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 (through September 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Monthly Customer Charge*</th>
<th>Energy Charge Non-Summer</th>
<th>Energy Charge Summer</th>
<th>Distribution Charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ameren</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-800-755-5000</td>
<td>Zone 1 (formerly CIPS)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>4.343¢/kWh</td>
<td>Summer: 4.727¢/kWh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$12.35</td>
<td>(Oct 2016-May 2017)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-summer: 2.770¢/kWh for the first 800 kWh, 1.485¢/kWh after</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zone 2 (formerly CILCO)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$12.54</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zone 3 (formerly IP)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$12.70</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ComEd</strong></td>
<td>$11.12 for single-family homes and buildings with two units ($12.75 space heat customers)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>5.555¢/kWh</td>
<td>Space heat: 1.741¢/kWh for single-family, 1.751¢/kWh for multi-family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-800-334-7661</td>
<td>$8.06 for buildings with three or more units ($8.64 space heat customers)</td>
<td>(Oct 2016-May 2017)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-space heat: 3.472¢/kWh for single-family, 2.772¢/kWh for multi-family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MidAmerican Energy</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7.70</strong></td>
<td>2.705¢/kWh for first 1,000 kWh</td>
<td>5.695¢/kWh</td>
<td>2.729¢/kWh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-888-427-5632</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.878¢/kWh for usage over 1,000 kWh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The customer charge listed may include small fees for state funds to subsidize heating costs for low-income consumers and to develop renewable energy and “clean-coal technology.” It also may include a fee to recover the costs of real-time pricing programs, which allow homes to pay an hourly rate for power; a fee to cover utility billing costs associated with alternative retail energy suppliers; and an uncollectibles charge.
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).

Glossary Of Charges

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.”
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 1.337 cents per kWh. Ameren’s charge is 0.914 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.

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.

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 0.196 cents per kWh. (Note: All electricity customers pay this, but temporarily customers with alternative suppliers will pay a slightly lower per kWh rate.)

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.)

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 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.

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