



CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD

Fighting for Illinois Consumers

For Immediate Release

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CUB ALERTS CONSUMERS TO INCREASE IN COMED PRICE, CEJA CREDIT WILL GIVE BREAK TO CUSTOMERS

As of June 1, Commonwealth Edison's price for electricity is about 60 percent higher than what it was last summer, but a credit made possible by the Climate & Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) will help protect consumers from the increase, the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) said Wednesday.

CUB warned Illinois consumers to beware of unscrupulous alternative supplier sales representatives that may try to take advantage of news about higher utility supply rates this summer to lure customers into bad deals. The watchdog group alerted consumers to [CUBHelpCenter.com](https://www.cubhelpcenter.com), a free online resource that has information about energy assistance and energy efficiency tips.

According to the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), ComEd's summer "price to compare"—the rate customers should compare with alternative supplier offers—from June 1 to September 30 will be:

11.041 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh)

Note: This rate includes the supply price and a transmission charge. ComEd does not profit off the price of electricity—they pass those costs onto customers with no markup. A new non-summer supply rate, which has yet to be announced, will take effect Oct. 1.

This price is approximately 60 percent higher than last June's price. However, a provision in CEJA mitigates the impact of this increase. CEJA calls for giving support to carbon-free nuclear power plants through a charge on electric bills—but that charge becomes a credit when wholesale energy prices are at a high level, as they are now.

The credit is roughly 3-4 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) over the next year. While the total amount of the credit depends on a customer's usage, estimates range from an average of \$18 per month to \$20 per month, from June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023. The credit is for all residential customers—you don't have to apply for it or take any action. The credit will appear on ComEd bills beginning in June as a line item called "Carbon-Free Energy Resource Adjustment."

"We are pleased the Climate & Equitable Jobs Act credit offers consumers relief this summer, and we look forward to implementing more pro-consumer provisions to secure clean, affordable energy for Illinois consumers in the future," CUB Executive Director David Kolata said. "We urge people to take safe, energy-efficient actions at home to stay cool and cut their energy bills this summer. We also urge friends, family members and neighbors to check on loved ones to make sure they're staying safe and cool."

High energy prices are due to multiple problems affecting consumers from coast to coast. Natural gas prices go through periodic spikes, and that volatility kept winter prices at their highest levels since the winter of 2008-09. The Russian invasion of Ukraine made a bad situation worse. Now, gas, which is often used to generate electricity, has pushed power prices to extreme levels across the nation.

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CUB listed several key points for energy customers:

Stay in contact with your utility. Keep the lines of communication open this summer. Consumers who are struggling should contact their utilities to see about energy assistance programs, inquire about payment plans to pay off debt and learn about energy efficiency programs.

Beware of alternative supplier rip-offs. Alternative electricity suppliers are impacted by the same market conditions that are causing utility prices to increase, so be careful about getting lured into bad deals. Be wary of low introductory rates that will skyrocket after a short period, and read the fine print for add-on fees that can raise the cost of the plan. Since 2015, consumers have lost more than \$1 billion to alternative power suppliers.

If your community has negotiated a power deal with a supplier, it's possible the price is lower than ComEd's supply rate. Find out when the offer expires.

Practice energy efficiency. Weatherize your windows and doors to keep cool air in and warm air out. Set your thermostat at a safe level: 78 degrees when you're awake and home, and bump it up a few degrees when you're away or asleep. CUBHelpCenter.com has more tips.

CUB also called for ComEd to offer good payment plans to help more utility customers pay off their debts and stay connected this summer.

CUB is Illinois' leading nonprofit utility watchdog group. Created by the Illinois Legislature, CUB opened its doors in 1984 to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers. Since then, CUB has saved consumers more than \$20 billion by helping to block rate hikes and secure refunds. For more information, call CUB's Consumer Hotline at 1-800-669-5556 or visit CUB's award-winning website, www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org.

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