



Electric Competition

What Ameren customers should know

What are my choices?

In Southern and Central Illinois, you can choose Ameren, the regulated utility, to supply you with power, or go with an alternative supplier chosen by you or your municipality. This guide covers individual electricity offers. (For information on municipal aggregation, see CUB's fact sheet at www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org.)

Remember, even if you choose an alternative supplier, you're simply buying electricity from that company. Ameren will still bill you to deliver the electricity to your home, and you'll still call the utility in the event of a power outage.

If you're having trouble trying to decide the best electric deal, visit the CUB Power Calculator, at CUBPowerCalculator.com, for help.

Do I get a single bill?

Most suppliers include their charges on your Ameren bill, but some send you their own bill. It's a good detail to check.

Will going with an alternative supplier protect me from Ameren rate hikes?

No, Ameren will still bill you to deliver the electricity to your home. Those delivery rates are what Ameren increases when it gets a rate hike before the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC).

What happens when my contract ends?

When your contract is up (or you cancel), you are subject to a 12-month stay with Ameren, the utility, if you do not choose another supplier within two months. If you do switch, remember that the switching process can take up to two months.

How do the green energy options work?

Some alternative suppliers offer green plans, which typically have a higher price than more standard offers. With green plans, the supplier pledges to buy "renewable energy certificates," or RECs, from a company that produces power from renewable sources, such as wind. Basically, the company delivers an amount of renewable energy to somewhere in the electricity system that is equal to the amount you consume. So remember, enrolling in a green energy plan does not mean that the actual power you use is coming from renewable sources.

RECs are a legitimate option for consumers, but there are other ways to help the environment without paying extra—such as practicing energy efficiency at home. Also, CUB sees Illinois' renewable portfolio standard, requiring utilities to use a certain percentage of renewable energy, as a much more effective way to make the electricity system cleaner and more stable.

What else can I do to cut my electric bill and make my home more efficient?

Energy efficiency is key to keeping power bills low in the long term. Learn about energy efficiency rebates and programs available to help Ameren customers reduce their electric and natural gas bills at CUB's Energy Efficiency page, at www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org.

Ameren ILLINOIS

ACCOUNT NUMBER 01234-56789 BILL DATE
NAME JOHN DOE
SERVICE 123 N MAIN TOTAL AMOUNT DUE BY Dec 7, 2010
AT ANYTOWN, IL 61602 AMOUNT PAYABLE AFTER DUE DATE

Payment received on Oct 25, 2010 98-27

| TYPE OF READING | METER NUMBER | SERVICE FROM | NO. TO DAYS |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Total Therms | 10/15-11/15 | 31 | |
| Total kWh | Service To 11/15/2010 | | |

ELECTRIC SERVICE BILLING DETAIL - Rate Zone I

| DS - Residential Service (DS-1) | | Service From 10/15/2010 to 11/15/2010 | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Annual kWh Up to 7,999 | | | |
| Customer Charge | | | \$13.55 |
| Meter Charge | | | \$4.72 |
| Distribution Deliv Chg Non-Summer | 350.00 kWh @ | \$0.01528000 | \$5.09 |
| Electric Environmental Adj | 350.00 kWh @ | \$0.00205710 | \$0.72 |
| Rider EDR Charge | 350.00 kWh @ | \$0.00168571 | \$0.59 |
| Total Delivery Service Amount | | | \$24.67 |
| Electric Supply (BGS-1) | | Service From 10/15/2010 to 11/15/2010 | |
| Purch Elec Non-Summer(0-800 kWh) | 350.00 kWh @ | \$0.05893000 | \$20.74 |
| Purchased Electric Adj | 350.00 kWh @ | -\$0.00294286 | -\$1.03 |
| Rider PER Supply Cost Adj | 350.00 kWh @ | \$0.00208571 | \$0.73 |
| Transmission Service Charge | 350.00 kWh @ | \$0.00308571 | \$1.08 |
| Total Supply Amount | | | \$21.52 |
| Taxes | | Service From 10/15/2010 to 11/15/2010 | |
| Illinois State Electricity Excise Tax | | | \$1.16 |
| Distribution Tax | | | \$0.45 |
| Total Tax Related Charges | | | \$1.61 |
| Total Electric Charges | | | |

An alternative supplier's charges would replace those listed in the "supply" section of your bill.

**This is a sample. Rates do not match those listed on your current bill.*

What details should I look for in the fine print?

- ☐ 1. If the price is an introductory rate that changes in a month or two.
- ☐ 2. If the company charges an exit fee for getting out of the deal before the term is up.
- ☐ 3. If the company charges a monthly fee that will inflate its advertised price.
- ☐ 4. If a contract clause allows the company to get out of the rate it has promised.
- ☐ 5. If the company charges a deposit.
- ☐ 6. If you're eligible to sign up for the company's offer. One company, for example, did not allow LIHEAP customers and those on deferred payment plans to take advantage of its offers. Warning: Customers using electricity as their primary source of heat as well as customers on Ameren's Power Smart Pricing pay a special rate for their power. Verify if you're on a special utility rate, so you can do an apples-to-apples comparison with the rate an alternative supplier is offering.

Alternative electric offers as of December 7, 2016*

Compare an alternative supplier's price to these Ameren prices.

Zones 1, 2, 3:

6.514 cents per kWh for the first 800 kWh and 4.776 cents per kWh for usage above 800 kWh (Oct. 2016 - May 2017)

***This is a snapshot of plans.** The rates and details of offers can change. Beware that plans may change drastically after the initial term. Rates only reflect the price of the power itself. The Ameren price includes the "Electricity Supply Charge," "Transmission Services Charge" and "Supply Cost Adjustment," all under the "Supply" section of Ameren bills. The Purchased Electricity Adjustment (PEA), which changes monthly and can be a credit or a debit, is not included in Ameren's price to compare.

| Company | Offer | Term | Green? | Fees |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------|-------------------------|
| AEP Energy 1-877-648-1927 AEPenergy.com | 5.49¢ per kWh | 6-month fixed | No | No (new customers only) |
| AEP Energy | 5.79¢ per kWh | 12-month fixed | No | No (new customers only) |
| AEP Energy | 6.50¢ per kWh | 24-month fixed | No | No (new customers only) |
| AEP Energy | 6.19¢ per kWh | 24-month fixed | No | No (new customers only) |

| Company | Offer | Term | Green? | Fees |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------|
| AEP Energy | 5.95¢ per kWh | 12-month fixed | Yes | No (new customers only) |
| Agera Energy 1-844-692-4372 www.ageraenergy.com | 9.99¢ per kWh | 12-month fixed | No | \$50 exit fee |
| Agera Energy | 10.1069¢ per kWh | 24-month fixed | No | \$50 exit fee |
| Ambit Energy 1-877-282-6248 www.ambitenergy.com | 5.65¢ per kWh | 12-month fixed | No | No |
| Ambit Energy (Zone 1) | 7.65¢ per kWh | 12-month fixed | Yes | No |
| Ambit Energy (Zone 1) | 9.26¢ per kWh (9.26¢ new customer rate) | Variable | No | No |
| Ambit Energy (Zone 1) | 11.26¢ per kWh (11.26¢ new customer rate) | Variable | Yes | No |
| Clearview Energy 1-888-257-8439 www.clearviewenergy.com | 6.69¢ per kWh | 6-month fixed | Yes | \$50 cancellation fee |
| Clearview Energy | 6.29¢ per kWh | 6-month fixed | Yes | \$9.99 monthly fee, \$50 cancellation fee |
| Clearview Energy | 6.69¢ per kWh | 12-month fixed | Yes | \$50 cancellation fee |
| Clearview Energy | 5.49¢ per kWh | until Jan. 1, 2017 | Yes | Online offer only |
| Comcast Energy Rewards (a brand of Crius Energy) 1-844-684-5506 www.comcastenergyrewards.com | 7.55¢ per kWh | 12-month fixed | No | No |
| Comcast Energy Rewards | 7.49¢ per kWh | variable | No | No |
| Constellation Energy 1-866-577-4700 www.constellation.com | 5.99¢ per kWh | 12-month fixed | No | \$50 cancellation fee |
| Constellation Energy | 6.19¢ per kWh | 18-month fixed | No | \$50 exit fee |
| Direct Energy 1-866-910-3401 directenergy.com | 6.79¢ per kWh (6.89¢ per kWh for military) | 12-month fixed | No | No |
| Direct Energy | 7.09¢ per kWh (6.99¢ per kWh for military) | 18-month fixed | No | No |
| Direct Energy | 9.09¢ per kWh | 27-month fixed, plus Nest Thermostat | No | \$200 cancellation fee |
| Homefield Energy 1-866-694-1266 www.homefieldenergy.com | 5.877¢ per kWh | 12-month fixed | No | No |
| Homefield Energy | 6.13¢ per kWh | 24-month fixed | No | No |

| Company | Offer | Term | Green? | Fees |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Homefield Energy | 6.007¢ per kWh | 12-month fixed | Yes | No |
| Homefield Energy | 6.273¢ per kWh | 24-month fixed | Yes | No |
| Illinois Gas & Electric 1-866-705-7291 www.usgande.com | 7.159¢ per kWh | 12-month fixed | No | \$50 cancellation fee |
| Illinois Gas & Electric | 6.39¢ per kWh | Variable | No | No |
| MidAmerican Energy 1-800-432-8574 www.midamericanchoice.com | 6.29¢ per kWh | December 2017 | No | No |
| Nordic Energy Services 1-877-808-1022 www.nordicenergy-us.com | 3.50¢ per kWh (1-month introductory offer) | Variable | No | No |
| PALMco 1-877-726-5862 www.palmcoenergy.com | 5.614¢ per kWh (first month only) | Variable | No | No |
| Public Power 1-888-354-4415 www.ppandu.com | 6.79¢ per kWh | 12-month fixed | No | \$50 cancellation fee |
| Public Power | 6.99¢ per kWh | 24-month fixed | No | \$50 cancellation fee |
| Realgy Energy Services 1-877-300-6747 www.realgyenergyservices.com | 5.559¢ per kWh | 24-month Variable | No | \$3.75 monthly fee, \$50 exit fee |
| Tara Energy 1-855-275-8272 www.taraenergy.com | 7.99¢ per kWh | 24-month fixed | No | \$50 exit fee |
| Tara Energy | 7.69¢ per kWh | 24-month fixed | No | \$50 exit fee |
| Viridian (a brand of Crius Energy) 1-866-663-2508 www.viridian.com | 7.32¢ per kWh | 21-month fixed | Yes | \$50 exit fee |
| Viridian | 7.25¢ per kWh | 12-month fixed | Yes | \$50 exit fee |
| Viridian | 8.12¢ per kWh | 36-month fixed | Yes | \$50 exit fee |
| Viridian | 9.49¢ per kWh | Variable | Yes | No |
| Viridian | 9.25¢ per kWh | Variable | Yes | No |
| Xoom Energy 1-888-997-8979 www.xoomenergy.com | 6.39¢ per kWh | Variable | No | No |
| Xoom Energy | 6.99¢ per kWh | 12-month fixed | No | \$50 exit fee |
| Xoom Energy | 6.79¢ per kWh | 12-month fixed | Yes | \$50 exit fee |