



CUBFacts

“Act on Energy:” Efficiency Programs for Ameren Residential Customers

As a result of legislation fought for by CUB, new money-saving energy efficiency programs are available to Ameren customers, including:

- Discounts on energy efficient lighting
- \$50 payments for allowing Ameren to pick up an old, energy-guzzling refrigerator
- Power Smart Pricing
- Discounts on Efficient Heating and Air Conditioning Equipment
- Rebates on Energy Star® Products
- Construction Guidelines for Building an Energy Star® Home
- Discounts on Home Energy Performance Measures

These programs are the result of SB 1592, the electric rate relief and reform law. You may remember that this measure provided \$1 billion in refunds to Illinois electric customers. It also requires Illinois utilities to reduce overall electric usage by 2 percent of demand by 2015, and supply 25 percent of their power from renewable energy sources by 2025 (for certain eligible retail customers).

Discounts on Energy Efficient Lighting

You can purchase discounted energy efficient Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs) several ways:

- Visit the Energy Federation’s online store at www.energyfederation.org/ameren/default.php
- At select Home Depot, Menard’s, Ace Hardware, CVS, Sam’s Club (members only), Walmart, Best Buy, Rural King, Family Dollar, County Market, Cub Foods, Lowes, Meijer, Niemann Foods, and Schnucks stores.

For an exact list of retailers, visit:

<http://www.actonenergy.com/for-my-home/residential-incentive-programs/cfl-offer/>

- To request an order form or to speak with a customer service representative, call 866-845-7085 on Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. or on Saturdays between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Please note: there is a 12 bulb limit per purchase, and the discount is available while supplies last.

Refrigerator and Freezer Recycling

That old refrigerator in your basement or garage could cost you up to \$100 a year to run. But don’t just throw it away; Ameren will pay residential customers \$50 to pick up and safely recycle old refrigerators and freezers. They will also pick up and recycle any working room air conditioners at no cost when they pick up your old refrigerator or freezer.

Why does CUB support energy efficiency?

- Immediate savings: making your home more energy efficient lowers your utility bills
- Lower rates: reduced demand causes electric rates to drop
- It is our cheapest, cleanest resource: efficiency can eliminate the need to build expensive, polluting coal-fired power plants

Why are CFLs better than incandescent bulbs?

- CFLs use 75 percent less energy
 - CFLs last up to 10 times as long
 - CFLs can save you up to \$47 over each bulb’s life
- CFLs can be recycled at Home Depot*

To be eligible, your refrigerator or freezer must be:

- In working (cooling) condition
- 10–27 cubic feet in size
- Picked up from a residence, not a business

The EPA estimates that old refrigerators can cost more than \$100 a year to operate.

There is a limit of two refrigerators/freezers per customer, per program year. To schedule a pickup, call 866-899-9088.

Power Smart Pricing

You may also be able to save money by signing up for Ameren’s “Power Smart Pricing” program. Although not technically a part of the company’s “Act on Energy” program, “Power Smart Pricing” also encourages efficiency and can save you a considerable amount of money. Over the past few years, participants were able to reduce their bills by an average of 17 percent.

How does the program work?

Power Smart Pricing changes the way you pay for electricity. Under Ameren’s standard residential rate, the price you pay per kilowatt-hour only varies between summer and non-summer months. Participants in the Power Smart Pricing program pay wholesale market prices, which fluctuate hourly, instead of the traditional averaged “flat” rate. To save, you must be able to shift high- electricity activities, such as doing laundry or using the dishwasher, from higher-priced, peak-demand hours to lower-priced, off-peak hours.

What are the program benefits?

- Participants have more control over electricity use, and consequently, more opportunity to save.
- The program eases stress on the electric grid, especially during high demand periods, leading to more reliable service, lower carbon emissions, and less negative impact on the environment.

Power-Smart Pricing is a Demand-response program, meaning it is designed to curb our consumption of electricity on hot days, when usage and prices are highest.

Who may not benefit from the program?

People who:

- Heat their homes with electricity
- Have high winter electricity usage
- Use very little electricity (electric bills tend to be less than \$40 per month)
- Cannot adjust their electricity usage during hours when prices are higher

To get more information about the program or to enroll, visit www.powersmartpricing.org. CNT Energy, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people and communities manage their energy costs, administers the Power Smart Pricing Program for Ameren. For more information about CNT Energy, visit www.cntenergy.org.

Discounts on Efficient Heating and Air Conditioning Equipment

Replacing your inefficient heating or cooling equipment could save you up to \$200 a year in energy bills, and you will continue to save over the lifetime of that equipment.

Ameren is offering discounts on heating and air conditioning upgrades that are installed by utility-approved contractors who have undergone efficiency training. Their website includes a list of qualified contractors and equipment. Visit www.actonenergy.com for details.

Incentive Amounts

Natural Gas Warm-air Furnaces

AFUE Rating 92 percent or greater: \$125

AFUE Rating 95 percent or greater: \$200

Cooling Units

- Central Air Conditioners: new units rated 14.5 SEER or greater are eligible for rebates of up to \$350.
- Geothermal and Air Source Heat Pumps: must be replacing an existing electric heat source to qualify for a rebate of up to \$600.

Rebates on Energy Star® Products

Ameren will offer customers rebates on select ENERGY STAR® products, including:

- **A \$35 Rebate on Room Air Conditioner Units**

An ENERGY STAR qualified room air conditioner (A/C) unit will use at least 10 percent less energy than conventional models.

- **A \$20 Rebate on Air Purifiers (Air Cleaners)**

ENERGY STAR qualified ceiling fans are always equipped with a reverse mode that allows the fan to spin in two directions, helping regulate temperature in both the summer and winter.

- **A \$300 Rebate on Heat Pump Water Heaters**

ENERGY STAR® qualified heat pump water heaters are more than twice as efficient as standard electric models, enabling you to cut your water heating costs in half!

- **A \$25 Rebate on Programmable Thermostats**

ENERGY STAR qualified programmable thermostats are more accurate than non-digital thermostats and can help you maintain consistent comfort levels and even save the average home \$100 per year on electricity costs.

- **A \$10 Rebate on Smart Strips**

ENERGY STAR qualified smart strips enormously cut down on your power expenses on certain electronic devices by sensing the current in one outlet, then switching off those not being used.

- **A \$50 Rebate on Water Heaters (high efficiency) / \$75 Rebate on Water Heaters (super high efficiency)**

Heating water accounts for approximately 15 percent of a typical home's energy use. ENERGY STAR qualified water heaters use 10 to 15 percent less energy than standard models.

ENERGY STAR® products can reduce your energy consumption by 5 to 20 percent.

To Receive a Rebate:

You will need to supply the following documents with your completed rebate form:

- A copy of your dated sales receipt and/or invoice showing the manufacturer, model number, and price of the ENERGY STAR qualified product
- A copy of your most recent Ameren Illinois Utilities bill

For more information about eligible appliances, visit www.actonenergy.com.

Construction Guidelines for Building an Energy Star® Home

ENERGY STAR® provides a set of guidelines that can help increase the efficiency of your new home by 10 to 30 percent.

ENERGY STAR qualified homes provide:

- Better performance
- Higher resale value
- Less environmental impact
- Potential tax credit for first-time home buyers

The ENERGY STAR New Homes Program assists homeowners and builders in the construction of new homes with:

- Construction and equipment recommendations prior to building
- Monetary incentives for builders
- An energy-efficiency inspection after construction to ensure ENERGY STAR standards are met

To participate, you must find a Home Builder or HERS Rater who is participating in the ENERGY STAR New Homes Program. If you have questions about the program, call **866-838-6918** or visit www.actonenergy.com.

Discounts on Home Energy Performance Measures

Considering energy-saving upgrades to your home? Take the first step toward a more comfortable, cost-efficient home by making smart improvements that help save on energy costs. The Home Energy Performance (HEP) program offers incentives to registered Program Allies, which they pass on in cost savings to homeowners.

The following measures are eligible for incentives:

Air and Duct Sealing: up to \$1,200

Prevent heating and cooling dollars from escaping through unseen cracks and gaps in your home.

Attic Insulation: up to \$1,400

Inadequate insulation is a leading cause of energy waste in most homes.

Wall Insulation: up to \$2,400

Insulation decreases the heating or cooling needed by providing an effective resistance to the flow of heat.

A problem as simple as airflow blockage in your cooling system can reduce efficiency by as much as 15 percent.

Download a list of HEP Measures Program Allies at www.actonenergy.com or call the Act On Energy Residential Programs Office at **1-866-838-6918** to get started.

Programmable Thermostat: \$25 each (gas customers only, limit 2 per customer). The Programmable Thermostat may be installed by you and does not require installation by a Program Ally. Visit <http://www.actonenergy.com> for the Incentive Form or call at **1-866-838-6918**.

If you have any additional questions about these programs, please call CUB, 1-800-669-5556, and ask for Rebecca Devens, policy analyst.

CUB works hard to maintain the accuracy and timeliness of this information, but programs often change and/or run out of money. CUB is not responsible for the administration of any of the programs described in this fact sheet. If you are having trouble applying for or receiving benefits from any of the programs described above, please contact the administrator of that program. Please notify CUB if you find any inaccuracies here.