

Village of Gurnee Renewable / Green Aggregation Program

Following the passage of a March 2012 voter referendum, the Village of Gurnee contracted to procure electric supply in a municipal electric aggregation program for residents and small businesses. The average participating ratepayer has saved over \$400 in power costs to date, for a cumulative Village savings over \$3 million.

The Village recently received competitive bids from multiple suppliers to renew the program. All bids received were close to the ComEd rate, offering no guarantee of any savings. Therefore, the Village contracted a program with MC Squared Energy Services whereby residents and small businesses will be charged exactly the ComEd rate and will enjoy the added benefit of Wind Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) for the entire Gurnee Green Aggregation Community, at zero added cost. The program is for twelve months from July 2019 to July 2020.

Background: The cost of serving each electric account varies greatly, depending on usage patterns. Some ratepayer accounts will be switched to ComEd supply service because the cost of generation for the usage profile exceeds the ComEd rate. Others will be switched to the new supplier, MC Squared Energy Services, and will pay the same ComEd rate. MC Squared will purchase RECs for all ratepayers in the Gurnee Aggregation Community, whether moved to ComEd supply, or moved to MC Squared.

As such, some ratepayers will receive notice that their service is being moved back to ComEd supply. A few weeks later, they will receive a letter from ComEd titled “**Electric Supplier Choice – Confirmation of Drop**,” indicating their switch back to ComEd supply service. These ratepayers will continue to be participants in the Gurnee Aggregation Community, even while at ComEd supply service.

Some ratepayers will receive notice their service is being switched to MC Squared. A few weeks later, they will receive a letter from ComEd titled “**Electric Supplier Choice Confirmation**,” indicating their switch to MC Squared supply service.

Every resident in the Gurnee Aggregation Community, whether receiving service from ComEd or from MC Squared, will be participants of the Gurnee Renewable Aggregation.

The program will significantly reduce carbon emissions. RECs purchased for the Village’s energy consumption will be sourced from wind power generators located in the Midwest. For more information about Renewable Energy, view this [video](#) prepared by the EPA.

There is never an enrollment fee, an early termination fee, nor any added monthly fees.

PROGRAM FAQs

1. What is the ComEd rate?

The summer ComEd rate is 6.725¢ per kWh and will rise to 7.216¢ beginning October, for an annualized average of 7.052¢. This is comprised of electricity supply, transmission services and the Purchased Electricity Adjustment (PEA) that varies monthly. The same ComEd rate including the PEA charge or credit, will be charged to all participants in the Gurnee Community

Aggregation, whether enrolled with MC Squared or whether receiving supply service via ComEd. To learn more about rates, visit pluginillinois.org, the site created by the Illinois Commerce Commission to inform ratepayers.

2. Where does green energy come from?

Wind generation sites are the primary source of renewable green energy in the State of Illinois, followed by solar, hydro, and methane gas from landfills. Nuclear and natural gas are not considered renewable green resources for power generation.

3. If we buy green energy, will our homes be powered by the actual electricity that is generated by windmills, solar, hydro, etc.?

The power grid maintained by ComEd that serves your community cannot route specific power directly to your home. Those who purchase green power typically pay a premium to support green energy through the purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). RECs subsidize the cost of those companies that actually generate the green/renewable power.

4. How can we be certain we are buying green / renewable power?

When a power supplier sells a “green energy” product in the marketplace, that supplier is required to purchase and retire RECs to support their green products. The supplier must document and report those transactions to State and Federal agencies.

5. Are RECs legitimate?

Yes. RECs represent the benefits and attributes of renewable green energy. As energy is generated, the generation owners sell the RECs, which are numbered within an audited tracking system. RECs may be resold and only used once and then must be retired. Anyone who claims they purchase renewable power either has on-site renewable generation such solar panels or a windmill directly hooked up to their home, or they must purchase RECs to support green power development.

6. How can I enroll in the program?

During the initial three-week opt out period, you need do nothing if you received a notice at your ComEd billing address; you will automatically be enrolled unless you opt out. The notice will detail whether your account will be switched to ComEd or to MC Squared. You need do nothing, and all of your power consumption over the next 12 months will be offset by Renewable Energy Credits, sourced from wind generation in the Midwest.

7. 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 within the Village limits.

8. What if I don't want to participate?

You may opt out before the program begins. You may leave the program after it begins, and you will never incur a fee.

9. Why is the Village doing this?

A Municipal Electric Aggregation Program was approved by a simple majority in a 2012 voter Referendum allowing the Village to seek pricing from an ARES for residents and small commercial

accounts. The Village is committed to environmental sustainability, and in this instance, there is zero additional cost to procure green energy for the Village's residents—a win-win.

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.

11. 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 Constellation. This will be listed under "Electric Supply Services" on your ComEd bill.

12. 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 Supplier. There is no early termination fee to leave.

13. 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 and you can continue to get these benefits for your ComEd bill.

14. I'm on ComEd's budget billing plan. Will that change? Can I still have my payment automatically deducted from my checking account as I do now?

Your participation in the budget billing plan won't change. The way you pay your ComEd bill will not change.

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

No. You need do nothing to automatically be enrolled in the program. If someone calls or visits your home claiming to be the Village's power supplier you may file a complaint with the ICC at <http://www.icc.illinois.gov/consumer/complaint>.

For more information about energy supply choices, visit the ICC site at pluginillinois.org.

For questions about your electric account, do not call Village Hall; call Gurnee's aggregation program supplier, MC Squared, at 855-564-8130. If you require additional assistance, please 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.

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