

Electric Aggregation Program – Rate Update

Background

Washington residents approved electric aggregation by referendum in 2012. This program allows communities to combine purchasing power and secure competitive supply rates, while Ameren continues to deliver electricity and maintain the infrastructure.

Since then, Washington has participated in a regional consortium that negotiates supply contracts on behalf of multiple municipalities. This joint effort helps ensure stable pricing and more predictable bills for residents.

Why rates increased in 2025

The energy market has been extremely volatile in recent years. Several factors have contributed to higher prices:

- **Increased demand:** AI data centers, cryptocurrency mining, and electric vehicles are drawing more power from the grid than ever before.
- **Declining supply:** Several coal-fired power plants in Illinois and across the Midwest have retired, reducing available generation.
- **Market tightening:** With higher demand and reduced supply, wholesale electricity prices rose significantly.

As a result, Ameren's standard supply rates increased this summer, and Washington's aggregation program rate also rose:

- **Through July 2025:** \$0.1003 per kWh
- **August 1, 2025:** \$0.12937 per kWh

* The delivery rates, which are separate from the aggregation program, remain with Ameren. These delivery charges have also increased, but they are not connected to the City's aggregation program or its negotiated supply rates.

New Contract Negotiated

The consortium has secured a new contract with Homefield Energy to take effect **December 1, 2025**, when the current agreement expires. The terms provide relief and stability:

- **Dec 2025 – May 2026:** \$0.094 per kWh (fixed, including capacity charges)

- **June 2026 – June 2027:** \$0.132 per kWh, aligning with Ameren’s seasonal rate change (fixed, including capacity charges)
- **July 2027 onward:** Rate to be determined closer to that time due to unknown capacity charges.

Resident Options

- If you are currently with Homefield Energy and want to remain in the program → **no action is required.**
- If you are not currently with Homefield but want to be included in the program → **no action is required.**
- If you want to stay with Ameren or switch back to Ameren → you must **opt out.**

Opt-Out Process

Residents will receive letters in September with full instructions and an opt-out deadline. You can opt out in three ways:

1. Mail – using the prepaid envelope included in the letter
2. Online – link provided in the letter
3. Phone – toll-free number listed in the letter

There is **no charge** to leave the program, though in some cases re-enrollment may require a 12-month wait.

Need Help?

- **Energy Consultant Hotline:** 844-686-4244 (leave your name, community, and phone number for a call back within 24 hours).
- **Check Program Status:** 833-200-9834