



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.

The screenshot shows an Ameren Illinois bill for a residential customer. A callout box with a blue border and white background points to the 'Electric Supply' section of the bill. The callout text reads: "An alternative supplier's charges would replace those listed in the 'supply' section of your bill." The bill includes account information, payment details, and a detailed breakdown of charges.

Account Number	XXXXXXXXXXXX		
Customer Name	FIRST LAST		
Service Address	123 Main St., Anytown, IL 55555		
Statement Issued 06/10/2016			
Amount Due \$96.74			
Due Date Jul 1, 2016			
Payment Received DATE: May 12, 2016 AMOUNT: \$101.85			
Electric Service Residential Billing Detail - Rate Zone III 05/09/2016 - 06/08/2016 (30 days)			
Electric Meter Read for			
READ TYPE	MET		
Total kWh	111.0000		
Usage Summary			
Total kWh	111.0000		
Non-Summer kWh	0.0000		
Electric Delivery			
Ameren Illinois			
DS-1 Residential Delivery Service			
CHARGE DESCRIPTION	USAGE UNIT	RATE	CHARGE
Customer Charge			\$12.74
Meter Charge			\$5.00
Distribution Delivery Charge Summer	111.00 kWh	@ \$ 0.04727000	\$5.25
Distribution Delivery Charge Non-Summer	305.00 kWh	@ \$ 0.02770000	\$8.45
Electric Environmental Adjustment	416.00 kWh	@ \$ 0.00260740	\$1.08
Energy Efficiency Demand Response	416.00 kWh	@ \$ 0.00426000	\$1.77
Peak Time Rewards Credit			\$0.00
Electric Delivery			\$34.29
Electric Supply			
XYZ IL Power Supplier	Total Energy Charge (\$/kWh)	416.00 kWh @ \$ 0.05749000	\$23.92
Electric Supply			\$23.92
Taxes and Other Fees			
Illinois State Electricity Excise Tax			\$1.37
EDT Cost Recovery			\$0.57
Total Tax Related Fees			\$4.10
Total Electric Charges			\$62.31

**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 February 8, 2017*

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

Zones 1, 2, 3:

6.519 cents per kWh for the first 800 kWh and 4.781 cents per kWh for usage above 800 kWh (Jan.- 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	5.85¢ per kWh	Fixed Through December 2017	No	No (new customers only)
AEP Energy	5.95¢ per kWh	12-month fixed	No	No (new customers only)
AEP Energy	6.59¢ per kWh	24-month fixed	No	No (new customers only)

Company	Offer	Term	Green?	Fees
AEP Energy	6.25¢ per kWh	12-month fixed	Yes	No (new customers only)
Agera Energy 1-844-692-4372 www.ageraenergy.com	10.359¢ per kWh	12-month fixed	No	\$50 exit fee
Agera Energy	10.352¢ per kWh	24-month fixed	No	\$50 exit fee
Ambit Energy 1-877-282-6248 www.ambitenergy.com	5.95¢ per kWh	12-month fixed	No	No
Ambit Energy (All zones)	7.95¢ per kWh	12-month fixed	Yes	No
Ambit Energy (All zones)	9.26¢ per kWh (9.26¢ new customer rate)	Variable	No	No
Ambit Energy (All zones)	11.26¢ per kWh (11.26¢ new customer rate)	Variable	Yes	No
Clearview Energy 1-888-257-8439 www.clearviewenergy.com	5.09¢ per kWh	6-month fixed	Yes	\$50 cancellation fee
Clearview Energy	6.29¢ per kWh	12-month fixed	Yes	\$9.99 monthly fee, \$50 cancellation fee
Comcast Energy Rewards (a brand of Crius Energy) 1-844-684-5506 www.comcastenergyrewards.com	7.84¢ 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	6.15¢ per kWh	12-month fixed	No	\$50 cancellation fee
Constellation Energy	6.59¢ per kWh	12-month fixed	Yes	\$50 exit fee
Constellation Energy	6.49¢ per kWh	18-month fixed	No	\$50 exit fee
Direct Energy 1-866-910-3401 directenergy.com	6.09¢ per kWh (6.99¢ per kWh for military)	12-month fixed	No	No
Direct Energy	7.19¢ per kWh (7.09¢ per kWh for military)	18-month fixed	No	No
Direct Energy	8.69¢ per kWh	27-month fixed, plus Nest Thermostat	No	\$200 cancellation fee
Homefield Energy 1-866-694-1266 www.homefieldenergy.com	5.829¢ per kWh	12-month fixed	No	No
Homefield Energy	5.837¢ per kWh	24-month fixed	No	No
Homefield Energy	6.01¢ per kWh	12-month fixed	Yes	No

Company	Offer	Term	Green?	Fees
Homefield Energy	6.029¢ per kWh	24-month fixed	Yes	No
Illinois Gas & Electric 1-866-705-7291 www.usgande.com	7.754¢ 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	7.29¢ per kWh	12-month fixed	No	\$50 cancellation fee
Public Power	7.29¢ per kWh	24-month fixed	No	\$50 cancellation fee
Realgy Energy Services 1-877-300-6747 www.realgyenergyservices.com	5.344¢ 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	5.81¢ per kWh	21-month fixed	Yes	\$50 exit fee
Viridian	7.43¢ per kWh	12-month fixed	Yes	\$50 exit fee
Viridian	8.26¢ per kWh	36-month fixed	Yes	\$50 exit fee
Viridian	9.49¢ per kWh	Variable	Yes	No
Viridian	9.39¢ 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	7.39¢ per kWh	12-month fixed	No	\$50 exit fee
Xoom Energy	7.09¢ per kWh	12-month fixed	Yes	\$50 exit fee