

## What is Municipal Aggregation and how can I benefit?

Under municipal aggregation, local officials bring the community together for improved group purchasing power. The community benefits by receiving competitively-priced electricity from an Alternative Retail Electric Supplier licensed by the Illinois Commerce Commission.

### How is the Village of Wheeling able to choose a certified electricity supplier on the community's behalf and who is eligible?

Wheeling residents voted to give the Village of Wheeling the ability to negotiate on behalf of the community for a contract for an electricity supplier.

All eligible participants in the program will receive notice of the new program rates, terms and conditions, and will have the option to opt-out from participation. In order to be eligible you must meet the following requirements:

1. You must not have already chosen an electricity supplier on your own.
2. You must not be in arrears on your bill payment.
3. Your service address must be located within the Village of Wheeling limits.
4. Your utility company must be ComEd.
5. You must be a small commercial/ industrial customer using not more than 15,000 kilowatt hours per year or you must be a residential customer.

## What does "opt out" mean?

"Opt out" means that we are operating under the assumption that you want to participate in the Village of Wheeling Municipal Aggregation Electricity Program but you can decide not to participate. You can opt out by returning the opt-out form included in your mailer, through the call center using the phone number provided or via the web using the website provided. If you opt out, you will not be enrolled as an electricity customer with Constellation and will continue to be served by your current supplier. You will also not receive the Village of Wheeling competitive electricity price. Regardless, all customers will continue to have their electricity distributed by ComEd.

## What happens if I do not send in the opt-out form?

If you do not opt-out prior to expiration of the deadline, you will be included in the Village of Wheeling Municipal Aggregation Program and receive competitively priced electricity from Constellation. However, you have the option to terminate your participation in the program at any time without incurring an early termination penalty.

## What if I'm enrolled in the PIPP program?

Residents who are enrolled in the PIPP program will not be affected by the Municipal Aggregation Program, and can continue to participate in the municipality's program.

## I am currently under the budget billing option as provided by ComEd. Can I retain this service?

If you have chosen budget billing, the utility will continue to manage your budget billing and determine your monthly payment for electricity or if you wish to initiate budget billing or have any questions regarding your budget, please contact your utility for more information.

## Who is Constellation?

Constellation's affiliates are leading suppliers of energy products and services to electric and natural gas customers in 47 states as well as Washington, D.C. We've been helping customers navigate competitive energy markets for as long as customers have had a choice of their energy supplier and have provided affordable, reliable energy to businesses nationwide for years.

Constellation's parent company, Exelon, is a FORTUNE 200 company with approximately \$33 billion in annual revenues.



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Illinois Alternative Retail Electric Supplier License #10-0540



# Municipal Aggregation Program FAQs



## What information do I need to opt out?

Customers will need the 4-6 digit opt-out code provided in the original opt-out letter. If this is not available, the customer care team can pull up your information based on the service address.

## Are there fees associated with the program?

Enrollment in the program is free and you need not take any action. You only need to be eligible to participate. Once enrolled in the program, you can cancel your agreement at any time and switch back to ComEd without any fee.

## Will I be allowed to join the program after the initial enrollment period?

The Village of Wheeling has secured the same electric supply rate, terms and conditions for eligible customers who wish to join its municipal aggregation programs after the initial enrollment period. This would include customers who move into the Village of Wheeling, who were with another supplier and would like to join the aggregation program or customers who initially opted-out and want to join at a later date. These customers will have an individual agreement with Constellation for electricity supply but will retain the same electric supply rate, terms and conditions of the aggregation programs.

## What is the rescission period?

ComEd will provide you a notice confirming your enrollment with Constellation that provides you a period during which you may rescind such enrollment. Please follow the instructions on the enrollment notice if you would like to rescind.

## When will my Constellation electricity supply begin and how do I know when my meter read occurs?

Supply will start on your first applicable meter read date, which we estimate to be in May. Refer to your bill to get the exact meter read date.

## When will I see my new rate?

Customers can expect to see their new rate beginning as soon as their June 2014 bill, depending on the enrollment date.

## What if I am with another supplier and want to join the Wheeling program?

Based on the records provided by the utility, we assumed you are not with another supplier; otherwise we would not have sent you this notice. However, if you recently signed up with a new supplier or if you believe you are on an older contract, carefully review the terms and conditions of that agreement before proceeding as your ability to terminate early with that supplier may be restricted.

## How can Constellation offer a lower price than ComEd's current price?

During select market opportunities, Constellation buys electricity at a lower price than ComEd, and then passes on those savings to its customers.

## How did the Village of Wheeling develop this Program?

Pursuant to Section 1-92 of the Illinois Power Agency Act ("Act"), 20 ILCS 3855/1-92, each Illinois municipality is authorized to aggregate the electric loads of small commercial and residential customers located within its municipal boundaries. As part of the aggregation, each municipality may solicit bids, select an Alternative Retail Electric Supplier, and enter into a service agreement to facilitate the purchase of electricity and related services and equipment on behalf of its residents and small businesses. In accordance with the Act, your village passed a resolution authorizing a referendum for the community on the November 6, 2013 ballot asking the public for authority to create an opt-out Aggregation Program for its residents and small business customers, which was approved by the residents of the Village of Wheeling.

## Where can I learn more about electricity deregulation and assistance programs?

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) has assistance programs to help customers with their energy bills. Eligibility and enrollment information can be found on the ICC's website at [www.icc.illinois.gov](http://www.icc.illinois.gov). Additional information can be found at [www.PlugInIllinois.org](http://www.PlugInIllinois.org).

## What are questions that can be directed to my Utility?

Please contact ComEd at 1.800.334.7661 for questions on the following topics:

- Problems with your electricity service
- Questions about your bill
- Tax exemptions

## How do I know if the residential rate class that I am in is eligible for your service?

Residential customers on non-hourly rate classes are eligible for our service. Savings estimates will vary based upon whether you are currently on a standard residential rate or a space heating rate. Please carefully review all details provided in our offers. You can find your rate class and any special provisions on your bill.

## What happens at the end of my Constellation electricity contract term?

The Village of Wheeling will rebid the term and price on behalf of residents or return customers to ComEd. You will be notified of the outcome by the village and/or supplier for the new term.

**ComEd's contact number is 1.800.334.7661**

Please refer to the enclosed letter and Terms and Conditions for program pricing and further information.

**To find out more about Constellation visit [home.constellation.com/optout](http://home.constellation.com/optout)**



## Village of Wheeling Electric Aggregation Program

Following the passage of a voter referendum on March 20, 2012, the Village of Wheeling contracted with an ICC-licensed electric supplier to procure lower-cost electric supply. The Village again sought competitive bids to renew the program and contracted with **Constellation**, an Exelon company for a **three-year term** at a fixed rate of **6.621 ¢** per kWh.

### *Wheeling Program vs. ComEd rate in cents per kilowatt hour*

	<i>Supply + transmission</i>	<i>PEA fee<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Effective rate</i>
Wheeling rate	6.621¢	none	<b>6.621¢</b>
Com Ed rate <sup>2</sup>	6.5 to 7.0¢ (Est, June 1, 2014)	0.500 ¢	<b>7.0 to 7.5¢</b>
Your savings vs. the ComEd supply rate (estimated):			<b>5.4 to 11.7%</b>

All residents and small commercial retail accounts will automatically be enrolled unless they 1) choose to opt out by following instructions as directed in the opt out notice sent to their ComEd mailing address in March 2014; 2) have already switched their ComEd electric account and are enrolled with another Alternate Retail Electric Supplier (ARES) or 3) participate in the Residential Real-Time Pricing (RRTP) program.

If you have already switched your electric account from ComEd to an alternate supplier, or you are on ComEd’s RRTP program, you will not automatically be enrolled in the Village’s electric aggregation program, but you may contact Constellation directly to enroll. It is recommended that you first confirm with your existing supplier whether canceling your contract would trigger an early termination fee. Alternatively, you can wait until your current contract expires and join the program at that time. There is no enrollment fee to join the aggregation program at any time during the three-year term.

Although the Village presented this opportunity for residents and small commercial retail electric ratepayers, do not contact Village Hall to enroll your account, but rather, contact Constellation’s customer service at 800-718-1493.

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<sup>1</sup> The Purchased Electricity Adjustment (PEA) is variable and is currently quoted at 0.5 cents per kilowatt-hour. There is no PEA charge from your new supplier.

<sup>2</sup> The ComEd Price to Compare changes; the current rate can be found at [www.pluginillinois.org](http://www.pluginillinois.org) by adding the Electric Supply Charge and the Transmission Services Charge.

Residents will continue to receive one bill from ComEd, which will include the electric supply charges from Constellation. ComEd will continue to charge for *delivering* electricity. The way you pay your bill is not affected by your enrollment in the program.

## Electric Aggregation Program FAQs

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

You need do nothing if you have an eligible resident or small commercial retail electric account; you will automatically be enrolled unless you opt out, are already enrolled with another supplier, or participate in the Residential Real-Time Pricing (RRTP) program.

**2. What is an eligible resident or small commercial account?**

Any resident who is currently with ComEd and has not already switched to an Alternate Retail Electric Supplier (ARES) or who is not enrolled in a special Residential Real-Time Pricing (RRTP) program is eligible, and small commercial retail accounts are eligible. Your residence or business must be located within Village limits.

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

A small commercial account is defined by the ICC as a commercial account using under 15,000 kWh per year. By law, larger accounts may not be included in the program.

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

You may opt out before the program begins, at no cost. Eligible resident and small commercial accounts will receive an opt out letter to which they must respond within 14 days if they do not want to be in the program. Otherwise, they will automatically be enrolled.

**5. I am located with the Village limit, have already switched to another ARES, but would like to join the program. Can I do this?**

Yes. Contact Constellation directly at 800-718-1493 to enroll. We suggest you check your 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 three-year contract, for no fee. Again, for the Village’s program there is no fee to enroll and there is no fee to later vacate the program.

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

A Municipal Electric Aggregation Program was approved by voters in a March 20, 2012 referendum allowing the Village to seek pricing from an ARES for residents and small commercial accounts.

**7. Are other municipalities doing this?**

Yes. Over 600 Illinois municipalities have implemented electric aggregation programs to help ratepayers achieve savings versus the supply rate established by the Illinois Power Agency (IPA) that is otherwise available through ComEd. Millions of Illinois ratepayers are currently enrolled in similar programs across the State.

**8. How can the Village get lower rates than ComEd?**

The State of Illinois has deregulated energy markets. There is no longer a sole electric supplier

and now many ICC-regulated companies offer electricity supply to residents. Deregulation, and new technologies in electricity procurement have driven market prices lower.

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

The effective ComEd rate for the period June 1 2014 through May 31 2015 will be announced near the end of May 2014 but as of yet, is unknown. That rate is comprised of a fixed charge (which [includes supply and transmission services](#)) plus a variable charge, the Purchase Electricity Adjustment (PEA), which can adjust monthly, but since August 2013 has remained static at 0.5 cents per kWh. The ComEd rate and breakdown of the components comprising that number can be found here:

<http://www.pluginillinois.org/FixedRateBreakdownComEd.aspx>

The Village offers one fixed rate. To find the equivalent ComEd Price to Compare, you must add 1) Electric Supply Charge, 2) Transmission Services Charge, and 3) the Purchased Electricity Adjustment.

**10. How will the new supplier's rate compare with the ComEd [rate](#) under "Electric Supply Services" on my bill?**

There is simply one fixed rate [that covers](#) both [electric supply and transmission services](#), and no other charge for that portion of your electric bill. [You will never be charged a Purchase Electricity Adjustment](#) by Constellation.

**11. 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 do not *supply* electricity. They will pass along the fees you pay for your energy *supply* (the actual electricity) to the new supplier. ComEd will retain the fees that you pay ComEd for delivering the electricity.

**12. 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.

**13. Whom do I call if I have service problems?**

Call ComEd with reports of outages or downed power lines at 800-334-7661. For questions about your supply, you may call the customer service number for Constellation. This will be listed under "Electric Supply Services" on your ComEd bill.

**14. How will I know if I am saving money?**

Your new supplier's rate will be clearly stated on your ComEd bill along with the customer service number. Subtract that number from the ComEd supply rate and the difference, multiplied by your kWh usage for the month, is the dollar amount you have saved that month.

**15. Will the new Constellation rate change?**

The rate is fixed for three years. The Village can go back to bid for new rates when this term expires. You will automatically be included in the program again, or you may choose to opt out.

**16. I am on ComEd's special lower residential space heating rate. How do I benefit?**

Effective June 1 2013, there is no longer a special Residential Electric Space Heat rate. Electric

space heat accounts now have the same rate as non-electric space heat accounts.

**17. If I am automatically enrolled in the program now, can I leave the program at any time?**

Yes, you may later leave the program and move your account back to ComEd or another ARES. You will not be charged any early termination fee to leave the program at any time during the three-year term.

The rate contracted for residents and small commercial business owners of the Village is \$0.06621 (or 6.621¢) per kWh for a term of three years.

**18. When will my account be switched to Constellation?**

Your account will be enrolled in the aggregation program upon your meter read date in May 2014.

**19. What is ComEd's 12-month "stay" requirement?**

Please note regulations that prohibit customers from switching accounts frequently. If your account was with an alternative supplier, and you moved back to ComEd more than two months ago, you are under a 12-month stay or "bundled hold" and may not switch to a new supplier for that time.

If you are automatically enrolled in the Village's aggregation program, and later switch back to ComEd, you must switch to a new, different supplier within two months or you will be subject to that 12-month bundled hold. If you have never chosen a supplier and choose to opt out of the aggregation program, you are not under a 12-month bundled hold and may switch to another supplier at any time.

**20. Who is the new supplier?**

Constellation's parent company, Exelon, is a FORTUNE 200 company with approximately \$33 billion in annual revenues. Constellation's affiliates are leading suppliers of energy products and services to electric and natural gas customers in 47 states and Washington D.C.

**21. I already have electric service with this supplier at a different rate. How can I join the aggregation program to get this new, lower rate?**

Call Constellation at 800-718-1493 for information about how to switch to the rate negotiated on your behalf by the Village.

**22. I am enrolled in low-income assistance program. Will that be affected?**

No. If you currently receive assistance via PIPP or LIHEAP, that status will not change as a result of enrollment in the program and you can continue to get these benefits for your ComEd bill.

**23. I'm on ComEd's budget billing plan. Will that change?**

No, if you are currently on the budget-billing plan, you will remain on the budget-billing plan.

**24. 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 and is unaffected by your participation in the program. ComEd continues to be responsible for all billing.

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

No. No one from the Village will call you or come to your home to sign you up. You need do

nothing to automatically be enrolled in the program (if your account is eligible). 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>.

**26. 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. ComEd rates are delivery rates only. Your new supplier rates are for the supply only.

**27. Will ComEd raise its rates?**

ComEd must request a rate hike from State of Illinois regulators. Regardless of which company you select as your supplier, it does not impact whether or not ComEd requests an increase in its delivery rates.

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

If you stay within the Village limits, you may choose to remain in the aggregation program but you will need to contact Constellation to re-enroll. Any move or change in the account holder name on your account generates a new ComEd account and account number, and will not automatically be placed in the program.

If you move outside of the area, 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 for which you can sign up. New residents moving into the community after the program begins will not be automatically enrolled in the program, but may contact Constellation to enroll, at no fee. They will enjoy that same fixed rate of 6.621 ¢ per kWh.

**29. How is the Village able to procure these rates to achieve savings?**

By combining the purchasing power of all residents and small commercial accounts, the Village was able to contract rates lower than residents can expect to achieve when switching individually to a new supplier. The Village combined the purchasing power of resident and small business electric accounts to negotiate a favorable rate.

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

No. By law, 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.

**31. Will my utility tax decrease?**

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.

**32. Does the energy supply include any renewable "green" energy sources?**

Yes. One hundred percent of your energy supply usage is represented by renewable "green" energy resources via the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). This represents the full portion your electric use. These renewable resources may include, but may not be exclusive to solar, wind, hydro and methane gas energy sources. RECs are certified credits for the actual production of renewable energy.

**33. What is a Renewable Energy Certificate (REC)?**

A Renewable Energy Certificate is a means by which you can support green energy sources such as geothermal, hydropower, solar and wind. When you consume energy, Constellation purchases Renewable Energy Certificates to represent the equivalent amount of your actual electricity consumption. RECs are property rights to the non-power qualities of renewable electric generation—the environmental qualities of electric power generated from renewable sources.

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 questions about your electric account, do not call Village Hall; call the new Village aggregation program supplier: Constellation, at 800-718-1493.

If you require additional assistance, call the Village's electric aggregation consultant, NIMEC at 800-727-3820. This is a voice message system on which you may leave your question and callback number. You will be contacted within 24 hours and NIMEC will work with you to answer your question or resolve your issue with Constellation or ComEd.

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

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