



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CREST HILL AND NEW LENOX PARTNER WITH DIRECT ENERGY  
TO POWER THE COMMUNITIES**

*New program provides control over rising electricity costs*

**New Lenox, Illinois (July 12, 2011)** –The Village of New Lenox and the City of Crest Hill, have partnered with Direct Energy as their electricity provider of choice for residents and small businesses in the community through September 2013 billing cycles.

Direct Energy is able to work with communities to supply electricity at a competitive price that is fixed for a defined time period. For the October 2011 through September 2013 billing cycles, New Lenox and Crest Hill electricity consumers will pay a price of 5.89 cents per kWh (exclusive of utility charges and taxes). Senior citizens are eligible for a discounted price of 5.79 cents per kWh. For those interested in renewable energy, Direct Energy also offers its Renewable Wind Product at a price of 6.19 cents per kWh.

Facts you need to know:

- Eligible senior citizens, who are aged 65 or older, may call our Customer Care Center at 1-866-760-6040 to enroll and receive the special discounted price.
- All residents will automatically be enrolled into the standard price. Senior citizens or residents who are interested in the Renewable Wind Product must actively call Direct Energy to enroll.

New Lenox and Crest Hill have established an “opt-out” aggregation program that will automatically enroll residents and small businesses to receive the standard price.

Direct Energy, one of North America’s largest competitive energy and services companies, is expanding into states like Illinois that have deregulated their energy markets to provide greater choice and added benefits to consumers. The aggregation agreement with New Lenox and Crest Hill is one of the first of its kind for Direct Energy in Illinois.

Customers who have questions about the Opt-Out Aggregation Program or who want to opt out should call toll-free 1-866-760-6040, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST.

**About Direct Energy**

Direct Energy is one of North America's largest energy and energy-related services providers with more than 6 million residential and commercial customer relationships. Direct Energy provides customers with choice and support in managing their energy costs through a portfolio of innovative products and services. A subsidiary of Centrica plc (LSE:CNA), one of the world's leading integrated energy companies, Direct Energy operates in 45 U.S. states plus the District of Columbia and 10 provinces in Canada.

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**Editors' note:**

- Below are frequently asked questions about aggregation programs, for informational purposes only.

**For further information or if you would like to interview Richard Suchant, partnership sales manager of Direct Energy, please contact:**

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### **Opt-Out Aggregation Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1. What is an Opt-Out Aggregation Program?**

An Opt-Out Aggregation Program enables customers in a city, county or other municipality to join together to form a single, larger customer and buy energy in volume on behalf of the residents in the community.

#### **2. How does an Opt-Out Aggregation Program work?**

Municipalities and other governmental representatives enter a competitive bidding process to select an energy supplier on behalf of their citizens through a program that has already been approved by voters. Consumers who wish not to be included in the aggregation must actively opt out of the program by calling or writing the energy supplier, typically at least a month prior to the billing start date.

#### **3. How does a community form an Opt-Out Aggregation?**

Aggregations are formed through a state-created program, which is approved by community voters. A plan must be developed by the city, county or other municipality to address how the opt-out aggregation program will work and how it will oversee the process.

Aggregations allow municipalities and other governmental entities to select an electricity supplier through a competitive bidding process. The supplier and the local government then agree on a price and term for the community's aggregation program.

#### **4. Who is eligible to participate in an Opt-Out Aggregation program?**

To be eligible to participate in an aggregation program, customers must:

- Be eligible to participate in the state's customer choice electricity program;
- Have a residence or small business located in the participating municipality or county;
- Receive their electricity supply from the utility;
- Be current on their electricity bill; and
- Not be under contract with another electricity supplier.

#### **5. Who is sending me my bill/where do I send my payment?**

ComEd will continue to send your monthly electricity bill and you will continue to send just one payment to ComEd for their charges and Direct Energy's charges. ComEd will also continue to provide service for any emergency and/or maintenance issues.

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