

# Base Power is worth pursuing—with a short pre-signing checklist.

For our house, the upside is unusually strong: affordable whole-home backup, lower electricity supply pricing, and no battery maintenance burden. The downsides are mostly contractual rather than day-to-day.

## Recommendation: proceed after closing

Apply if the \$95 Illinois offer is still available and the property qualifies. Treat \$3,600 of savings as an upside case—not a promise—and confirm the final supply terms, site price, solar pathway, lender/title implications, and installation location in writing.



### \$95

Current Illinois installation price published by Base

### 39.2 kWh

Base Core storage capacity

### Up to 36 hr

Advertised backup at reduced usage

#### HOW THE ECONOMICS WORK

**Base owns and controls the battery.** It earns money by operating a fleet of home batteries to support the grid. In exchange, we get low-cost backup and buy electricity supply from Base at published rates currently at least 25% below ComEd's Price to Compare. ComEd still delivers the power and sends the bill.

**Illustrative bill effect:** At 1,000 kWh, Base's published 7.6–7.8¢ supply rates versus roughly 10.4¢ for ComEd imply about **\$26–\$28 less on the supply portion** before taxes and other bill components. That is not 25% off the entire ComEd bill; delivery charges remain.

Prepared September 26, 2026. Pricing and terms can change; the final agreements control. Product image: Base Power.

# \$3,600 is valid math—but it is the optimistic 12-year case.

If savings average \$25 every month for all 144 months, the arithmetic is straightforward:

|                                              |             |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Monthly supply savings assumption            | \$25        |
| 12 years × 12 months                         | 144 months  |
| Gross projected savings                      | \$3,600     |
| Less the \$95 promotional installation price | \$3,505 net |

**The catch:** \$25 for 144 straight months is an assumption. The published 25% comparison applies to electricity **supply**, not the entire ComEd bill, and the separate electricity agreement—not the 12-year battery agreement—governs how long a particular supply price lasts.

## A practical 1,000 kWh month

At ComEd’s roughly 10.4¢ Price to Compare, 1,000 kWh of supply is about \$104. At Base’s posted 7.8¢ on-peak rate, it is about \$78: roughly **\$26 saved**. If the rest of the bill were \$76 in delivery, taxes, and other charges, the total would fall from about \$180 to \$154—about 14%, not 25%.

### Conservative floor

If the 25% protection lasts only for the first two-year supply term, \$25 a month produces \$600 gross, or \$505 after a \$95 install. Later savings are unknown until renewal terms arrive.

### Upside case

If \$25 average savings continues for all 12 years, gross savings reach \$3,600 and net savings are \$3,505 after the \$95 install.

### Offer expires

If the first-2,000-member promotion is gone and installation is the standard \$295, the same 12-year case nets \$3,305—not enough to change the basic recommendation.

**What “\$95 total” really means.** It is the published promotional charge for a standard installation, with no ongoing battery fee advertised. It is not a cap on nonstandard site work, electricity charges, late/rescheduling fees, early cancellation, damage, or failure to surrender the battery.

# The benefits are practical; the costs are mostly loss of control.

## REASONS TO DO IT

### Very low cost for substantial backup

Base currently advertises the 39.2 kWh Core in Illinois for \$95, with no monthly battery fee. Comparable backup normally requires a large capital purchase.

### Automatic whole-home outage protection

Base advertises up to 36 hours at reduced consumption. Practically, that means prioritizing heat controls, refrigeration, lights, internet, and the sump pump—not running central A/C, an electric dryer, oven, and EV charger as usual.

### Lower electricity supply pricing

Base publishes time-of-use supply rates at least 25% below ComEd's Price to Compare. The current posted rates are 7.8¢ on-peak and 7.6¢ off-peak.

### Service and maintenance are handled

Base owns the system and is responsible for maintenance, warranty support, repairs, and replacements needed to provide the service.

### No fuel, exhaust, or annual generator service

The battery is quiet and automatic, avoiding the fuel logistics, emissions, and routine servicing of a standby generator.

## REASONS TO PAUSE

### A 12-year property commitment

The battery agreement runs 12 years. Example: cancelling in year 5 normally means a \$500 removal charge if Base recovers the equipment. Damage is charged at repair cost; blocking recovery can trigger fair-market-value damages.

### Backup is not guaranteed

Base controls charging and dispatch. It will endeavor to preserve at least 5 kWh, but stored energy is not guaranteed. Example: we should still keep a separate plan for medical equipment and long winter outages.

### We do not own or operate the asset

Base controls when energy goes to the house, grid, or battery and keeps the tax credits, rebates, demand-response payments, and other program value.

### A sale requires coordination

The contract calls for 90 days' notice. Example: for a June 30 closing, notify Base by about April 1 and have the approved buyer sign Base's assignment form before closing—or the transfer can be treated as early termination.

### Property and legal paperwork is one-sided

Base may record evidence of its ownership or make Uniform Commercial Code filings. Disputes go to individual arbitration, generally in Austin, under Texas law; liability is limited.

### Startup and counterparty risk

Twelve years is a long time for a young company. The agreement can be assigned to another service provider, so future service quality depends on Base or a successor.

# A roof or solar project in 5–7 years does not undo the case.

The battery is ground-mounted, so a normal reroof should not require removing roof equipment.

**Solar is technically compatible.** Base says Core can connect to solar, and the Illinois battery agreement already requires a Net Metering Addendum. During an outage, solar may extend backup by recharging the battery.

**The limitation is control.** Base—not us—operates the battery and keeps grid-program compensation. A future solar installer will need to design around Base’s equipment and ComEd interconnection requirements.

**Plan ahead.** The contract requires 90 days’ notice for improvements that may affect the battery. Before a future roof, panel, service, or electrical project, get Base’s written coordination requirements.

**Interpretation:** Base is a good low-cost resilience decision now, even if solar is likely later. It is less attractive only if owning and personally optimizing a solar battery is already a near-term priority.

## Six confirmations before signing

- ☐ **Final price and eligibility:** Confirm \$95 is still the complete standard-install price for 134 Willow and identify any nonstandard-site charges before work begins.
- ☐ **Supply agreement:** Read the separate electricity contract; verify the initial term, on/off-peak periods, renewal formula, and every fee—not only the battery agreement.
- ☐ **Backup expectations:** Ask what minimum charge reserve Base targets before forecast storms and which major loads may need to be curtailed.
- ☐ **Winter controls:** Ask whether Core has active battery heating and whether Base curtails grid dispatch in extreme cold to preserve outage reserve and charging ability.
- ☐ **Solar pathway:** Get written confirmation that future rooftop solar can integrate, what equipment is compatible, and whether Base or the solar installer handles interconnection changes.
- ☐ **House paperwork:** Because the home will be trust-owned and mortgaged, confirm signatories and ask the lender/title team whether Base’s ownership notice or possible UCC filing requires consent or later release documentation.

## In 2038, renewal is opt-in—not automatic.

If the agreement begins in 2026 and runs normally, its 12-year renewal date lands in 2038. The contract creates a clean decision point rather than silently locking us into another long term.

### Winter performance: rated for Deerfield, but not locally proven yet

Base rates Core for operation from **-22°F to 122°F**, which covers normal Deerfield winter temperatures. But the ComEd rollout is new, and Base has not published Illinois-specific field results covering a full local winter.

Lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries can discharge in the cold, but usable capacity can temporarily fall by roughly 20–30% in subfreezing conditions. Charging cold cells below 32°F can cause permanent damage, so an outdoor system must rely on thermal management and a battery management system low-temperature cutoff. In a deep-cold outage, expect less runtime than a 12–18 hour real-world planning estimate; capacity recovers as the cells warm.

### About 30 days before the renewal date

Base must provide notice and an opportunity to renew under the terms available at that time.

### We choose affirmatively

To continue, we must notify Base in writing during that 30-day opt-in period. The new price, battery arrangement, and other terms could differ from today's deal.

### If we do nothing, the agreement ends

There is no automatic 12-year renewal in the battery agreement. Base's help center characterizes the end-of-term choices as low- or no-cost renewal or cancellation options.

### If service ends, Base can shut down and remove its battery

Base may immediately render the battery inoperable, notify us in writing, coordinate a removal time, and remove the battery. Some non-battery components may be left behind at Base's discretion.

### Likely reason to renew

A replacement or refreshed battery plus competitive supply terms still offers inexpensive resilience. Base lists the Core's lifetime as 12 years, so reevaluating the hardware then is sensible.

### Likely reason to walk away

The renewal price is unattractive, owned solar storage makes more sense, or the supplier terms no longer save money. We would then arrange a different electricity supplier and coordinate removal.

**Practical example:** Suppose Base offers another 12-year agreement in 2038 for a newer battery and a modest supply discount. We compare that offer against buying our own storage, using a generator, or having no backup. We are free to decline; the key obligation is giving Base access to recover its equipment.

**One calendar item worth setting later:** review the renewal notice as soon as it arrives. Thirty days is a short window, and ignoring it means the battery agreement ends.

## DECISION RULE

# Say yes unless one of these four issues changes the deal.

### PROCEED IF

#### The installed price stays near \$95

No material electrical, trenching, permitting, or site-preparation charge appears after inspection.

#### The supply terms match the pitch

The written plan preserves the promised discount structure without surprise charges.

#### The location works for the property

The equipment is placed where it does not compromise drainage, access, future projects, or outdoor use.

#### Future solar is confirmed in writing

Base explains how a later solar array can integrate and who owns the interconnection work.

### PAUSE IF

#### Site costs materially increase

A large upgrade or construction charge would weaken the unusually favorable economics.

#### We expect to sell soon

A likely move would make the 90-day transfer process and buyer approval more consequential.

#### Owned solar storage is a near-term goal

Base is less suitable if personal control of charging, dispatch, and incentives matters more than low upfront cost.

#### The lender or trust structure creates friction

Resolve any consent, title, or filing issue before equipment is attached to the home.

## Bottom line: a qualified yes

The everyday downside is small relative to the value: low-cost backup plus supply savings. The meaningful catch is accepting a 12-year relationship in which Base owns and controls equipment attached to the property. If the confirmations are clean, proceed.

## Sources

**Base Power — Illinois offer and rates**  
[basepowercompany.com/illinois](https://basepowercompany.com/illinois)

**Base Power — Illinois Battery Services Agreement**  
Battery Services Agreement (PDF)

**Base Power Help Center — moving or cancelling**  
Contract, transfer, and cancellation overview

**Canary Media — independent overview**  
Illinois launch and business model

**Base Power — Core specifications**  
Capacity, operating range, safety, and solar details

**LFP cold-weather technical overview**  
General capacity and thermal-management behavior