

City of Countryside Electric Aggregation Program

Following the passage of a March 2012 voter referendum, the City of Countryside contracted to procure lower-cost electric supply for residents and small businesses. The City recently renewed the program and contracted with lowest bidder Constellation NewEnergy at a fixed rate of 7.429¢ per kWh for a 12-month term ending October 2019. Participating ratepayers have enjoyed lower power costs, for an average savings of \$325 per household, and a cumulative City savings over \$650,000.

There is no enrollment fee, and no early termination fee, should ratepayers decide to leave the program.

ComEd rate Oct 2018 to May 2019:	7.941¢ per kWh
Countryside rate Oct 2018 to Oct 2019:	7.429¢ per kWh

A notice of the program will be mailed to residents and small business owners on August 9, 2018. Two different notices will be sent. Please note:

1. Ratepayers receiving the **opt out notice** will be automatically enrolled at the rate of 7.429¢ unless they take action to opt out by August 30, 2018.
2. Ratepayers receiving the **informative, opt in notice** will **not** be automatically enrolled because they have contracted privately with another Supplier or are enrolled in an hourly-rate program. If they wish to enroll, they must contact Constellation at 844-849-3990.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Solicitors may take this renewal opportunity to offer other programs. NO ONE from Constellation, the City, or ComEd will ever visit your home or call you to enroll or ask for your ComEd account number. If a solicitor claims to be the City's supplier, Constellation, or ComEd, take their information and report the incident to the ICC at 800-524-0795 or www.icc.illinois.gov/consumer/complaint.

There is never an enrollment fee, an early termination fee, nor any added monthly fees.

Program Benefits:

- A cap on residents' power supply rates for one year
- A fixed benchmark to compare with other offers vs. ComEd rate
- Flexibility to join or leave the program, and with no fees to switch; never a termination fee

Electric deregulation has met with great success in Illinois, saving ratepayers billions of dollars: In 2010, most northern Illinois residents paid the ComEd rate of over 9¢ per kWh.

1. How can I enroll in the program?

During the initial three-week opt out period, you need do nothing if you received an opt-out notice at your ComEd billing address; you will automatically be enrolled unless you opt out. After the initial opt out period, a ratepayer may enroll by calling Constellation at 844-849-3990 and requesting the Countryside rate of 7.429¢ per kWh.

2. What is an eligible resident or small commercial account?

Any resident who is currently with ComEd and has not already switched to an Alternative Retail Electric Supplier (ARES) or who is not enrolled in a special Residential Real-Time Pricing (RRTP) program is eligible, and small commercial accounts are eligible. You must also have a residence or business located within the City limits.

3. What is a “small commercial account?”

A small commercial account is a commercial account that consumes less than 15,000 kWh per year.

4. What if I don’t want to participate in the program?

You may opt out before the program begins. You may leave the program after it begins, never any fee. Eligible resident and small commercial accounts will receive an opt out letter which they must sign and return within 21 days if they do not want to be in the program. Otherwise, they will automatically be enrolled. If you want to leave the program after having been enrolled, simply call Constellation and ask to be moved back to ComEd or another supplier at any time. There is never an early termination fee.

5. I am located in Countryside’s city limits, and have already switched to another Supplier, but would like to join the program. Can I do this?

Yes. Contact Constellation at 844-849-3990 to enroll. It is recommended you check your contract to review any early termination fees you may be liable for; you may wish to wait for your current contract to expire before enrolling in the aggregation program. You may join the program at any time during the 24-month contract.

6. Why is the City doing this?

A Municipal Electric Aggregation Program was approved by a simple majority in a voter referendum allowing the City to seek pricing from an ARES for residents and small commercial accounts.

7. What is the current ComEd rate?

The effective ComEd rate for the four months June 2018 to September 2018 is 7.358¢ per kWh and then will rise to 7.941¢ per kWh for the eight months October 2018 to May 2019. That is an annualized rate of 7.75¢ per kWh. It also includes a variable charge or credit, the Purchased Electricity Adjustment (PEA). To find the current rate, visit <http://www.pluginillinois.org>.

8. Will I get two bills, one from ComEd and another from the new supplier?

No. ComEd will continue to bill you for electric supply, delivery and taxes. ComEd delivers electricity, and will continue to bill you for that, but they no longer supply it. They will pass along the fees you pay for the supply of your energy to the new supplier. ComEd will retain the fees you pay them for delivery.

9. Will that affect my ComEd electric service?

No. ComEd has not generated electricity since 2007. A government agency, the Illinois Power Agency (IPA) has contracted electric supply which establishes the ComEd rate.

10. Whom do I call if I have service problems?

Always call ComEd with reports of outages or downed power lines at 800-334-7661.

- 11. If I am automatically enrolled in the program now, can I leave the program at any time?**
Yes, you can later leave the program and move your account back to ComEd or another Supplier. There is no early termination fee to leave.
- 12. What is ComEd's 6-month "hold" requirement?**
Please note State Regulations: If you move from the program back to ComEd for longer than two months, your account is placed in a "bundled hold" status, and you may not return to the Countryside program until a full six months has passed.
- 13. I am enrolled in low-income assistance program. Will that be affected?**
No. If you currently receive assistance via PIPP or LIHEAP, that status will not change and you can continue to get these benefits for your ComEd bill.
- 14. I'm on ComEd's budget billing plan. Will that change?**
No, you can stay on the budget billing plan.
- 15. Can I still have my payment automatically deducted from my checking account as I do now?**
Yes. The way you pay your ComEd bill will not change.
- 16. Will someone come to my home or call to sign me up?**
No. You need do nothing to automatically be enrolled in the program. If someone calls or visits your home claiming to be the City's power supplier, please report such activity to the ICC at <http://www.icc.illinois.gov/consumer/complaint>.
- 17. Is my electric supply at greater risk now that deregulation has opened markets to new suppliers?**
No. By law, ComEd remains the Provider of Last Resort (POLR), so if there is an issue with securing electric supply, ComEd will be required to deliver it, regardless.
- 18. Does the energy supply renewable "green" energy sources?**
Yes. 14.5% of your energy consumption is sourced from renewable or "green" energy generation as represented through the purchase and retirement of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).

The Illinois Commerce Commission offers more information about energy deregulation in Illinois and energy supply choices at www.pluginillinois.org.

For questions about your electric account, do not call City Hall; call Countryside's aggregation program supplier, Constellation at 844-849-3990.

If you require additional assistance, call NIMEC at 800-727-3820 to leave your question and callback number. You will be contacted within 24 hours regarding the issue.

To report an electrical outage, or for questions pertaining to your ComEd bill, call ComEd at 800-334-7661.

###