

Q&A with Jim Roth: More Oklahomans seek to power their own homes, businesses

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Jim Roth is a Director and Chair of the firm's Clean Energy Practice.

Q: What is distributed generation?

A: Distributed generation refers to generating power at the site of consumption. When a home, business or school is equipped with a rooftop solar system, its electrical demands are partially met with the energy that the solar system produces. This allows consumers to take control of powering their own homes and businesses.

Q: How are Oklahomans utilizing distributed generation?

A: Oklahomans are using distributed generation to power their lives – to turn on the lights, power the air conditioning on a hot day, charge their electronics, etc. Homes and businesses are seeking the ability to produce their own energy, be less dependent on the utility, and make a sound financial environment. Distributed generation enables you to do all three.

Q: What are the benefits to Oklahomans powering their own homes and businesses?

A: Clean, local energy reduces the burden on and inefficiencies associated with the transmission and distribution infrastructure, as compared to when electricity is produced centrally. There are also significant economic benefits, as rooftop solar creates more jobs per megawatt than any other form of energy.

Q: What impact can this have for our energy future?

A: As more consumers seek to power their own homes and businesses, we will continue to increase an energy choice that is absent in the current monopoly utility model, and decrease our dependence on polluting fuel sources from central power stations. Granting Oklahomans energy empowerment and choice will continue to pave the way for a more sustainable and cleaner energy future in the state.