

## **How Green is your Electricity?**

In 2017, any discussion about the future of our environment almost certainly touches on the importance of using more green or renewable energy sources. More common sources of green energy include wind, solar, biodiesel, geothermal and hydropower. With the exception of a few line items in the “Taxes and Fees” section, a quick look at your monthly ComEd bill provides little information regarding the sources of the electricity that we use in La Grange Park on a day-to-day basis.

So, how green is the electricity ComEd supplies to our residents? The State of Illinois has established a goal for 2017 that renewable energy sources account for 13% of the electricity supply. However, according to ComEd’s Environmental Disclosure Statement for the 12 months ending March 31, 2016, renewable energy sources make up no more the 4% of ComEd’s electricity supply. Non-renewable sources, nuclear (37%), coal (34%) and natural gas (25%), continue to be ComEd’s primary electricity sources.

As a resident of La Grange Park, what options do you have if you are interested in using more green energy? Although the Village of La Grange Park selected ComEd as the default electricity supplier and distributor for our residents in September 2014, you do have the option of opting for a more green electricity supplier. In fact, ComEd’s own Customer Choice webpage describes the process of selecting an alternative supplier. You must select a supplier from ComEd’s list of Certified Retail Electric Suppliers that can be found at the link provided below. Additional information regarding Illinois electricity suppliers can be found on [www.pluginillinois.org](http://www.pluginillinois.org), including contact information to ask about the % and type of renewable supply. Should you select an alternative electricity supplier, ComEd will continue to “deliver” the electricity to your home or business, maintain responsibility for outages and send your electricity bill. In some cases, the greater the % of renewables, the more you may pay in electricity unit costs (\$/kilowatt hour (kWh)). However, in some cases, costs for renewable energy supply can be competitive.

As indicated above, the Village currently defaults to ComEd as our supplier and distributor for our residential electricity supply. However, periodically, the Village evaluates ComEd’s “default” unit costs against competitive bid costs generated by an electrical aggregation process. Electricity aggregation allows the Village to consolidate residential electricity consumption and leverage that demand to seek bids to purchase electricity in bulk at lower unit rates (\$/kWh). The electrical aggregation bid process can and does include an evaluation of renewable energy source %. As renewable energy continues to become more cost effective, we may see bids from green energy suppliers become more competitive in the electricity aggregation process. As an example, the Village recently announced it will use 100% renewable energy supplied by Constellation Energy for its water pumping station.

For additional information:

- ComEd’s Customer Choice website:  
(<https://www.comed.com/MyAccount/MyService/Pages/CustomerChoice.aspx>)
- Plug In Illinois Residential Energy Supply Comparison (ComEd Area):  
<https://www.pluginillinois.org/offers.aspx?said=1>