

City of Aurora 100% Green Aggregation

Following the passing of a March 20, 2012 voter Referendum, the City of Aurora contracted to procure electric supply in a municipal electric aggregation program for residents and small businesses. The average participating resident achieved \$325 in savings on their power costs for a cumulative City-wide savings over \$13.5 million from program inception to date.

The City recently received competitive bids from multiple suppliers to renew the program. With all bids above the ComEd rate to compare and/or electric suppliers not being able to offer ComEd price match guarantee, the City contracted a program with Eligo Energy, whereby residents and small businesses will be charged exactly the ComEd rate and will enjoy the added benefit of 100% Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) for the entire City. In addition to the City once again becoming an EPA 100% Green Partner Community, the City will also receive over \$500,000 civic grants from Eligo Energy to support other City programs, at zero added cost. The program is for 18 months starting in January 2020 to July 2021.

Background: The cost of serving each electric account varies greatly, depending on usage patterns. Some ratepayer accounts will remain with ComEd supply service because the cost of generation for the usage profile exceeds the ComEd rate. Others will be switched to the new supplier, Eligo Energy, and will also pay the same ComEd rate. Eligo Energy will purchase 100% RECs for all ratepayers in the City of Aurora Aggregation Community, whether moved to ComEd supply, or moved to Eligo Energy.

Residents will receive notice their service is being switched to Eligo Energy. A few weeks later, they will receive a letter from ComEd titled “**Electric Supplier Choice Confirmation,**” indicating their switch to Eligo Energy supply service.

The program will reduce carbon emissions by approximately 275,000 tons annually. RECs purchased for the City’s energy consumption will be sourced from wind power generators located in the Midwest and Recycled Energy Plants in the Midwest. The Green-E audited certificates have oversight by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and US EPA.

There is never an enrollment fee, an early termination fee, nor any added monthly fees. This program enables the City to receive the designation of an EPA Green Power Partner Community.

PROGRAM FAQs

1. What is the ComEd rate?

The non-summer ComEd rate will be 6.636¢ from June 1, 2021 to September 30 2021 term. ComEd residential price will then increase to 7.159¢ from October 1, 2021 to September 31 2022 term. This rate is comprised of electricity supply and transmission services. The Purchased Electricity Adjustment (PEA) is also included but it varies monthly. The same ComEd rate, including the PEA charge or credit, will be charged to all participants in the City of Aurora Green Power Aggregation Community, whether enrolled with Eligo Energy or receiving supply service via ComEd. To learn more about electric rates, visit www.pluginillinois.org, a site created by the Illinois Commerce Commission to inform ratepayers.

2. Where does renewable energy come from?

Primarily Wind generation sites are the primary source of renewable green energy in the Midwest, followed by solar, hydro, and methane gas from landfills. Nuclear and natural gas are not considered a renewable green resource for power generation.

3. If we buy 100% renewable energy, will our homes be powered by the actual electricity that is generated by windmills, solar, hydro, etc.?

The power grid maintained by ComEd that serves your community cannot route specific power directly to your home. Those who purchase renewable power typically pay a premium to support renewable resources through the purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). RECs support the development and sustainability of companies that actually generate renewable green energy.

4. How can we be certain we are buying green/renewable power?

When a power supplier sells a “renewable green energy” product in the marketplace, that supplier is required to purchase and retire RECs to support their green product. Eligo Energy will document and report those transactions in the Midwest Renewable Energy Tracking System (M-RETS).

5. Are RECs legitimate?

Yes. RECs represent the benefits and attributes of renewable green energy. As renewable facilities generate energy, the generators sell the RECs, which are numbered within an audited tracking system. RECs may only be used once and then must be retired. Anyone who claims they purchase renewable power either has on-site renewable generation such solar panels or a windmill directly hooked up to their home.

6. How can I enroll in the program?

If you are an eligible resident or small commercial account, you will receive a letter indicating that you do not need to do anything to be a participant in the City of Aurora Green Power Aggregation; you will automatically be enrolled unless you take action to opt out of the program. The notice will detail whether your account will be switched to ComEd or to Eligo Energy.

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

Any resident or small commercial account who is currently taking electricity supply from ComEd is eligible and will be automatically enrolled. Any resident or small commercial account that has switched to an Alternative Retail Electric Supplier (ARES), enrolled in ComEd’s Residential

Real-Time Pricing (RRTP) program or enrolled as a net metering customer can opt in to the program. You must also have a residence or business located within the City limits.

8. What if I don't want to participate?

You may opt out before the program begins and there are no termination fees if you leave after the program begins.

9. Why is the City doing this?

A Municipal Electric Aggregation Program was approved by a majority in a 2012 voter Referendum allowing the City to seek pricing from an ARES for residents and small commercial accounts. The City is committed to environmental sustainability, and in this instance, there are no additional costs to procure renewable energy for the City – a win-win.

10. 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.

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

Always call ComEd with reports of outages or downed power lines at 800-334-7661. For questions about your supply, you can call the customer service number for Eligo Energy Services at 708-629-1264. This will be listed under "Electric Supply Services" on your ComEd bill.

12. If I am automatically enrolled in the program now, can I leave the program at any time? Yes, you can leave the program and move your account back to ComEd or another Retail Alternative Supplier. There is no early termination fee to leave.

13. I am enrolled in a 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? Can I still have my payment automatically deducted from my checking account as I do now?

Your participation in the budget billing plan won't change. The way you pay your ComEd bill will not change.

15. Will someone come to my home or call to sign me up?

No. If someone calls or visits your home claiming to be the City's power supplier you may file a complaint with the ICC at <http://www.icc.illinois.gov/consumer/complaint>.

For more information about energy supply choices, visit the ICC site at www.pluginillinois.org.

For questions about your electric account, do not call City Hall; call City of Aurora's aggregation program supplier, Eligo Energy Services, at **708-629-1264**. If you need additional assistance please contact the City's energy consultant Progressive Energy Group at 630-882-6100.

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