



# Making Sense of Your Electric Bill

FACT SHEET

January 2020

Your electric bill is generally divided into three categories: delivery charges, supply charges, and taxes.

Delivery charges, which cover the cost of getting electricity to homes, are set through a legislatively approved formula that is subject to Illinois Commerce Commission review.

The cost of the actual power (the supply charge) that ComEd and Ameren send to customers is set by a market-based auction process managed by the Illinois Power Agency (IPA).

Electricity usage is billed by the kilowatt-hour (kWh)—roughly enough power to clean a load of dishes in the dishwasher or run a window air conditioning unit for an hour. A customer's previous and current meter readings are

listed on the bill, along with the dates they were taken. The difference between the two readings is the electricity usage for the current billing period (typically a month).

New digital electric meters should eliminate the need for estimated readings, because Ameren and ComEd should be able to remotely read your meter every month. However, if for some reason the utility doesn't read your meter, your bill that month will be estimated and "E," "EST," or "ESTIMATED" will appear on it. That means your usage is based on last year's usage for the same month, adjusted for weather.

If the utility doesn't read your meter for two consecutive months, find out why and request an actual reading.

## What Your Electric Utility Charges

Company	Customer Charge*	Energy Charge Non-Summer (October-May)	Energy Charge Summer (June-September)	Distribution Charge	Meter Charge
<b>Ameren</b> 1-800-755-5000	\$8.58/month	First 800 kWh used: 4.707¢/kWh  Usage over 800 kWh: 4.468¢/kWh	To be determined.	Summer: 4.970¢/kWh  Non-summer: First 800 kWh used: 2.909¢/kWh  Usage over 800 kWh: 1.547¢/kWh	\$5.42/month
<b>ComEd</b> 1-800-334-7661	Non-space heat: \$11.30/month for single-family homes, \$8.25/month for multi-family  Space heat: \$12.87/month for single-family homes, \$9.00/month for multi-family	7.175¢/kWh	To be determined.	Non-space heat: 3.541¢/kWh for single-family, 2.809¢/kWh for multi-family  Space heat: 1.636¢/kWh for single-family, 1.641¢/kWh for multi-family	\$4.52/month

\*Customer charge listed may include small fees to subsidize heating costs for low-income consumers; to develop renewable energy and clean-coal technology, to recover the costs of real-time pricing programs, which allow homes to pay an hourly rate for power; to cover utility billing costs associated with alternative retail energy suppliers; and an uncollectibles charge.

## Glossary Of Charges

Some of these charges may not be on your bill. The number next to each charge corresponds to the number on the sample bills in this fact sheet. If the names of charges differ between utilities, Ameren charges are labeled (A) and ComEd charges (C).

### Meter Information:

- (1) **Read Dates.** Billing period for which the meter was read.
- (2) **Meter Number.** Electric meter's ID number.
- (3) **Load Type.** ComEd residential bills list "General Service." Ameren bills do not have a section labeled "load type."
- (4) **Reading (or Read) Type.** Electric usage is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh).
- (5) **Previous Meter Read.** Previous month's meter reading.
- (6) **Present (Current) Meter Read.** This month's meter reading.
- (7) **Read Difference (A); Difference (C).** The difference between previous and past readings.
- (8) **Multiplier.** A factor applied to certain types of customers to determine usage. For most homes the multiplier is 1.
- (9) **Usage.** Electricity used in last billing period. (The difference between present and previous meter readings.)

### Supply Charges:

These rates, which take up a half to two-thirds of your bill, cover the cost of the electricity itself. Electricity prices are set by a market-based auction process. Under law, utilities are not allowed to profit off of this part of your bill.

- (10) **Purchased Electric (A); Electricity Supply Charge (C).** ComEd and Ameren are supposed to pass the energy costs on to customers with no markup. However, this charge may be slightly higher than the actual market price because it is adjusted for other costs, such as "line loss." That's when power traveling over the lines is lost as it gives off heat. Utilities have a summer and non-summer rate for this charge.
- (11) **Purchased Electricity Adjustment.** Utilities can't profit off the price of power, so this monthly adjustment, a credit or debit, balances any discrepancy between what the utility paid for power and what you paid in the energy charge.
- (12) **Supply Cost Adjustment.** Covers other administrative costs connected to procuring power. ComEd does not have a line item for this charge, but rolls it into the energy charge.
- (13) **Transmission Service(s) Charge.** Covers the costs of sending electricity from a power plant to your utility. A utility must get Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approval to increase this charge. ComEd's charge is 1.256 cents per kWh. Ameren's charge is 1.170 cents per kWh.

### Delivery Charges:

These rates, which take up a third to a half of your bill, cover the cost of delivering power to homes, plus a profit for the utilities. When utilities ask the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) for a rate hike, they want to increase these rates.

- (14) **Customer charge.** Covers administrative costs of doing business, such as billing, postage, and building rental costs.

### Delivery Charges (continued):

- (15) **Meter Charge (A); Standard Metering Charge (C).** Covers meter readings and other services, such as installing, maintaining, and testing meter equipment.
- (16) **Distribution Delivery Charge (A); Distribution Facilities Charge (C).** Covers the costs of maintaining equipment/wires, and other costs not recovered through the customer charge. (Ameren has summer/non-summer rates.)

### Other Charges:

- (17) **EDT Cost Recovery (A); Illinois Electricity Distribution Charge (C).** Recovers the Illinois Electricity Distribution Tax. This per kWh rate is the same for all customer classes.
- (18) **Electric Environmental Adjustment (A); Environmental Cost Recovery Adj (C).** Covers clean-up costs at former gas-manufacturing sites.
- (19) **Renewable Energy Adjustment (A); Renewable Portfolio Standard (C).** Previously, this was wrapped in the supply charge for electricity. It's now a separate per kWh line item. ComEd customers pay 0.189 cents per kWh, and Ameren customers pay 0.181 cents per kWh.
- (20) **Clean Energy Assistance Charge (A); Zero Emission Standard (C).** This is a subsidy for zero-carbon power generators. Exelon, the state's biggest energy company, pushed for legislation to include this line item on all Ameren and ComEd power bills to provide more revenue to two of its nuclear power plants. To protect customers, CUB fought for major improvements in the bill. The final version of the legislation, the Future Energy Jobs Act, includes a historic boost in energy efficiency that will lower Illinois power bills by billions of dollars.
- (21) **Energy Efficiency Demand Response (A); Energy Efficiency Programs (C).** Under the Public Utilities Act, ComEd and Ameren recover the costs of energy-efficiency and "demand-response" programs designed to help consumers save money. This per kWh charge covers programs such as air-conditioner cycling, appliance recycling, and Hourly Pricing. (Learn more at [CitizensUtilityBoard.org](http://CitizensUtilityBoard.org).)
- (22) **Franchise cost.** Some cities require a utility to pay a fee in exchange for the right to deliver electricity to them. Utilities recover such costs from customers in those towns.
- (23) **Illinois state electricity excise tax (A); State tax (C).** It's a third-of-a-cent per kWh.
- (24) **Municipal tax.** State law caps the utility tax that cities can impose. The utility collects the money (less than a penny per kWh) and forwards it to the municipality.

# ComEd Sample Bill

### TOTAL USAGE (kWh)

0000

### AVERAGE DAILY USE (monthly usage/days in period)

Current Month 27° avg. Temp

00.0 kWh

↑ 00 %

from last year

Last Month <span style="float: right;">00° avg. temp</span>	Last Year <span style="float: right;">00° avg. temp</span>
00.0 kWh	00.0 kWh

⚡ Ten 100W light bulbs for 1 hour = 1 kWh

### CURRENT CHARGES SUMMARY

See reverse side for details

**SUPPLY**

**\$00.00**

ComEd provides your energy.

ComEd.com  
1.800.334.7661

**Current Charges**

**\$00.00**

**DELIVERY**

**\$00.00**

ComEd delivers electricity to your home.

ComEd.com  
1.800.334.7661

TAXES & FEES \$00.00

Page 1

ComEd bills display a bar graph with your monthly usage over the past year. They also include information about your average daily usage and how it compares with last year.

METER INFORMATION								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Read Dates	Meter Number	Load Type	Reading Type	Previous	Present	Difference	Multiplier	Usage
0/00/0000	0000000000	General Service	Total kWh	000000	Actual	000000 Actual	000	x 1
								000

### CHARGE DETAILS

Residential - Multiple 0/00/00 - 0/00/00 (31 days)

**SUPPLY**

10	12	Electricity Supply Charge	000 kWh X 0.000000	\$0.00
13		Transmission Services Charge	000 kWh X 0.000000	\$0.00
11		Purchased Electricity Adjustment		\$0.00

**DELIVERY - ComEd**

14	Customer Charge		\$0.00
15	Standard Metering Charge		\$0.00
16	Distribution Facilities Charge	000 kWh X 0.000000	\$0.00
17	IL Electricity Distribution Charge	000 kWh X 0.000000	\$0.00

**TAXES & FEES**

18	Environmental Cost Recovery Adj	000 kWh X 0.000000	\$0.00
19	Renewable Portfolio Standard	000 kWh X 0.000000	\$0.00
20	Zero Emission Standard	000 kWh X 0.000000	\$0.00
21	Energy Efficiency Programs	000 kWh X 0.000000	\$0.00
22	Franchise Cost		\$0.00
23	State Tax		\$0.00
24	Municipal Tax		\$0.00

### UPDATES

**ComEd**

- WAYS TO PAY: See how to pay your bill at ComEd.com/PayingYourBill
- WE ARE HERE FOR YOU: Call us from anywhere at ComEd.com/ContactUs
- APPLIANCE REBATES: Get Appliance Rebates from the ComEd Energy Efficiency Program to upgrade your appliances. ComEd.com/Rebates
- SCAM ALERT: ComEd will never call you to request cash or ask you to buy a prepaid credit Card to pay a bill. ComEd.com/ScamAlert
- PART 280: View a copy of the ICC Commission 83 III. Adm. Code 280 rules at ComEd.com/Part280
- YOUR COMED BILL: Need help understanding your bill line item definitions? Please visit us at ComEd.com/UnderstandingBill or Call us at 1-800-334-7661
- ENVIRONMENTAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT: ComEd's Environmental Disclosure Statement can now be found online at ComEd.com/EnvironmentalDisclosure
- Past due balances are subject to late charges.

Service Period Total \$00.00

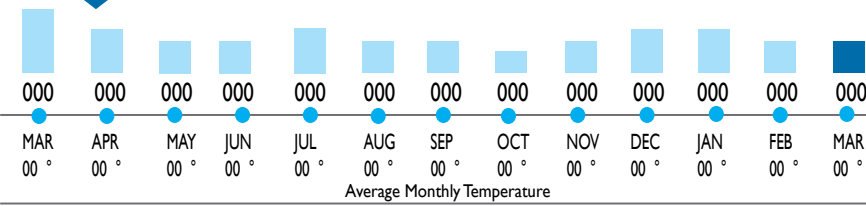
**MISCELLANEOUS**

Page 2

Bills generally have three parts: Supply, Delivery, and Taxes & Fees.

# Ameren Sample Bill

## Electric Usage History in Kilowatt Hours (kWh)



## Average Daily Electric Usage (kWh)

TIME PERIOD	AVG. DAILY USE
CURRENT MONTH	00.00 kWh
LAST MONTH	00.00 kWh
LAST YEAR	00.00 kWh

Page 1

Ameren bills display a bar graph with your monthly usage over the past year. They also include information about your average daily usage and how it compares with last year.

## Payment Details

	DATE	AMOUNT
Payment Received	Month 00, 0000	\$000.00

## Electric Service Residential Billing Detail - Rate Zone I 00/00/0000 - 00/00/0000 (00 days)

1 READ TYPE	2 METER NUMBER	3 CURRENT METER READ	4 PREVIOUS METER READ	5 READ DIFFERENCE	6 MULTIPLIER	7 USAGE
Total kWh	00000000	000000.0000 Actual	000000.0000 Actual	000.0000	1.0000	000.0000

## Usage Summary

Total kWh	000.0000	Non-Summer kWh	000.0000
PTR Usage	0.0000		

Bills generally have three parts: Delivery, Supply, and Taxes & Fees.

## Advanced Meter

CHARGE DESCRIPTION	USAGE UNIT	RATE	CHARGE
14 Customer Charge			\$00.00
15 Meter Charge			\$0.00
16 Distribution Delivery Charge Non-Summer	000.00 kWh	@ \$ 0.00000000	\$0.00
18 Electric Environment Adjustment	000.00 kWh	@ \$ 0.00000000	\$0.00
21 Energy Efficiency Demand Response	000.00 kWh	@ \$ 0.00000000	\$0.00
<b>Electric Delivery</b>			<b>\$00.00</b>
10 Purchased Electric Non-Summer 0-800 kWh	000.00 kWh	@ \$ 0.00000000	\$00.00
11 Purchased Electricity Adjustment	000.00 kWh	@ \$ 0.00000000	\$00.00
12 Supply Cost Adjustment	000.00 kWh	@ \$ 0.00000000	\$00.00
13 Transmission Service Charge	000.00 kWh	@ \$ 0.00000000	\$00.00
<b>Electric Supply</b>			<b>\$00.00</b>
20 Clean Energy Adjustment Charge			\$0.00
19 Renewable Energy Adjustment			\$0.00
17 EDT Cost Recovery			\$0.00
18 Electric Environmental Adjustment			\$0.00
22 Franchise Cost			\$0.00
23 Illinois State Electricity Excise Tax			\$0.00
24 Municipal Tax			\$0.00
<b>Taxes and Other Fees</b>			<b>\$00.00</b>

**Total Electric Charges \$00.00**

Page 3