



## FAQs: Municipal Electric Aggregation Program

### **What is government (municipal) aggregation?**

Illinois law allows municipalities, counties and townships (with voter approval) to act on the behalf of residential and some small-business customers of electric utilities to arrange for the purchase of electricity supply.

### **Does Edwardsville participate in municipal aggregation?**

Yes. Voters backed a ballot initiative (with 62.9% approval) in 2012 to allow Edwardsville to take part in municipal aggregation. Many other area municipalities have also approved an opt-out aggregation program and are part of the collective that Edwardsville is in.

### **How does it work?**

The participating municipalities work with an energy consultant to seek bids from “alternative retail electricity suppliers.” Aggregating, or grouping, municipalities together leverages a large number of electric customers to seek savings for a fixed period, typically up to 24 months. During that contract, your rate per kilowatt hour WON’T change, protecting you from rate fluctuation.

### **What’s the status of Edwardsville’s electric aggregation program?**

Edwardsville and dozens of other municipalities in the region work with a consultant, Good Energy LP, to secure bids for the municipal electric aggregation program. In April 2025, a 24-month term was approved for Edwardsville with **Direct Energy with a start date of the June 2025 meter reading**. The fixed rate for the contract period will be 10.82 cents per kilowatt hour.

### **Is Ameren still my electricity provider?**

Yes. Ameren continues to service your account, deliver electricity, offer budget billing, send your bill and ensure power for all customers. Municipal aggregation only affects WHO SUPPLIES the electricity that Ameren delivers to you.

### **Do I have to participate in the municipal aggregation program?**

No. It is an opt-out program, however, so you must opt out if you don’t wish to take part. You also can opt out at any time if you later decide that’s the right choice for you. However, once you opt out, by state law you won’t be able to return to the municipal aggregation program for 12 months (unless a new contract takes effect before then).

### **Do I have any other choices?**

Yes. You can allow Ameren to supply your electricity. The per-kilowatt-hour rate may change throughout the year, however. Other alternative retail electricity suppliers also exist. Please use due diligence, as with any service contract: Check if the rate is fixed or will fluctuate; be aware of termination fees or penalties; verify the length of any contract.

### **What do I do if I want to participate in municipal aggregation?**

If you are an Ameren customer living in Edwardsville (the program does not apply to utility co-op customers), with a few exceptions, you will be automatically enrolled in the program unless you opt out prior to being switched. However, if you are enrolled in Power Smart Pricing or previously opted out and chose a different alternative retail electricity supplier, you will NOT be automatically enrolled just in case that would trigger penalties or fees. You will instead receive an “opt-in” letter from the supplier (**Direct Energy** for this period) to give you the opportunity to join. (Please double-check the terms of your current supplier first.)

**How do I opt out?**

Each new term, the alternative electricity supplier will send an opt-out notice to customers who are included in the aggregation program in each municipality. You will be provided multiple ways to opt out (email, mail and phone). Ameren also typically sends a notice to aggregation participants that their supplier will change unless they opt out of the program. For the term that begins June 2025, the new supplier is **Direct Energy**. For more information or to opt out after the program begins, call 866-968-8065 or by emailing: [aggregationsupport@directenergy.com](mailto:aggregationsupport@directenergy.com)

**Will anyone involved in the municipal aggregation program come to my door?**

NO. Communication from your supplier is handled by mail. Door-to-door solicitors in Edwardsville are required to register with the Edwardsville Police Department and to show a City-issued solicitor license, if requested.