

Overcoming the *SHOCK* of Higher Energy Bills

How to plan for, and insulate yourself from, cost increases with competitive auctions for procurement, revenue generation programs, and renewable energy programs.

 #iasboAC25



PURSuing YOUR PURPOSE *with passion*

Introductions

Joseph McCurdy, Speaker

- Asst. Supt./CSBO, Oak Lawn CHSD 229



Becky Thompson, Speaker

- Senior Energy Advisor (CEP), Nania Energy



Nania Energy Advisors

Dan Whisler, Moderator

- Director of Buildings & Grounds, River Trails SD 26



River Trails

SCHOOL DISTRICT 26

 #iasboAC25



PURSuing YOUR PURPOSE *with passion*

What you'll learn: (hopefully)

- Why energy prices are increasing
- How this will impact your district in FY 2025-2026
- What you can do
- What's worked for other districts



X #iasboAC25

2025
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

CELEBRATING
75
YEARS

PURSuing YOUR PURPOSE *with passion*

How did you estimate your FY
'25-'26 energy budget?

X #iasboAC25

 **2025**
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

CELEBRATING
75
YEARS

PURSUING YOUR PURPOSE *with passion*

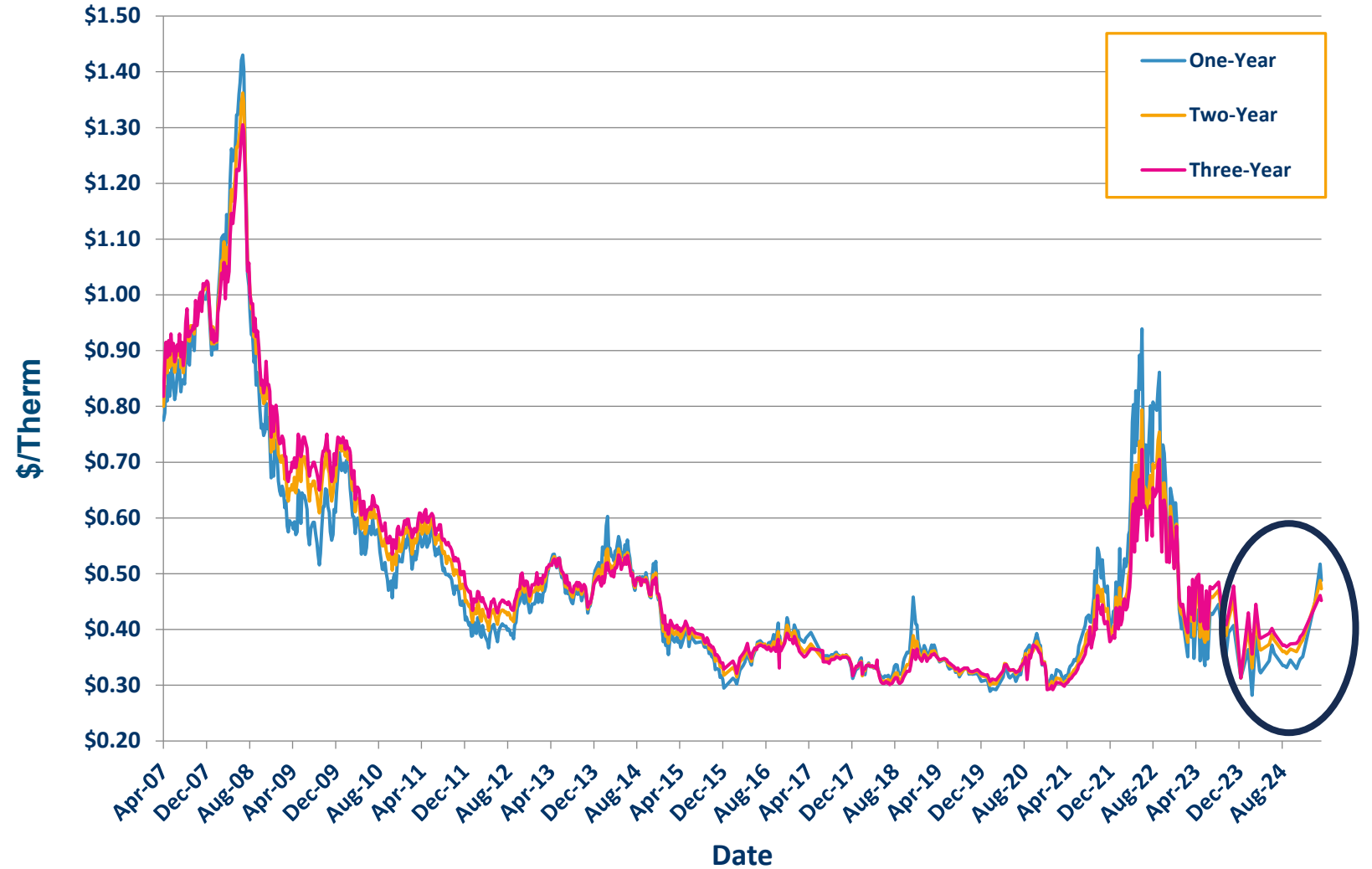


Market Update

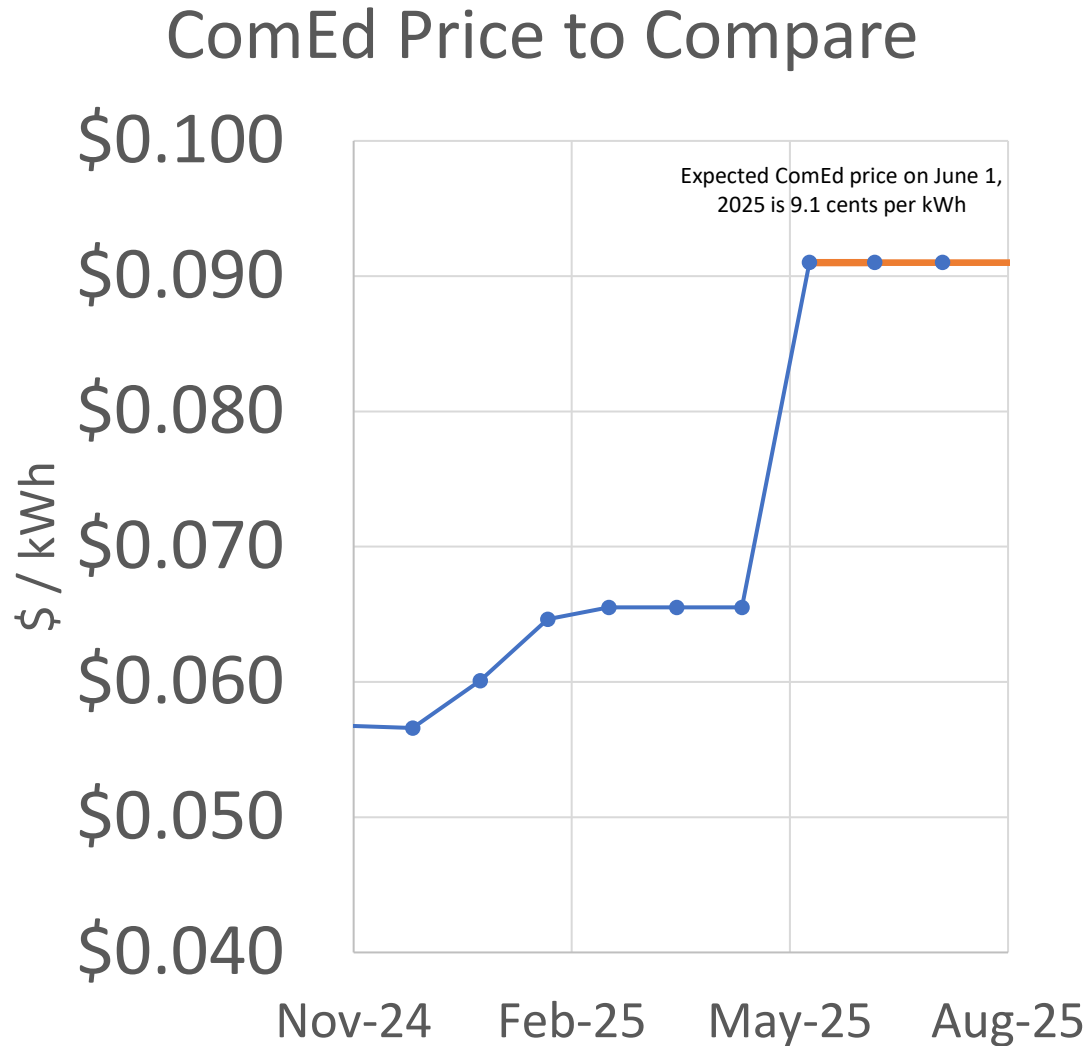
Things to Note

- Less **generation**, more demand (data centers, automation, EVs)
- Lift on **LNG** exports
- **Geopolitical** uncertainty
- Unpredictable **weather** pendulum

Energy Pricing Trends



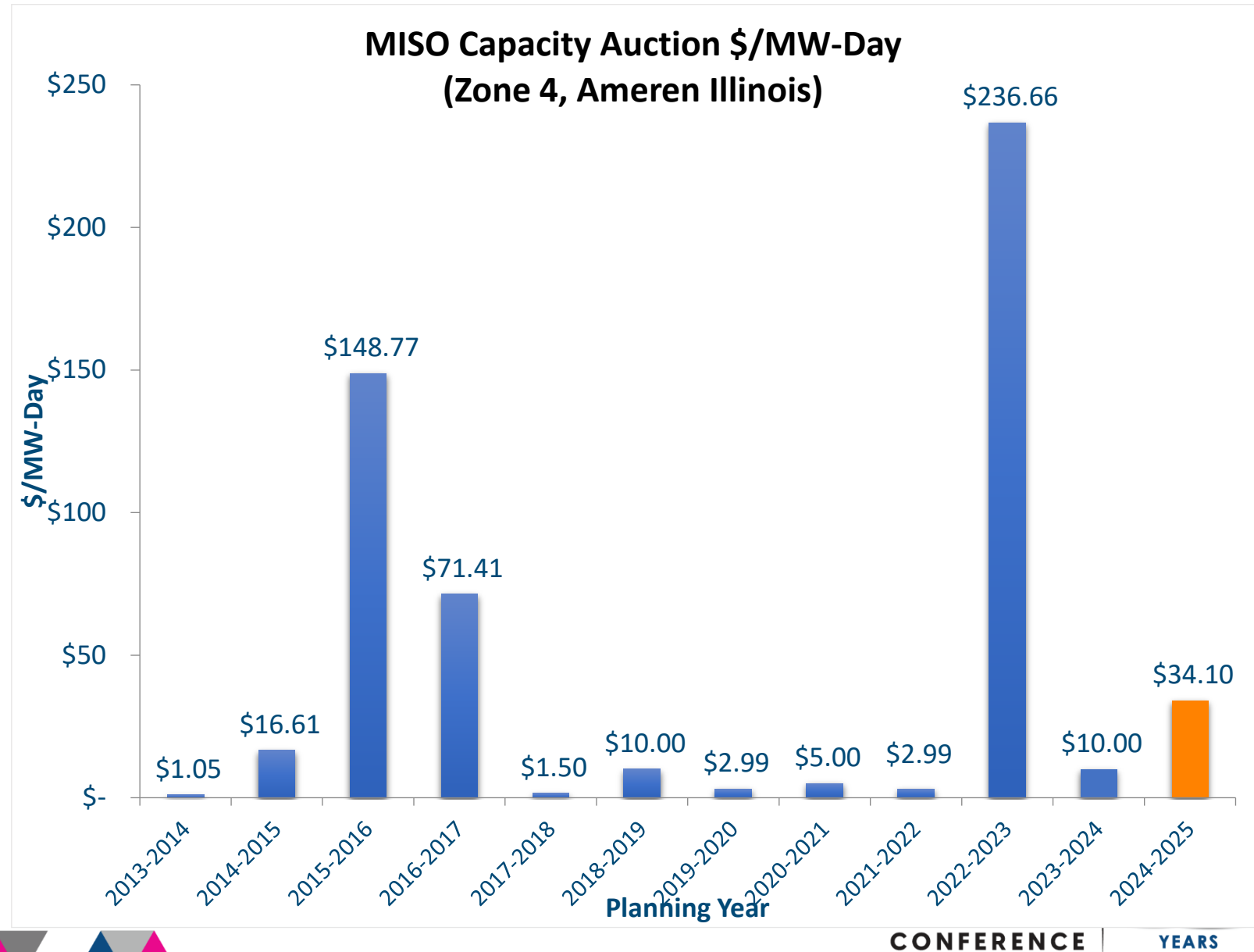
Capacity costs increasing for all ComEd users on June 1st



- **What is capacity?** Payments to generators to keep enough **reserve electricity** to meet spikes in demand.
- **Where is capacity listed on the bill?** Within the **supply price**—it accounts for ~20% of your rate.
- **Capacity costs are increasing 800%. How will this affect my total cost?** Expected impact is **2.35 cents/kWh**, roughly a 35% increase, beginning June 1, 2025. **20-25% budgetary impact expected**

Ameren Capacity

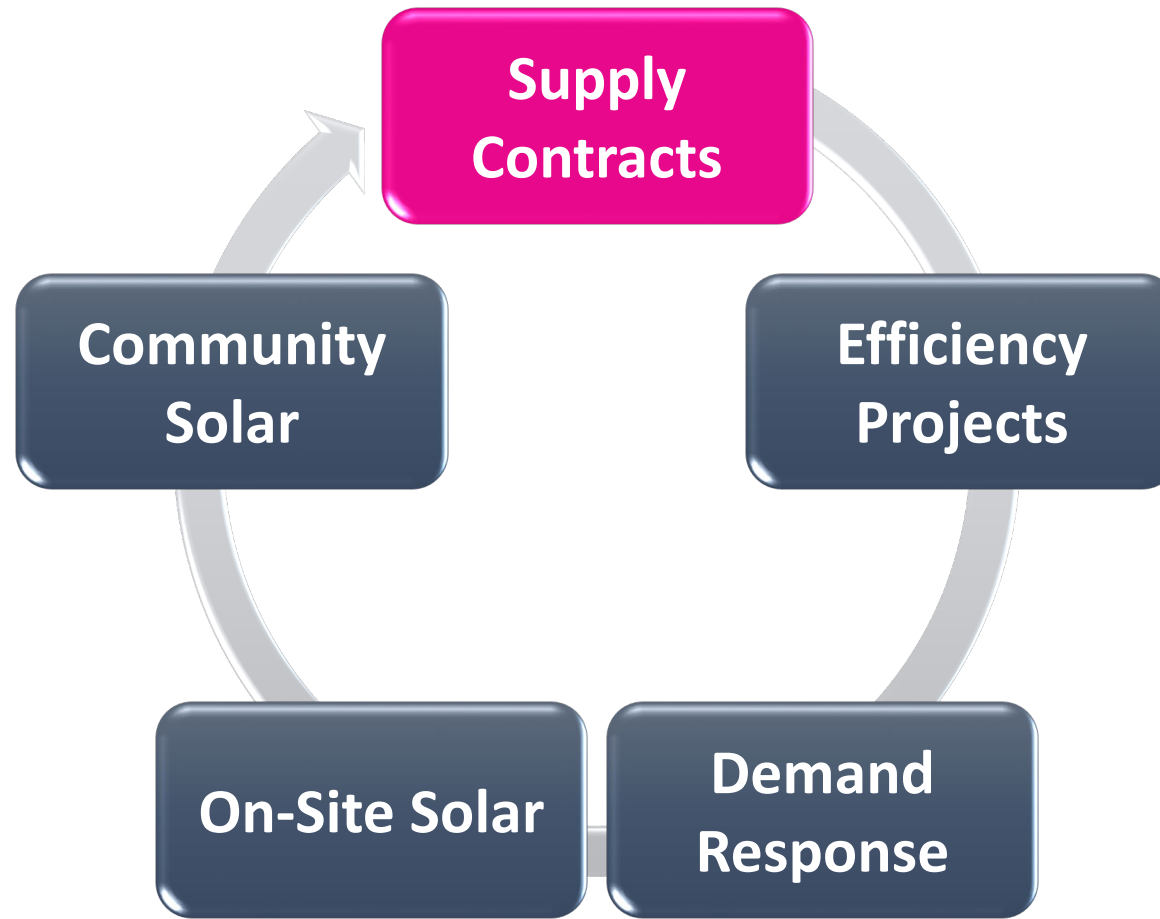
- Switched to seasonal rates, (4) per year
- Extremely unpredictable
- Suppliers not fixing as part of rate
- Prepare for continued volatility





What Can You Do?

Ways to Impact Energy Costs



 #iasboAC25

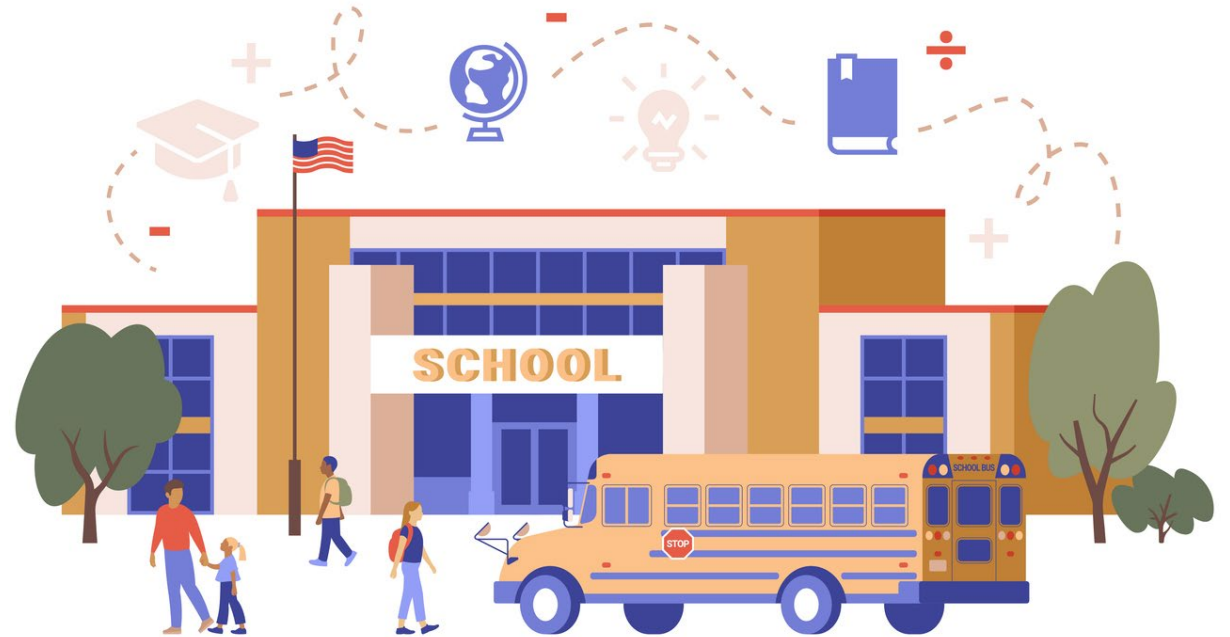
 **2025**
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

CELEBRATING
75
YEARS

PURSuing YOUR PURPOSE *with passion*

Energy Buying for Schools

- Energy spend one of **Top 10** expenses
- **No public RFP bidding** requirements for utilities per IL School Procurement Code
- **Flexibility** in contract length, product type, and energy supplier
- **No “one size fits all”**

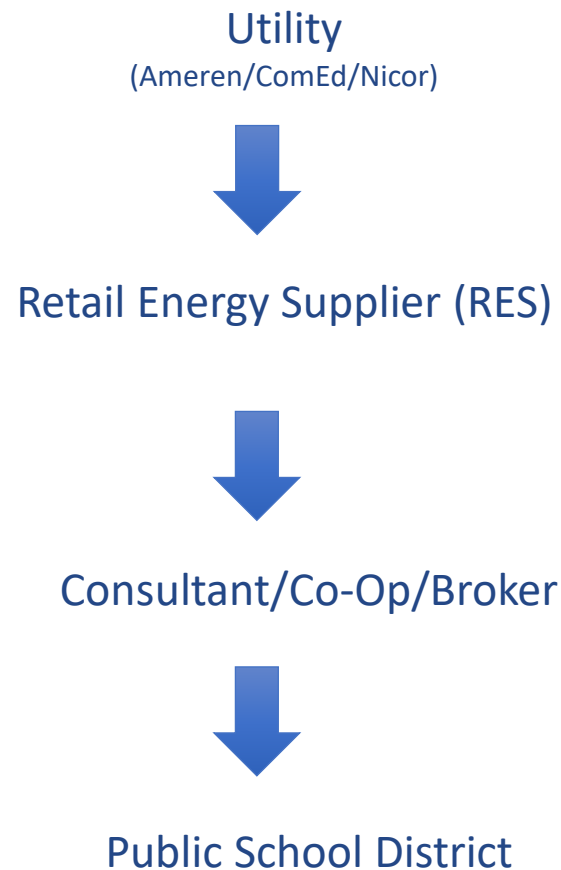


X #iasboAC25



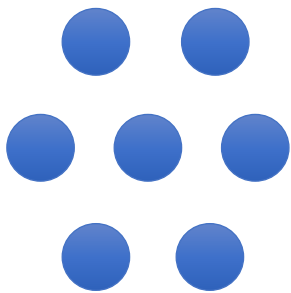
PURSuing YOUR PURPOSE *with passion*

Who is involved with buying process?



1. **DELIVERY (Public Utility):** Owns infrastructure, federally regulated, nonprofit, responsible for delivery of energy to your meter.
2. **SUPPLY (Retail Energy Supplier): OPTIONAL** Deregulated, traded on open futures market, responsible for the \$/unit of energy you use.
3. **PURCHASING (Consultant): OPTIONAL** Professional service, negotiates with retail energy suppliers, represents end user, and navigates process of buying energy supply.
4. **CONSUMPTION (End User):** Receives and consumes energy via the public utility, at a rate negotiated with the retail supplier by the consultant.

Cooperative/Group Buying



Traditional RFP

[illegible]

Reverse Auction



X #iasboAC25

X #i

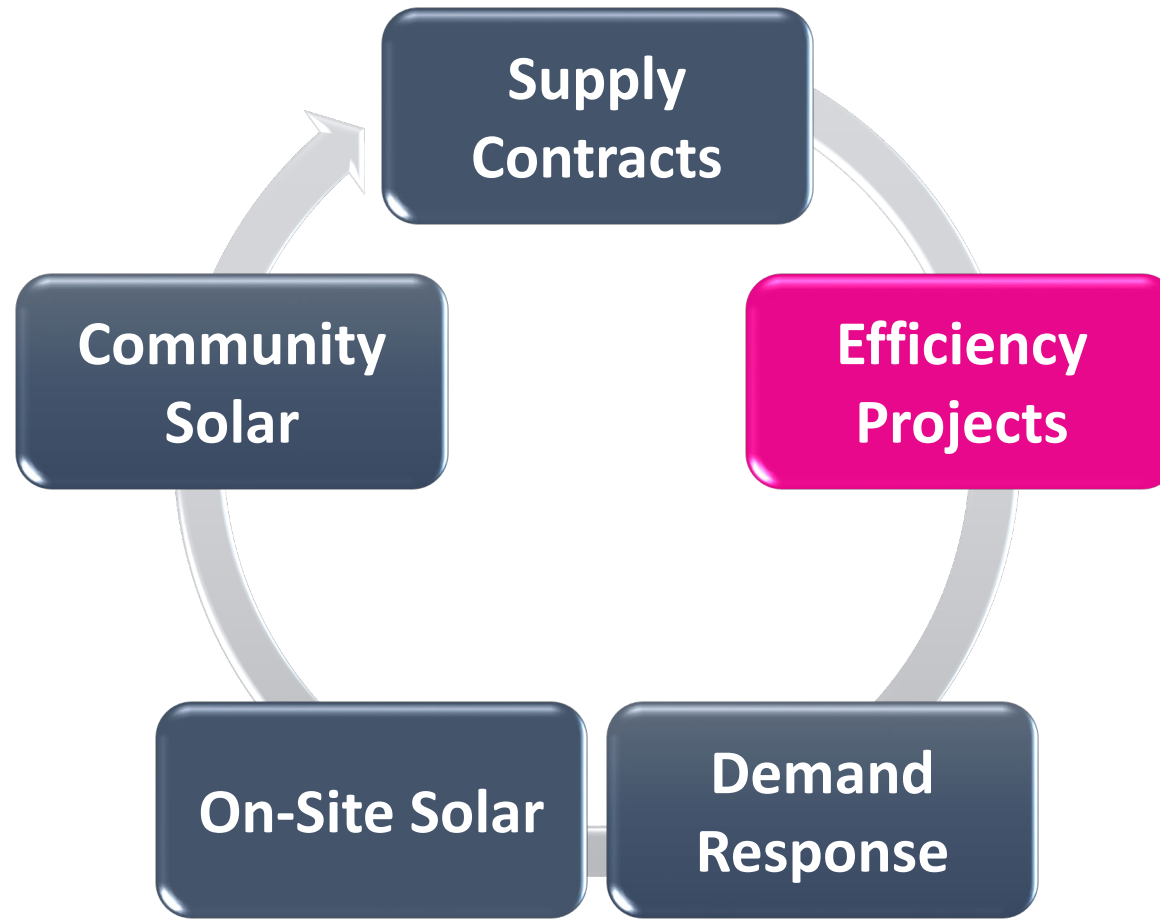


CELEBRATING
75
YEARS

CONFERENCE

PURSUING YOUR PURPOSE *with passion*

Ways to Impact Energy Costs



 #iasboAC25

 **2025**
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

CELEBRATING
75
YEARS

PURSUING YOUR PURPOSE *with passion*

Electric Incentives

- [ComEd](#) & [Ameren](#) offer incentives for new construction & retrofit/renovation projects
- Carbon-Free Assessment Program (CFAP)
- Typical projects:
 - Lighting
 - HVAC
 - Energy Management Systems
 - Variable Speed Drives

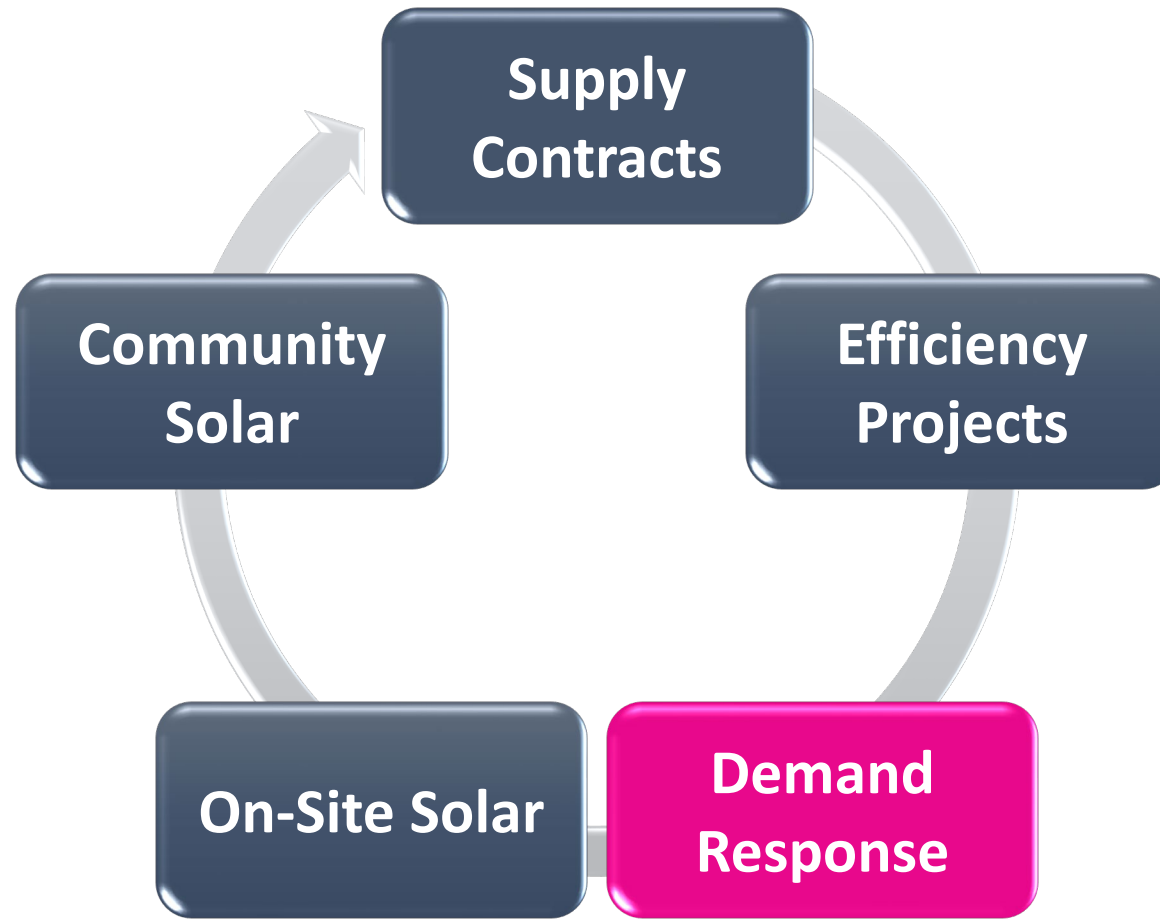


Natural Gas Incentives

- People's, Nicor Gas & Ameren offer incentives for new construction & retrofit/renovation projects
- Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program RCx Investigative Study Reports
- Typical projects:
 - Space Heating
 - Water Heating
 - Steam Traps
 - Kitchen Equipment
 - Pipe Insulation
 - Controls



Ways to Impact Energy Costs



Demand Response

- Agree to **reduce demand** (curtail) % of your load during emergency events on the electric grid
- Prove your ability to hit % reduction through **2-hour test** event
- **No out-of-pocket penalty** for non-compliance
- Results from test event are shared EOY and **paid out quarterly**
- Program runs **year-round**, and can set the deduction differently for summer/winter



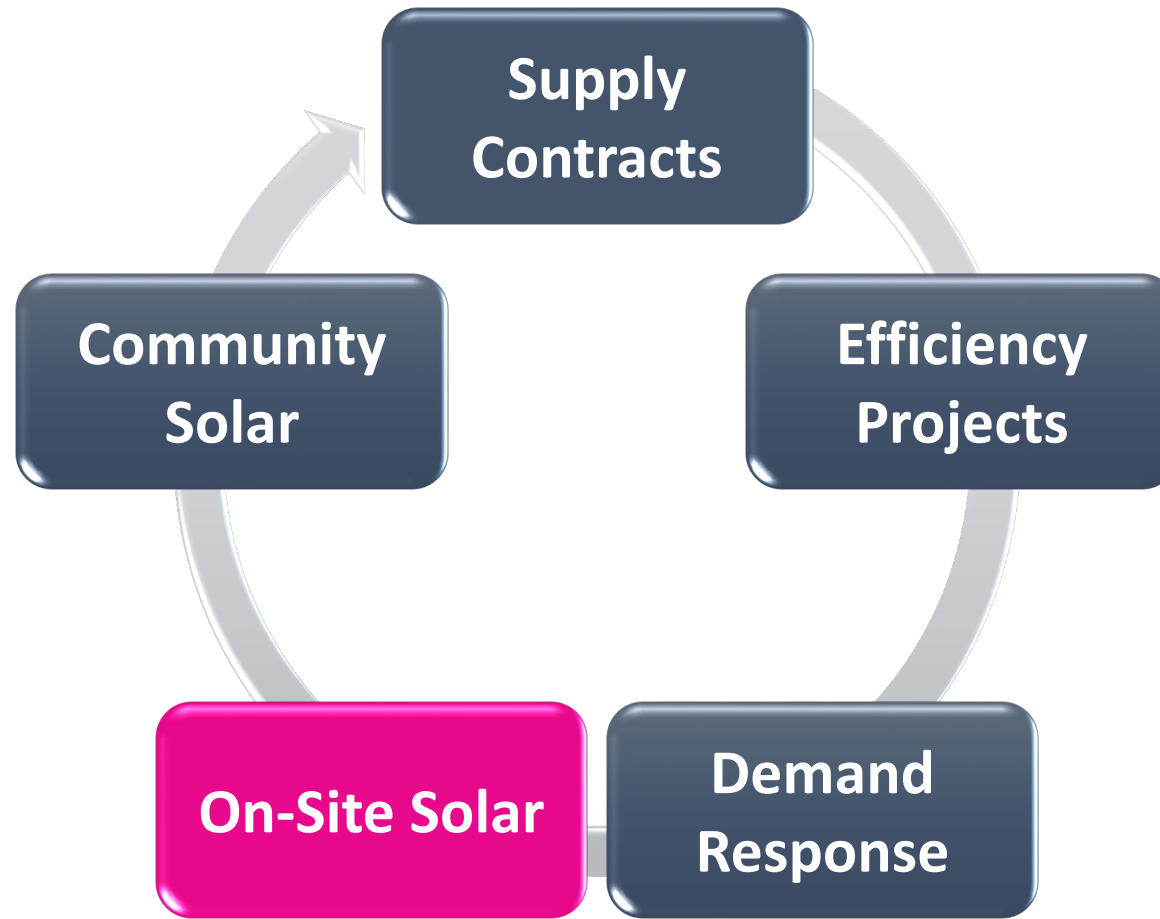
X #iasboAC25


ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

CELEBRATING
75
YEARS

PURSUING YOUR PURPOSE *with passion*

Ways to Impact Energy Costs



X #iasboAC25

 **2025**
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

CELEBRATING
75
YEARS

PURSuing YOUR PURPOSE *with passion*



Solar in Illinois Schools

- Lucrative **incentives**, with state carveout for schools
 - Utility rebate: 10-12%
 - State grant: 45-55%
 - Federal grant: 30% (*pending*)
- **Net metering** is available from ComEd/Ameren
- Open to **3rd party ownership** (PPAs)
- Multiple, competing solar companies
- Opportunity for **curriculum** tie-in

Solar Financing Options

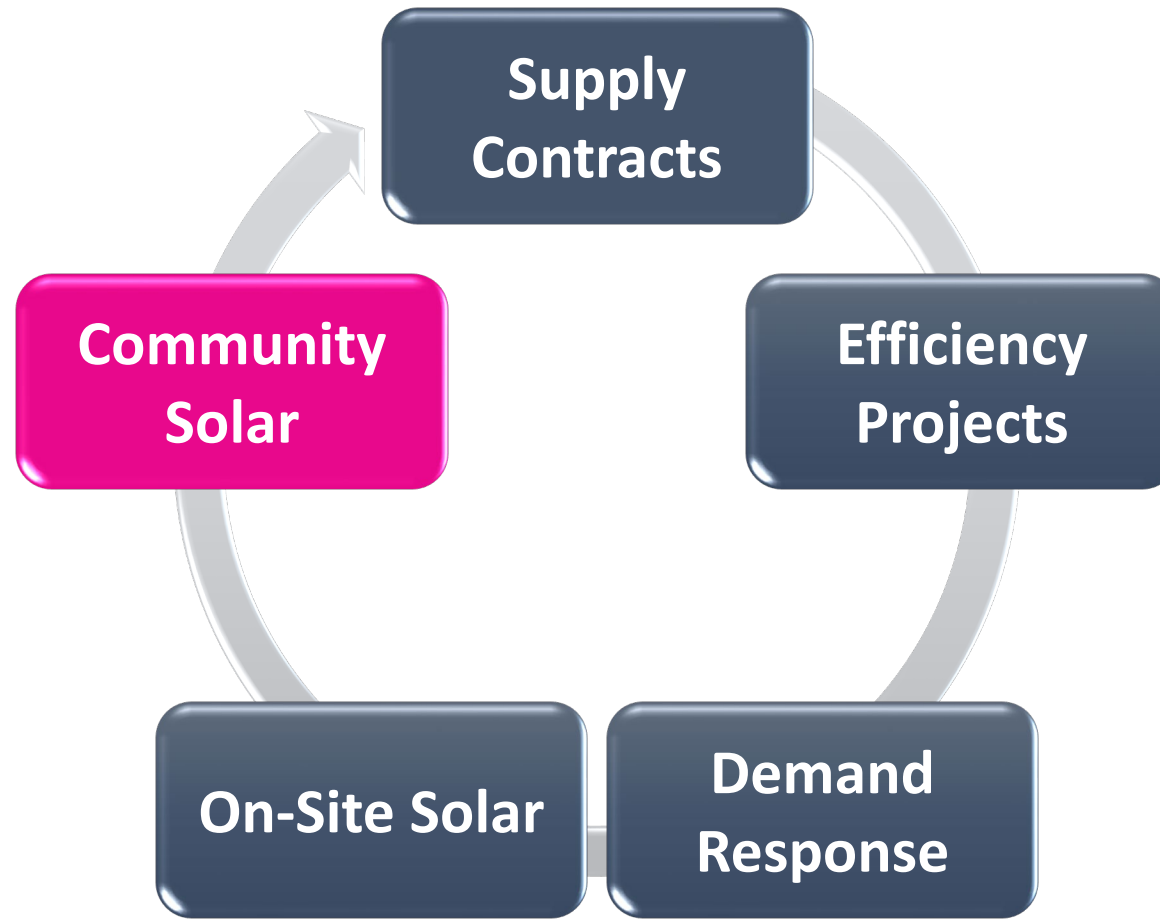
Direct ownership

- District pays for system directly using debt or capital funds
- District owns system & is responsible for operations/maintenance
- Incentives come directly to District
- Avoided energy costs are 2-4x vs. a PPA model

Power purchase agreement (PPA)

- Third-party pays for and installs system
- No upfront cost for the District
- Developer assumes all incentives and charges District a fixed \$/kWh for 20-25 year contract
- District pays developer for every kWh generated by system for contract term
- After end of contract, developer decommissions system or sells to District

Ways to Impact Energy Costs



X #iasboAC25

 **2025**
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

CELEBRATING
75
YEARS

PURSuing YOUR PURPOSE *with passion*

Anchor Community Solar Programs

- One farm can represent up to 40% of end user's electrical spend
- 5-20-year commitment
- Discounts vary 5%-10%
- Credits available as buildouts are completed
- Billed separately by developer; utility consolidated billed for max discount



X #iasboAC25

 **2025**
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

CELEBRATING
75
YEARS

PURSuing YOUR PURPOSE *with passion*

Sample C.S. Invoice

- Additional invoice to your supply/utility bill
- May receive multiple invoices per month
- Billed AFTER credits received

Bill To: Sally Solar 123 Sunshine Way Chicago, IL, 60622		Account Activity Previous Balance as of 12/27/2023: \$0.00 Payments & Other Activity: (\$0.00) Current Charges: \$255.00 Total Due: \$255.00 Payment Due Date: 02/23/2024	
Account Activity			
Payments & Other Activity			
Transaction Date	Transaction Type	Description	Amount
<hr/>			
Current Charges			
Production Period	Account Information	Solar Energy Credits	15% Discount Amount Due
10/11/2023 - 11/07/2023	<i>Your Nexamp Charge</i> Utility Account: 123456789 ComEd Service Address: 123 Example St Chicago, IL 60622	\$100.00	(\$15.00) \$85.00
10/11/2023 - 11/07/2023	<i>Your Nexamp Charge</i> Utility Account: 10123345678 ComEd Service Address: 133 Example St Chicago, IL 60622	\$100.00	(\$15.00) \$85.00
10/11/2023 - 11/07/2023	<i>Your Nexamp Charge</i> Utility Account: 1023456799 ComEd Service Address: 143 Example St Chicago, IL 60622	\$100.00	(\$15.00) \$85.00

Questions and Answers

We thank you for your time!

 #iasboAC25



PURSUING YOUR PURPOSE *with passion*

Presenters:

MODERATOR INFO:

Dan Whisler, Dir. of Buildings & Grounds, River Trails SD 26
(224) 612-7306; dwhisler@rtsd26.org

PANELISTS INFO:

Joseph McCurdy, Asst. Supt. of Business, Oak Lawn CHSD 229
(708) 424-5200; jmccurdy@olchs.org

Becky Thompson, Sr. Energy Advisor, Nania Energy
(779) 279-6175; bthompson@naniaenergy.com

 X #iasboAC25



PURSuing YOUR PURPOSE *with passion*