



## **Municipal Electric Aggregation**

### **Many University of Illinois students living off campus must sign up with Homefield Energy to get lower electricity prices**

**Q. What is Municipal Electric Aggregation and why should I care?**

**A.** Because aggregation can save you money on your power bill. Urbana voters approved municipal electric aggregation in the March 20 primary. It is a way for the city to buy electricity in bulk for city residents and small businesses at a cheaper price.

The city solicited bids in May and obtained a price of 4.05 cents per kilowatt hour from Homefield Energy of Collinsville. That price is 34 percent lower than Ameren Illinois' summer rate of 6.16 cents, and 25 percent lower than Ameren Illinois' winter rate of 5.45 cents (October through May rate).

**Q. Great, that means I'll be getting a cheaper rate, right?**

**A.** Not necessarily. If you live in the same apartment as last spring, then yes, you should be enjoying the lower rates now. But if you've moved into a new apartment or house in August and opened a new Ameren account, you'll be on those higher Ameren Illinois default rates.

**Q. How do I get the lower aggregated rate?**

**A.** It's simple. You need to call or e-mail Homefield Energy and give them your name, address, apartment number (if applicable) and, most importantly, your 10-digit Ameren Illinois account number. You can find that account number on your most recent electric bill or get it from Ameren's customer contact center at 1-800-755-5000.

You can reach Homefield Energy at [custcare@homefieldenergy.com](mailto:custcare@homefieldenergy.com) or by calling their toll-free number at **866-694-1262**. Once you make the switch, your account will be moved from Ameren to Homefield Energy within the next two to four weeks, based on your meter reading date.

**Q. Is the city going to do more to help students sign up?**

**A.** Yes. We'll be getting in touch with landlords, asking them to assist in getting their tenants signed up. We'll also be sending out "opt-in" postcards in coming weeks to residents who recently moved into their

apartments, asking them if they want to join the aggregation program. But it will take time to sort through customer lists and to prepare a mailing.

Residents who want to save money ASAP should call or e-mail Homefield Energy immediately!

**Q. Does this mean I'll be getting two electric bills?**

**A.** No, you will still get just one bill from Ameren every month. You'll see the name Homefield Energy under the electric supply portion of your bill. Ameren Illinois will remain responsible for distributing or delivering the electricity to your residence and will bill you for that on the same bill.

**Q. I'm confused. Can anybody at the city help?**

**A.** Try Homefield Energy first at [custcare@homefieldenergy.com](mailto:custcare@homefieldenergy.com) or at 866-694-1262.

But city staff members Mike Monson at 384-2454 and Scott Tess at 384-2381 are prepared to answer your questions or cut through red tape.

