



COLLINSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

New Chamber Member Benefit Program Could Mean Lower Electric Rates for YOU!

The Chamber has entered into an exclusive partnership with new Chamber member, Affordable Gas + Electric (AGE) to form the Collinsville Chamber's Commercial Electricity Buying Group.

Eligibility Requirements

- You must be a member of the Collinsville Chamber
- You must be an Ameren Illinois electric customer
- If you are currently under contract with a Retail Electric Supplier, it must be set to expire before the end of 2018
- There is no cost to participate

What Does This Mean?

Several years ago, the investor owned electric utilities in Illinois became deregulated. Companies such as Ameren Illinois became an electric delivery company and were no longer in the business of selling electric energy except as a supplier of last resort. Ameren produced the following video to explain what this means for you:



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmFDyPEx0f8>

Initially little interest in helping typical commercial accounts had been shown, outside of telemarketers and door to door companies, until electric aggregators such as AGE began to form larger buying pools for commercial electric customers. These pools combined the electric loads of multiple businesses to make a larger and much more attractive load for a Retail Electric Supplier to serve.

The Collinsville Chamber of Commerce has entered into an exclusive partnership with AGE to act as the aggregator to secure special discounted electric supply rates for our Chamber member businesses. The more Chamber members who enroll their Ameren Illinois electric accounts in the buying group, the better the rates negotiated on our behalf... Similar to how buying paper or other office supplier can be cheaper if purchased in bulk quantities.

All Chamber members who are service by Ameren Illinois will be eligible to participate. You will need to complete and submit the attached enrollment form, along with a recent copy of your electricity bill, to the Chamber or AGE. **This enrollment form does not lock you into an agreement, it simply means that you wish to be a part of the group and see what the rates are.** Once the rates are announced, then you will be asked to sign a contract, locking in that negotiated rate for our Chamber members.

**If your electric account is currently served by Southwestern, your business is unfortunately not eligible for this program. Southwestern is an electric cooperative, and is not subject to the same state laws overseeing deregulation and electric supplier choice.

Why Should I Join In?

Besides the obvious dollar savings, you will be helping other Chamber member businesses obtain a lower rate!

AGE currently has Chamber of Commerce Buying Groups established in 18 Southern Illinois Chambers. On average, participating **Chamber member businesses in those programs are seeing rates 15-25% below current standard electric rates.** The final rates for our Chamber may be better depending on the size of our buying pool and current market conditions.

If you are currently in a contract with a retail electric supplier you can still submit your information to join the program and take advantage of the buying group's benefits. AGE will include your account in the rate negotiations, but would delay the start of your contract to coincide with the ending of your current agreement.

ENROLLMENT PERIOD DEADLINE and Other Important Dates:

To be included in the initial rate negotiations, you must submit your enrollment to the Chamber or AGE by November 22nd.

November 22nd

Nov 27th – Dec 1st

Dec 4th – Dec 8th

Jan – Feb 2018

DEADLINE for Members to Participate

Pricing Negotiated for the Buying Group

Contracts Sent to Members for Execution

New Lower Electricity Rates Begin