

A Message from  
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL  
**LISA MADIGAN**



Electric bills can be expensive, but did you know that Illinois allows you to shop around for the best rate? Under state law, you have the right to choose the company that supplies your electric power. Regardless of what electric power supply option you choose, your local utility company will still deliver the electric power to your home, respond to emergencies, provide customer service and issue bills, in the same way it always has.

When choosing the company that supplies your electric power, you have three main options. You may purchase your electric power supply through:

1. Your local public utility company. Utility companies, such as Commonwealth Edison or Ameren Illinois, pass on the cost of electric power supply at no mark-up.
2. Alternative retail electric suppliers (ARES). ARES are independent suppliers that sell electric power directly to consumers.
3. Municipal aggregation. Municipal aggregation is a common practice by which local governments negotiate electric power supply rates on behalf of their residents.

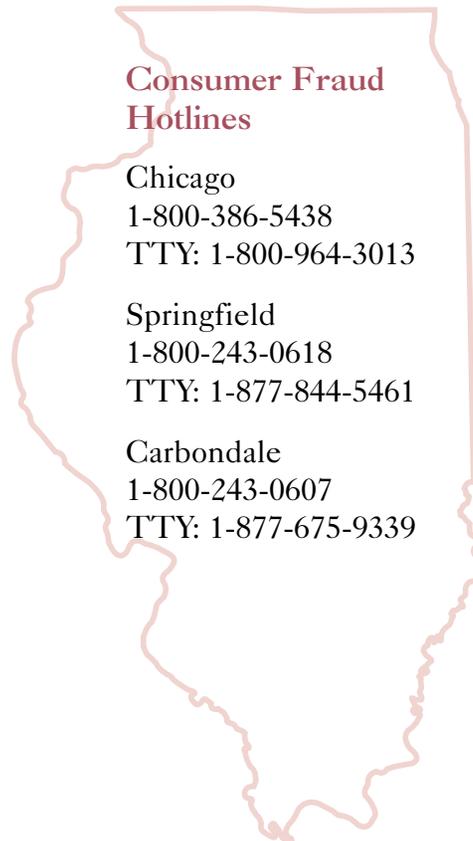
Remember, if you choose a new electric power supplier, the only thing that changes is the company supplying your power. You will not be charged additional fees or receive a separate bill—your local utility will pay the power supplier out of your regular monthly payment.

  
Lisa Madigan  
Illinois Attorney General



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ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL

For more information or to request assistance, please contact the Office of Attorney General Lisa Madigan.



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# CHOOSING AN ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLIER

Public Utility Company

Alternative Retail Electric Supplier

Municipal Aggregation



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# Take Control of Your Electric Bill by Choosing Your Electric Power Supplier

## PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES

Public utility companies purchase electric power supply for consumers under the direction of the Illinois Power Agency. When purchasing electric power from your public utility company, you are charged for electric power supply on a per kilowatt hour basis for the electricity you use each month. Your rates may change each time the public utilities purchase electric supply.

To compare public utility rates, visit:

### *Commonwealth Edison*

[www.pluginillinois.org/FixedRateBreak-downComEd.aspx](http://www.pluginillinois.org/FixedRateBreak-downComEd.aspx).

### *Ameren Illinois*

[www.pluginillinois.org/FixedRateBreak-downAmeren.aspx](http://www.pluginillinois.org/FixedRateBreak-downAmeren.aspx).

## ALTERNATIVE RETAIL ELECTRIC SUPPLIERS

Alternative retail electric suppliers (ARES) sell electric power directly to consumers. ARES offer various types of pricing plans, such as fixed price plans, variable price plans that charge different rates every

month based on market prices, and plans for renewable power. The rates for these plans are not regulated like a public utility's rates. Instead, they are set by the ARES to reflect their costs, including an allowance for profits.

To compare rates for ARES offerings, visit [www.pluginillinois.org/OffersBegin.aspx](http://www.pluginillinois.org/OffersBegin.aspx) and select your service area.

## MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION

With municipal aggregation, local governments negotiate electric rates with electric power suppliers on behalf of residents and small businesses with the goal of obtaining lower prices.

Many local governments in Illinois now purchase electric power supply on behalf of their residents. To create a municipal aggregation program, voters must pass a referendum. If the referendum is successful, you will receive a written notification explaining the price for power and other features negotiated under the plan, as well as a notice of your right to participate in the plan or "opt out." Opt-out instructions will be included in the notification.

If you are not sure whether you are part of a municipal aggregation program, call your city officials. They can tell you if an aggregation plan is in place along with the electric power price under the aggregation plan,

which you can then compare to rates from other electric power suppliers. Or, for a list of Illinois communities with municipal aggregation plans and their negotiated rates, visit [www.pluginillinois.org/MunicipalAggregationList.aspx](http://www.pluginillinois.org/MunicipalAggregationList.aspx).

## Protect Yourself from Municipal Aggregation Scams

- No one representing your local municipality's aggregation plan will contact you by phone or come to your door. Do not give any personal or account information to anyone who calls or visits to talk to you about aggregation.
- Do not provide your personal or account information to an electric supplier that has not been chosen through the municipal aggregation process, unless you decide to opt out.

## For More Information

### *Public Utility Rates*

[www.pluginillinois.org/fixedrate.aspx](http://www.pluginillinois.org/fixedrate.aspx)

### *Municipal Aggregation*

[www.citizensutilityboard.org/cubsGuide-ToMunicipalElectricityAggregation.html#](http://www.citizensutilityboard.org/cubsGuide-ToMunicipalElectricityAggregation.html#)