

MUNICIPAL ELECTRICAL AGGREGATION UPDATE

Several area cities and counties have been working together to secure competitive electric supply rates for residents through a municipal aggregation program. The participating communities include Charleston, Effingham, Mattoon, Paris, Neoga, Oakland, the Villages of Ashmore, Lerna, and Humboldt, along with Coles County.

Residents have been receiving Ameren's standard electric supply rate since January 1, 2026, following the expiration of the group's previous contract with Homefield Energy. The buying group, with guidance from its consultant, The Stone River Group, recently solicited bids for a new electric supply contract. After reviewing the bids received, the group was unable to secure an electric supply rate that was more competitive than Ameren's current Price to Compare rate.

For comparison, Ameren's Price to Compare rate will be **\$0.10441 per kWh beginning October 1, 2026**. Because the group was unable to obtain a more competitive bid, residents will remain on Ameren's standard rate at this time. The buying group plans to reevaluate electric supply rates in the **summer of 2027** and will again explore whether a group aggregation contract can provide a competitive rate for participating residents. Residents and businesses do not need to take any action at this time.

Please note that some companies may contact residents with offers for alternative electric supply contracts. These companies are not affiliated with the municipal aggregation program. Residents are encouraged to carefully review any offers, including the rate, contract terms, and length of the agreement, before signing.

Municipal Electric Aggregation was approved by voters in November 2012 as a way to purchase electricity for residents and small businesses at wholesale prices. Since its inception, the goal of the program has been to provide savings for participants. The participating communities will continue to monitor the electric supply market and evaluate opportunities to secure a competitive group rate in the future.

For households needing assistance with energy costs, a list of township offices and nonprofit organizations offering support can be found on Ameren's website. Eligible households may also qualify for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), a federally funded program that provides financial assistance with utility bills. More information is available by calling **1-877-411-9276** or visiting Ameren's energy assistance resources.

Ameren also provides energy-saving tips and flexible billing options to help residents manage their energy costs.