

An indispensable guide to the behind-the-meter energy phenomenon

'Behind the meter' is the unsexy name of one of the most significant trends in energy markets today. It describes a growing array of energy generation and storage assets, from solar panels to electric vehicles, lining up on customer premises beyond the traditional purview of utilities and distribution system operators.

What happens behind the meter has historically been of little interest to energy companies because it was all a matter of consumption. The electricity network's job was to get power to customer premises; what happened to the power afterwards was the customer's affair.

But with the arrival of distributed generation and energy storage, this one-way street is turning into a two-lane thoroughfare, where electricity comes, goes and may even get parked for later use.

This emerging reality raises pressing questions for energy companies and regulators. Will prosumers want to trade the energy they produce, for example? Do utilities need to invest in new generation if most of their customers are generating as well? How can regulators make sure customers who do not produce their own power don't end up paying for whole of the distribution network?

As it stands, few of these questions have clear answers. But *Behind and Beyond the Meter*, ably edited by Dr. Fereidoon Sioshansi, President of Menlo Energy Economics in San Francisco, is the closest thing there is to a definitive reference work on the subject.

Across 20 chapters, the book addresses the behind-the-meter phenomenon for the benefit of all involved, from electricity consumers and utilities to regulators and innovators.

Featuring contributions from the leaders of trailblazing behind-the-meter players such as Next Kraftwerke and Grid Singularity, and covering topics as varied as virtual power plants or standalone power systems, *Behind and Beyond the Meter* is required reading for anyone in the energy world who wants to truly grasp what is going on at the new frontier of electricity generation.

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