



# STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO MANAGE ENERGY BILLS



## Global Increase in Energy Costs Continue to Impact Ameren Illinois Customers

Significant global events, including the conflict in eastern Europe, an increase in post-pandemic demand, increasing natural gas prices which are strongly correlated with power prices, and the nationwide transition away from fossil fuel generation to renewable generation sources are driving higher costs for the power and natural gas Ameren Illinois delivers to heat, cool, and power homes and businesses in Downstate Illinois. We want you to be aware that the supply portion of the energy bill is estimated to increase substantially (from current levels) beginning in June of 2022. Customers who use electric heat (often referred to as space heat customers) will see an even steeper increase.

Electricity is purchased for Ameren Illinois customers by a state agency and the costs are passed directly to customers, dollar for dollar without markup from Ameren Illinois. Experts expect inflationary pressures on the cost of energy, which Ameren Illinois passes on directly to our customers without markup, to continue through 2022.

**Now is a good time to plan ahead. Below are programs that may help you manage your energy bills and control your household costs.**

**Budget Billing** allows you to spread your energy costs over a longer period and avoid larger monthly bills. Under the payment plan, your bills are calculated using the average monthly bill amount based on the last 12 months. Enroll in Budget Billing at any time by signing up online at [AmerenIllinois.com/Budget](https://AmerenIllinois.com/Budget).



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program grants are available to income-qualified customers. For more information on financial guidelines, and to identify an assistance agency in your community, visit [HelpIllinoisFamilies.com](https://HelpIllinoisFamilies.com) or call **1.833.711.0374**.

**Warm Neighbors Cool Friends** is a year-round heating and cooling assistance program that can help if you don't qualify for financial assistance from other government or nonprofit programs. Learn more at [WarmNeighborsCoolFriends.org](https://WarmNeighborsCoolFriends.org).

**Energy Efficiency** Reducing the amount of energy you use will also help to lower your bill. See low cost and no cost energy savings tips and tools on the back of this flyer. Visit [AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Tips](https://AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Tips) for more information.

*We are here to help. Visit [AmerenIllinois.com](https://AmerenIllinois.com) or call **1.800.755.5000** and our customer service representatives will assist you.*

## Stay Cool This Summer with These Simple Energy-Saving Tips

### Don't Cool an Empty House

When you leave for that summer vacation, remember to turn up the thermostat to 85-90°F so you don't cool your home when no one is there to enjoy it.

### Concentrate Your AC

When it is too hot to use fans, try to concentrate your air conditioning flow to the rooms or areas of your home that you use the most. This is more energy-efficient than trying to cool your entire home. Close the vents in those rooms you don't frequently use, like spare bedrooms and the basement and only open them when you need them.

### Replace Your AC Filter

Your air conditioner has likely accumulated a lot of dust from being dormant in the winter, so replace your AC filter before you start cooling your home. This will not only help the AC unit be more efficient, but it will also help keep the air free of dust.

### Upgrade to a Smart Thermostat

If you haven't upgraded to a smart thermostat, now is the time to do so. These thermostats can change the temperature automatically based on your preferences, so you can set a lower temperature when you're home and a higher temperature while you're away at work.

### Upgrade Your Cooling Units

Because older appliances tend to be less efficient, it might be time for you to upgrade to a newer, more energy efficient AC unit. We provide discounts and incentives for customers who want to upgrade to more energy efficient HVAC systems.

### Add Natural Lighting

During spring the days get longer, so you don't need to use your indoor lights as much. Let the sunshine in by opening the shades and curtains and turn off the lights to enjoy natural lighting.

### Use Floor and Ceiling Fans

On those nice days when it doesn't feel as hot, turn off your AC and use ceiling, floor and table fans instead. Fans use a fraction of the energy that central AC units do — so when the job can be done by a fan, pick the fan.

### Switch Your Ceiling Fans

If you changed the direction of your ceiling fans to go clockwise this winter, it's time to switch them back. When your fans rotate counter-clockwise, it creates a downward flow of air so you feel cooler. Simply flip the switch (usually located at the base of your ceiling fan) to help lower your energy bill.

### Plant Trees Outside for Shade

Plant deciduous trees on the south-facing side of your home to provide shade in the spring and summer. When the trees lose their leaves, the sun will shine through and warm your house in the fall and winter.

### Put Up Window Awnings

Window awnings are a great way to keep your home cool during warm spring days. Adding shade to your windows can decrease the amount of warm sunlight that travels through your windows, making it easier to keep your home cool.

### Open Your Windows

Take advantage of cool nights by opening the windows at night to let the cool air in, then closing them during the day to keep the warm air out. It's a simple way to cool your home without running your air conditioner.

### Get a Dehumidifier

Illinois summers are known for their humidity, so combat it with a dehumidifier. Reducing the amount of moisture in the air can make your home seem cooler, without having to turn on the AC.