



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCESM

Champaign County Chamber Energy Cooperative

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

Who is eligible for the co-op? The following Chamber members located in Illinois with commercial electricity service from Ameren IP, Ameren CILCO or Ameren CIPS are eligible:

- DS 2 – Small commercial accounts
- DS 3 – Mid-sized commercial accounts
- DS-4 - Large commercial accounts

Where do I get an application? You can download it from our Web site or call the Chamber office. The application includes instructions for completing and returning it.

How much does it cost to join the co-op? The fees *per business location* are:

- \$300 (\$3,600 cap) for new electricity applications,
- \$150 (\$1,800 cap) for renewing electricity applications, and
- \$200 (\$2,400 cap) for new natural gas applications.

Fees are for the full contract term. This includes all the accounts that may be metered at one location. There will be no other charges or added points to the electricity pricing.

How much will I save? That depends on the amount of electricity you use and the rate class you are in. Each business' electrical usage varies. Based on our experience, DS 2 small commercial accounts can expect to save 8 to 10 percent in the first year of a 36-month contract. DS 3 mid-sized commercial accounts can expect to save 10 to 14 percent in the first year of a 36-month contract. DS-4 large commercial accounts (over 3 megawatts load) can expect to save 20 percent in the first year of a 36-month contract.

What if I don't like the bids received or I change my mind on bid day? Each member of the co-op will individually accept or reject the bid. You do not have to accept the bid. The application fee will not be refunded. It offsets the cost to establish the co-op, prepare the bid and negotiate pricing.

What if I move my business to a new location? Your co-op rate can usually follow you to your new location. Just be sure to contact the Chamber and the supplier in plenty of time to ensure a smooth transition.

Why do you need copies of my current electricity and natural gas bills? Each co-op member is required to submit a copy of ALL PAGES of their most recent bill for each account that is to be included in the co-op. These bills provide important information that will be used by the consulting firm and the suppliers during the bid process.

What if I join the co-op and the default rates go down? Your contract will remain in effect. Remember, while the rates may go down slightly for a period of time, the goal of the co-op is to bring you long-term budget stability. If you want to "play the market," the co-op is probably not for you.

I'm already in the Chamber's electricity co-op and just want to sign up for the new gas co-op at this time. Which form should I fill out? Use the form for new participants.

I only want to participate in the new gas co-op. Do I have to complete page 3 and list my electricity accounts anyway? No. Be sure to circle 'Natural Gas' where indicated on the first page of the application form and leave page 3 blank.

I only want to participate in the new electricity co-op. Do I have to complete page 4 and list my gas accounts? No. Be sure to circle 'Electricity' where indicated on the first page of the application form and just leave page 4 blank.

I am currently in a Chamber co-op electricity group and understand that Groups 1 and 3 should be renewing their contracts now. However, I have no clue which group I'm in. Where can I find this out? Contact the Chamber at 217.359.1791 and ask a staff person.

I'm in Group 3 and filling out the electricity renewal application form. On page 3 it asks if our accounts are in a supply contract with a third party supplier. Should I say yes? Yes, your supplier is Ameren Energy Marketing and it is a totally separate business from Ameren IP/CILCO/CIPS. (Group 1 should also say yes to this question, and list your supplier as Direct Energy).

I have two buildings on my property operating under the same business name, but they have different addresses. Are they considered separate locations? As long as the two buildings for that one business are located on contiguous property, they qualify as one location, so only one application form and fee is required for that property.

I'm renewing my electricity contract and have another location that I would like to add to the electricity co-op. Can I add it on my renewal application form? No. You must complete a separate form for new applicants to add another location.

An additional meter was installed at my business since I joined the Chamber's electricity co-op. Now that I'm renewing, can I add this meter's account number to the renewal application form, or do I have to complete a new application form for that meter? Additional meter account numbers can be added to the renewal application for a renewing location.

Should all my locations belong to the Chamber? Yes. In addition to enjoying the savings from participation in the energy co-op, Chamber membership offers many other benefits. Contact Paul Caravelli at 217.359.1791 or PaulC@champaigncounty.org for membership rates, as most additional locations can join at a special rate.

I have another location, but it is not in Champaign County. Is it possible to get it into the co-op? Yes, as long as that location is currently being served by Ameren IP, Ameren CILCO or Ameren CIPS. Applicable Chamber membership fees and application fees will apply.