grid Impact Assessment. In addition, Connect will be conducting an audit of PV systems that are already connected to the grid: the audit will be used to inform the Grid Impact Assessment.

The relevant procedures are set out in Interim Guidelines for connection of private PV systems to the electricity grid. The Interim Guidelines will take immediate effect.

The Interim Guidelines are safety focussed, with the aim being to ensure that all installed private PV systems are safe and minimise risk to persons, property and the electricity grid. The standards and technical requirements within the Interim Guidelines follow industry best practice.

The Interim Guidelines will be updated following the Grid Impact Assessment to provide tailored advice to different sections of the electricity grid. It is therefore anticipated that the freeze on new connections of private PV systems to the grid will remain in place until end December 2022.

The Interim Guidelines are available from the Connect website [www.connect.co.sh](http://www.connect.co.sh), the Connect Facebook page and can also be e-mailed to interested persons on request. A hard copy can be viewed at the Public Library or at the Connect Offices at Seales Corner.

To support and assist awareness with the use of the Guidelines, Connect will be hosting a series of information sharing events including radio talks and a workshop for Licenced Electricians and installers.

Interested parties who would like to gain an understanding of the Guidelines are also invited to contact Geoffrey Augustus, Technical Manager (Electricity) at Connect on Telephone No: 22255 or e-mail: [enquiries@connect.co.sh](mailto:enquiries@connect.co.sh) to arrange an appointment.

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