

# Village of Oswego Electric Aggregation Program

Following the passage of a 2012 referendum by a majority of voters, the Village of Oswego contracted to procure lower-cost electric supply for residents and small businesses. In the three and one-half years since the program commenced, participating homeowners have saved an average \$407, for a cumulative Village-wide savings over \$3.32 million, with ComEd continuing to *deliver* electric power to all ratepayers.

The Village sought competitive bids to renew the program that expires this July, and contracted for a new 13-month term with Dynegy Energy. **The new rate is fixed at 6.149¢ per kWh for the term July 2016 to August 2017.** The new rate is a full cent lower than the Village’s current program rate of 7.15¢ per kWh!

## *Village of Oswego Program vs. ComEd rate in cents per kilowatt hour*

	<i>Supply + transmission</i>	<i>PEA fee<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Effective rate</i>
<b>Com Ed rate<sup>2</sup></b> 4/2016 – 5/2016 6/2016 – 8/2018	6.987¢ unknown	+/- 0.5¢ +/- 0.5¢	6.487¢ to 7.487¢ unknown
<b>Village of Oswego</b> 7/2016 – 8/2018	6.149¢	none	6.149¢

All residents and small commercial retail accounts located within the Village limits will automatically be enrolled unless they:

- 1. Choose to opt out as directed in the opt out notice; or**
- 2. Have already switched to another Supplier; or**
- 3. Participate in the Residential Real-Time Pricing (RRTP) hourly-rate program**

Opt out notices will be mailed to eligible ratepayers mid-April 2016, with an opt out response deadline specified for three weeks later. If you do not opt out, you will be enrolled in the program at your July 2016 meter reading. There is no enrollment fee and no early termination fee to vacate the program at any time. Informative opt-in notices will also be mailed to all ratepayers currently enrolled with a supplier other than the Village’s program. They may enroll at any time during the 13-month program.

Residents already enrolled with another Alternative Retail Electric Supplier will receive an *informative* notice with directions how to enroll if they choose to do so. Because these ratepayers are already engaged in a contract with a Supplier, they will not be automatically enrolled in the Village’s program but must call Dynegy at 1-844-351-7691 to participate.

Residents will continue to receive one bill from ComEd to include the electric supply charges from Dynegy. ComEd will continue to charge for delivery. The way you pay your bill, such as budget billing or automatic payment will not be affected.

This program presents several benefits: ratepayers enjoy the flexibility to join or leave the program with no termination fee at any time; residents receive a fixed, known rate versus the ComEd PTC which is re-set at least twice annually and can further change with the PEA charge that may vary from month to month; residents are likely to save money versus the ComEd rate.

Electric deregulation has been met with great success in the State of Illinois, saving ratepayers billions of dollars: Residents were charged 9¢ per kWh for electric supply in the summer of 2010, and Illinois rates were near the highest levels in the nation in the 1990s and through the early 2000s. However, today Illinois electric rates are among the lowest in the nation, with many Midwestern states such as Michigan and Wisconsin, paying higher rates than in Illinois.

## **Electric Aggregation Program FAQs**

### **1. How can I enroll in the program?**

During the initial three-week opt out period, you need do nothing if you have an eligible resident or small commercial electric account; you will automatically be enrolled (if you have received the opt out notice at your ComEd billing address), unless you opt out. After the initial opt out period, any residential or small business ratepayer may enroll by simply calling Dynegy at 1-844-

<sup>1</sup> The Purchased Electricity Adjustment (PEA) is variable and ranges as high as 0.5¢ per kWh. There is no PEA charge from Dynegy.

<sup>2</sup> The ComEd Price to Compare is 6.987¢ and will be reset June 1, 2016. Current rates may be found at [www.pluginillinois.org](http://www.pluginillinois.org) by adding the Electric Supply Charge and the Transmission Services Charge.

351-7691 and asking for the Village of Oswego aggregation program rate.

**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 in the Village of Oswego.

**3. What is a “small commercial account?”**

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

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

You are free to opt out before the program begins or after you are enrolled, and will never be charged a fee for doing so. Eligible resident and small commercial accounts will receive an opt out letter to which they must respond by the deadline stated 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 Dynegy to be moved back to ComEd at any time.

**5. I am located within Oswego Village limits, have already switched to another Supplier, but would like to join the program. Can I do this?**

Yes. You will receive an informative notice with information on how to enroll, should you choose to do so. Or call Dynegy at 1-844-351-7691 to enroll and provide them with your ComEd account number. We suggest you check your individual 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 13-month contract, for no fee.

**6. Why is the Village doing this?**

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

**7. How can Village of Oswego get rates competitive with ComEd rates?**

The State of Illinois has opened energy markets to price competition. Exelon is no longer the sole electric supplier as many new, competing suppliers now offer electricity. Also, new technologies in electricity procurement have driven prices lower over the last decade.

**8. What is the current ComEd rate?**

The effective ComEd rate is 6.987¢ plus or minus a Purchased Electricity Adjustment (PEA) of 0.5¢ and will be reset in June 2016. The new rate will be announced in May 2016. It includes two fixed charges (supply and transmission services) plus a variable charge, the PEA. For more information, visit [pluginillinois.org](http://pluginillinois.org). The ComEd rate fluctuates from month-to-month.

**9. How will the new supplier’s rate compare with the ComEd rate under “Electric Supply Services” on my bill?**

You will have one fixed rate that covers both electric supply and transmission services, and no other charge for that portion of your electric bill. You are never charged a Purchase Electricity Adjustment by Dynegy.

**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. 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.

**11. 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 your electric supply for you. Now you can choose a new supplier.

**12. 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 Dynegy. It is listed under “Electric Supply Services” on your ComEd bill.

**13. I was on ComEd’s special space heating rate. How do I benefit?**

The Residential Electric Space Heat rate offered by ComEd was discontinued in June 2013, so your savings and benefits now equate to that of ratepayers in the non-space heat rate class.

**14. 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 alternative supplier. There is no early termination fee to leave the program at any time.

**15. What is ComEd’s six-month “stay” or “bundled hold” requirement?**

Please note State Regulations that prohibit some switching. If your account was with an alternative supplier and you switch back to ComEd, you have two billing cycles in which you must move to another supplier or be subject to a six-month “bundled hold” status, during which you may not switch back to that *same* supplier. However, you may switch at any time to a *different* supplier than you just left.

**16. 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.

**17. I’m on ComEd’s budget billing plan. Will that change?**

No, you can stay on the budget-billing plan.

**18. 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.

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

**PLEASE NOTE: No one from Dynegy or the Village will ever visit your home to sign you up, or call you to enroll.** Neither will ComEd ask you to reveal your account number. If someone calls or visits your home claiming to be the Village’s power supplier, please report such activity to Village Hall or file a complaint with the ICC at <http://www.icc.illinois.gov/consumer/complaint>. You should never reveal your ComEd account number and other information to a solicitor unless you are certain you wish to enroll with that supplier.

**20. Will ComEd’s viability be threatened by the loss of all these accounts?**

No. Since 2007, ComEd no longer generates electricity, but is responsible for delivery of electricity. ComEd rates are delivery rates only. Your new supplier rates are for the supply services only.

**21. Will ComEd raise its delivery rates?**

ComEd must request a rate hike from State of Illinois regulators. No matter whom you select as your supplier, it won’t affect whether or not ComEd increases its delivery rates.

**22. What happens if I move?**

If you stay within the Village limits, you can remain in the aggregation program but must call Dynegy to re-enroll at your new address. If you move away, you will never be subject to an early termination fee. Check your new community to find out if they have a municipal electric aggregation program which you can join. New residents moving into the community after the program begins will not be automatically enrolled in the program, but may contact Dynegy to enroll, at no fee.

**23. Is my electric supply at risk now that deregulation has opened markets to new suppliers?**

No. 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.

**24. Will my utility tax change?**

The aggregation program will not impact your utility tax due. You are taxed on energy usage in kilowatt-hours, not the dollar cost of supply.

**25. Does the energy supply include any renewable “green” energy sources?**

Yes. Your energy supply will be from 100% renewable energy sources. Renewable resources such as solar and wind may be represented through the purchase 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](http://www.pluginillinois.org).

For specific questions about your own electric account, do not call Village Hall; call the Village of Oswego’s aggregation program supplier: Dynegy at 1-844-351-7691.

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.