

# ComEd's Hourly Pricing

**Program Guide** 



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# THE HOURLY PRICING PROGRAM

ComEd's Hourly Pricing, a program enabled by your home's smart meter, is an energy supply rate option for residential customers that allows you to pay the hourly market price for electricity. By shifting some of your energy use to lower-priced hours, you can save money on your monthly bills.

As an Hourly Pricing program participant, you'll have tools to help you save that you can access whether you're at home or on the go.

These services include Hourly Pricing Alerts, an online bill comparison tool, a mobile app, and additional information to help guide your energy decisions.

This guide provides an overview of the Hourly Pricing program, tips on managing costs with Hourly Pricing, and a detailed explanation of the line items that appear on participants' energy bills.

### IT'S SIMPLE TO SAVE ON HOURLY PRICING



Take advantage of low energy prices during mornings, nights, and weekends.



We'll monitor prices and occasionally send you alerts so you know the best times to use less energy.



When you receive an alert, delay using large appliances until later in the day and you could save.\*



We'll send you monthly savings reports via email.

<sup>\*</sup> High-price periods don't typically last more than an hour. You can check real-time prices via the ComEd mobile app or at ComEd.com/HourlyPricing.



### **HOURLY MARKET PRICES**

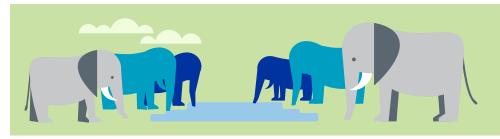
ComEd's Hourly Pricing program gives you access to hourly electricity prices that are based on the Residual ComEd Zone PJM wholesale market prices. These prices vary from hour to hour and day to day according to the actual market price of electricity. You can manage your costs with Hourly Pricing by using appliances that consume a lot of energy during lower-priced hours and conserving energy during hours when prices are higher.

### **HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT**

By controlling and shifting your energy use to lower-priced hours, you'll not only save money, but you'll also help reduce energy demand during peak times when the use of older, less efficient generation facilities is often needed. In this way, you'll help reduce the release of emissions that contribute to global climate change.

\$23 million and 65 million kWh





Participants have helped prevent 58,193 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere. That's equal to the weight of 10,691 African Elephants.

It's also the amount of carbon captured by 68,489 acres of forest in a single year, which is nearly half the land area of the City of Chicago!



### **WE'RE HERE FOR YOU**

The Hourly Pricing program gives you personalized information, tools, and services to help you take control of your energy costs. As a participant, you'll receive:



Information and tips to help you reduce your energy costs.



Access to electricity price updates online and by phone so you can decide how and when to use energy.



Online tools that help you understand your savings and usage as well as cool ways to save.



Support from program specialists who are just a live online chat, email, or phone call away.

# **COMPARING YOUR RATE OPTIONS**

The main difference between ComEd's two rates is how you pay for your energy supply.





# **HOURLY PRICING**

With Hourly Pricing, the price of electricity varies from hour to hour based on wholesale market prices. Your bill will show the total cost for the energy used, calculated using these hourly prices and your corresponding hourly energy use measured by your home's smart meter. ComEd does not mark up or profit from the price of electricity; you simply pay the market price.

Regardless of your energy supply choice (Hourly Pricing rate, standard fixed-price rate, or other alternative supply option), all residential customers are required to pay the same Delivery Service charges. These charges finance the maintenance of the poles, wires, and services required to deliver energy to your home, and they are shown separately on your energy bill.

### STANDARD FIXED-PRICE RATE

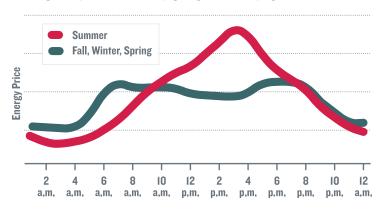
With ComEd's standard fixed-price rate, you pay a set price for your energy supply. This price varies by season and is adjusted periodically, but it does not change from hour to hour or day to day.

Note: If you are currently participating in ComEd's Net Metering program (Rider Parallel Operation of Retail Customer Generating Facilities with Net Metering or POGNM) and you switch your rate to the Hourly Pricing program, your net metering credits will be calculated as a dollar value at the time of generation. For more information on your current kWh credits or the Net Metering program in general, call 800-825-5436 or email GPCTeam@ComEd.com.

# MANAGING COSTS WITH HOURLY PRICING

Hourly electricity prices typically change as the demand for energy changes; higher demand usually means higher hourly prices. Average prices tend to be higher during weekdays and lower during early mornings, nights, and weekends. Demand and price patterns also vary by season. By keeping these patterns in mind, you can wisely manage your energy use and save money.

# **TYPICAL REAL-TIME PRICING PATTERNS\***



<sup>\*</sup> Based on average prices for January 2016 through December 2019. Non-summer months include October through May. Summer months include June through September.

### Summer Price Pattern

Normally the highest prices in the summer will be in the late afternoon and early evening. Energy prices typically fluctuate the most during the summer because energy demand fluctuates considerably as businesses and households turn their air conditioners on and off. When temperatures are especially high, hourly prices can rise significantly.

# Fall, Winter, and Spring Price Pattern

During the cooler months, there tends to be a price spike in the morning and evening, and prices are typically lower overall than in the summer.

# MANAGING COSTS WITH HOURLY PRICING

### OTHER FACTORS THAT IMPACT REAL-TIME PRICES

- The weather can impact the real-time price of electricity, particularly during the summer when air conditioner use drives up demand for energy.
- Prices can sometimes increase in the spring or fall if a heat wave occurs when some power plants are shut down for maintenance.

- During the winter, electricity prices can increase when there is a sudden and significant temperature drop or when extended cold snaps push up natural gas prices.
- There can also be unexpected and brief price spikes if multiple power plants have technical or mechanical problems at the same time.

### A NOTE ABOUT NEGATIVE PRICES

With real-time hourly market prices, it is possible for the price of electricity to be negative for short periods of time. This typically occurs in the middle of the night and, under certain circumstances, when energy supply is far greater than demand. In the market, some types of electricity generators cannot or prefer not to reduce energy output for short periods of time when demand is insufficient, and, as a result, some generators may provide electricity to the market at prices below zero. Since Hourly Pricing participants pay the market price of electricity, it's like getting paid to use energy, though other charges still apply.

# **TOOLS TO HELP YOU SAVE**



### **CENTRAL AC CYCLING**

- If you have central air conditioning, you can sign up for ComEd's Central AC Cycling, which allows ComEd to cycle your air conditioner's compressor off and on during summer days when demand for energy is highest.
- When you sign up for ComEd's Central AC Cycling program
  on a direct load control switch, you will receive a credit of
  \$5 or \$10 each month (depending on which cycling option
  you select) on your June through September ComEd bills.



### LOAD GUARD AUTOMATIC PRICE RESPONSE SERVICE

- If enrolled in ComEd's Central AC Cycling, Hourly Pricing participants can also sign up for the Load Guard Automatic Price Response Service, which is an automatic air conditioner cycling option designed especially for participants.
- Load Guard automatically cycles your air conditioner's compressor off and on during high-priced hours to help you save money, so you have one less thing to worry about.

To enroll or learn more about ComEd's Central AC Cycling and Load Guard, go to **ComEd.com/HourlyPricing** or call **888-202-7787**.

# **TOOLS TO HELP YOU SAVE**





### **HOURLY PRICING ALERTS**

- Hourly Pricing Alerts can help you save money by telling you to shift energy use either now or tomorrow. You can receive alerts via email, text message, or automated phone call. To sign up or change your alert preferences, sign in to your My Hourly Pricing Account or email us at info@ComEdHourlyPricing.com.
- An alert that tells you to save energy immediately is sent when the real-time market price of electricity is trending high.
- A different alert that tells you in advance to reduce your energy use tomorrow during specific hours can help reduce the Capacity Charge on your future energy bills.

### **ACCESS TO PRICE INFORMATION**

- Each evening, day-ahead prices are available online and by phone at 888-202-7787.
- You can use these day-ahead prices to help you plan how and when you use energy.
- You also can go to ComEd.com/HourlyPricing to view hourly electricity prices throughout the day.

# **TOOLS TO HELP YOU SAVE**

### MY HOURLY PRICING ACCOUNT



 Each month after your bill is calculated, you will be able to log in to your My Hourly Pricing Account, which is separate from your ComEd.com account, to access a breakdown of your hourly energy use and costs. You'll also be able to compare your costs with Hourly Pricing to what you would have paid on ComEd's standard fixed-price rate.

### **MOBILE APP**

- Hourly Pricing participants can access specialized tools in ComEd's free mobile app so you can easily check prices, view your savings information, and quickly connect to program specialists.
- Download the free ComEd mobile app for flexibility, convenience, and control at your fingertips.



 The tools available only to Hourly Pricing participants can be found by opening the app and navigating to "Check Up On Your Hourly Pricing Savings" towards the bottom of the main screen.

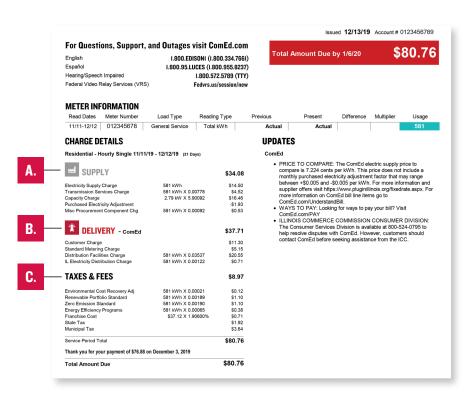
# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

 For more information about the Hourly Pricing program and available tools, visit HourlyPricing.ComEd.com/FAQs.

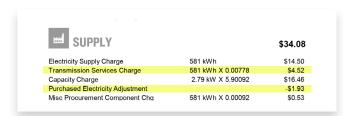
Some of the line items and charges will be the same for both participants in ComEd's Hourly Pricing program and ComEd's standard fixed-price rate customers. Some line items will be different or will be calculated based on different rates. All line items under Section B, Delivery, and Section C, Taxes & Fees, are calculated the same way for all residential customers.

Here is an example of the line items on your bill and how the charges for Hourly Pricing participants differ from the charges for customers on ComEd's standard fixed-price rate. All charges on ComEd bills are based on tariffs and riders approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission. ComEd's full rate book is available online and should be considered the official record for these items.

Go to ComEd.com/Rates and click on ComEd's Entire Schedule of Rates for Electric Service to view ComEd's full rate book



# **HOW YOUR HOURLY PRICING BILL DIFFERS**



A. Under supply-related charges, all customers will have an Electricity Supply Charge, a Transmission Services Charge, and a Purchased Electricity Adjustment. However, the rates for these line items are different for Hourly Pricing participants and ComEd's standard fixed-price rate customers.

Hourly Pricing bills include separate line items for the Capacity Charge and the Miscellaneous Procurement Charge. A standard fixed-price rate bill includes the costs for these two line items in the Electricity Supply Charge.

# **HOW YOUR HOURLY PRICING BILL IS THE SAME**

DELIVERY - ComEd		\$37.71
Customer Charge		\$11.30
Standard Metering Charge		\$5.15
Distribution Facilities Charge	581 kWh X 0.03537	\$20.55
L Electricity Distribution Charge	581 kWh X 0.00122	\$0.71
TAXES & FEES		\$8.97
Environmental Cost Recovery Adj	581 kWh X 0.00021	\$0.12
Renewable Portfolio Standard	581 kWh X 0.00189	\$1.10
Zero Emission Standard	581 kWh X 0.00190	\$1.10

B.

The Delivery and Taxes & Fees sections use the same rates for Hourly Pricing participants and customers on ComEd's standard fixed-price rate.

### DIFFERENCES IN HOW SUPPLY CHARGES ARE CALCULATED





ComEd's standard fixed-price rate Electricity Supply Charge is based on the costs of procuring electric power and energy. This charge includes the cost for the electric energy, capacity, and other miscellaneous costs. All of these components are purchased together and combined into one Electricity Supply Charge for standard fixed-price rate customers.

The Hourly Pricing Electricity Supply Charge is based on the real-time hourly prices, but it does not include capacity costs or miscellaneous costs. Therefore, Hourly Pricing participants have separate Capacity Charge and Miscellaneous Procurement Component Charge line items.



# Transmission Services Charge and Purchased Electricity Adjustment

The Transmission Services Charge is different for Hourly Pricing participants and for customers on ComEd's standard fixed-price rate because the supply for each is procured differently. For a similar reason, Hourly Pricing participants' Purchased Electricity Adjustment (PEA) charge or credit is different from the charge or credit for standard fixed-price rate customers.

# ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT SPECIFIC LINE ITEMS

- **Q.** Why do I pay a different Transmission Services Charge with the Hourly Pricing program?
- A. On the standard fixed-price rate, ComEd purchases transmission services for all standard fixed-price rate customers. This charge is then apportioned to different customer groups on the standard fixed-price rate, resulting in different Transmission Services Charge rates for residential, commercial, and industrial customers. On the Hourly Pricing rate, ComEd purchases transmission services for all hourly rate participants, so the Transmission Services Charge rate is the same for all hourly customers (residential, commercial, and industrial).
- **Q.** What is the Purchased Electricity Adjustment?
- **A.** The Purchased Electricity Adjustment (PEA) is a charge or credit that adjusts for the difference, if any, between the cost for electricity supplied and the revenue received from

customers for that electricity. This is reviewed monthly, and the charge rate is adjusted accordingly. The supply costs are tracked (and the PEA is adjusted) separately for different customer groups, so it may differ between Hourly Pricing participants and customers on ComEd's standard fixed-price rate.

- **Q.** What is the Miscellaneous Procurement Component Charge?
- **A.** The Miscellaneous Procurement Component Charge is a line item for Hourly Pricing participants only. This charge recovers the costs that ComEd incurs related to procuring electric power and energy for Hourly Pricing customers that are not recovered through the Capacity Charge, the Electricity Supply Charge, and the Transmission Services Charge. Similar costs for customers on ComEd's standard fixed-price rate are included in their Electricity Supply Charge.

### **ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT SPECIFIC LINE ITEMS**

- **Q.** What is the Capacity Charge?
- **A.** The Capacity Charge allows ComEd to reserve generating capacity in advance, ensuring that enough energy will be available when it is needed, even at peak times. All electricity suppliers are required to reserve capacity to cover each customer's Capacity Obligation. The Capacity Obligation represents your expected level of hourly energy use in the afternoon on a hot summer day.

For residential customers who pay ComEd's standard fixed-price rate, capacity costs are included in their Electricity Supply Charge. For Hourly Pricing participants, the Electricity Supply Charge does not include these capacity costs, so ComEd lists this as a separate Capacity Charge line item on Hourly Pricing bills.

As the market price of capacity fluctuates, all ComEd customers will see adjustments to their rate. The Capacity Charge item on your bill is adjusted annually in June. For more information on the Capacity Charge and how you can lower it on future bills, visit **HourlyPricing.ComEd.com/FAQs**.

- **Q.** How is the Capacity Charge calculated?
- **A.** There are two components to this charge: your Capacity Obligation and the Capacity Charge rate. Multiplied together, they make up the Capacity Charge item on your bill.

Your Capacity Obligation reflects how much energy you were using last summer when energy was most in demand. The method used to calculate your individual Capacity Obligation depends on when your smart meter was installed. The Capacity Charge Rate is updated each June based on the market, and your actions won't affect it.

# **Q.** How can I reduce my Capacity Charge in the future?

**A.** Reducing your energy use during peak hours (which have historically occurred between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. on the hottest weekdays of summer) could lower your Capacity Charge on future bills.

If you sign up for Hourly Pricing Alerts, you'll always be prepared for peak hours. When ComEd anticipates that energy will be most in demand, they'll send you an alert the day before so you can plan to use less. By reducing energy use during peak hours, you may lower your Capacity Obligation, and thus, your Capacity Charge on future bills.

You can sign up for or change your alert preferences in your My Hourly Pricing Account or by emailing us at info@ComEdHourlyPricing.com.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Learn more about ComEd's Hourly Pricing program:

Online: ComEd.com/HourlyPricing
Email: info@ComEdHourlyPricing.com

Call: **888-202-7787** 



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