



## Village of La Grange Park - 100% Green Aggregation

Following the passage of a March 20, 2012 voter Referendum, the Village of La Grange Park contracted to procure electric supply in a municipal electric aggregation program for residents and small businesses. The average participating ratepayer achieved \$319 in savings on their power costs for a cumulative Village-wide savings over \$1.26 million in that program that expired in 2014.

Since 2014, the Village has continued to monitor the power supply market and recently was able to secure a program with MC Squared Energy Services, LLC (MC Squared) whereby residents and small businesses will pay the same rates as the ComEd published tariff rates for power supply, and will enjoy the added benefit of 100% Wind Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) for the La Grange Park Green Aggregation Community Program, at zero added cost. The program is for a 36-month term starting with the meter read dates in November 2018 and ending at meter read dates in November 2021.

**Background:** The cost of serving each electric account varies greatly, depending on usage patterns. Some ratepayer accounts will be served by 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, a Chicago-based electricity supplier, and will also pay the same ComEd published tariff rates for supply. MC Squared will purchase RECs for all ratepayers in the La Grange Park Aggregation Community Program, whether served on ComEd supply, or served by MC Squared.

As such, some ratepayers will receive notice that their account will remain with ComEd supply service. There is no need to opt out because their account will not be switched.

Other 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 the switch to MC Squared supply service. Those ratepayers may choose to opt out by calling MC2 at 855-564-8129 or returning the enclosed pre-paid postage card.

Eligible residents in the La Grange Park Aggregation Community Program, whether receiving service from ComEd or from MC Squared, will be participants of the La Grange Park 100% Green Aggregation. All will pay the same rate. Notices of the program will be mail dropped in September. There is never an enrollment fee, an early termination fee, nor any added monthly administrative fees. Residents that have selected another retail electric supplier are not included in the Program unless they opt into the Program by calling MC Squared.

The program is anticipated to reduce carbon emissions by more than 17,000 tons annually. Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) purchased for the Village Green Aggregation Program are based on historical energy consumption, and sourced from wind power generators located in the Midwest by MC Squared.

This program enables the Village to receive the designation of an EPA Green Power Partner Community. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lists the following benefits of attaining designation as a Green Power Partner Community:

- Improved living and community environment
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants
- Demonstrated civic leadership
- Enhanced community image and increased citizen pride

## PROGRAM FAQs



### 1. What is the ComEd rate?

In May, the ComEd rate was announced to be 7.941¢ for the period October 2018 to May 2019. ***However***, due to a settlement by the Illinois Commerce Commission and Midwest state regulators, it will drop to **7.292¢** per kWh for this same period. As a result, all La Grange Park ratepayers who are participants of the 100% Green Aggregation will enjoy this rebate by way of a lower power rate. Every household served by either ComEd supply or MC Squared supply will have the 7.292¢ per kWh. This rate is comprised of electricity supply and transmission services plus 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 La Grange Park Community Aggregation, whether enrolled with MC Squared or whether receiving supply service via ComEd. To learn more about electric rates, visit [pluginillinois.org](http://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 100% green energy, will our homes be powered by the actual electricity that is generated by windmills, solar, hydro, etc.?

No. The power grid maintained by ComEd that serves your community cannot route specific power resources 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. Note: ComEd is only required to provide 14.5% utilizing Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).

### 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 the Midwest Renewable Energy Tracking System (M-RETS).

### 5. What is a Renewable Energy Certificate (REC); are they legitimate?

Yes. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has oversight of RECs and renewable generation marketing claims. RECs represent the benefits and attributes of renewable green energy. As energy is generated, the generators sell the RECs, which are numbered within an audited tracking system. RECs may be resold, 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. The Federal EPA has oversight of the EPA Green Power Partnership Program.

### 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 stay with ComEd or be switched to MC Squared. You need do nothing, and your power consumption over the next 36 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, including small commercial accounts. Your residence or business must be 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 via RECs 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 MC Squared. 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 be 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](http://pluginillinois.org).

For questions about your electric account, do not call Village Hall; call La Grange Park's aggregation program supplier, MC Squared, at 855-564-8129. If you require additional assistance, 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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