

PRESS RELEASE

Electricity: as of 1 July, small companies that have not opted for the free market will be assigned to the ‘gradual standard offer service’.

second phase of the 'end of standard offer' for small companies. Suppliers selected through auctions will send customers a notice with the economic and contractual conditions envisaged for the next 3 years. It is always possible to switch to the free market

Milan, 25 June 2021 - With the **end in 2021 of price protection for the electricity supply of all small companies and some micro-companies, from 1 July those that have not yet chosen a supplier in the free market will be assigned to the 'standard' supplier of the ‘gradual standard offer service’.** In accordance with ARERA provisions, **the service is provided by suppliers selected through competitive procedures, guaranteeing customers continuity of supply.**

Companies involved that have not yet selected an operator in the free market will **receive a notice from the operator to whom they have been assigned** (who has been awarded the auction for service in the territory for 3 years). The notice contains the operator's contact details, the conditions under which the service is provided, the conditions for withdrawing from the contract and references to the Authority's information tools. **You can choose a contract from the free electricity market at any time.** Based on the outcome of the auctions: Lazio, Lombardy, Veneto, Liguria and Trentino-Alto Adige have been assigned to A2A Energia; Campania, Marche, Umbria, Abruzzo, Molise, Basilicata, Calabria, Sicily and Sardinia to Hera COMM; Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Valle d'Aosta, Puglia, Tuscany and the Municipality of Milan to Iren Mercato; Piedmont and Emilia-Romagna to Axpo Italia.

The contractual conditions are the same as those regulated by ARERA for so-called PLACET offers (free price contracts under equivalent protection conditions), but with different economic conditions determined on the basis of auction prices.

The process envisaged a gradual removal of price protection (which began in January 2021) and the transition from 'standard offer' to the 'gradual standard offer' for companies with withdrawal points connected to low voltage that have not yet chosen the free market offer, which meet the criteria of being **a small company (having between 10 and 50 employees and an annual turnover of between 2 and 10 million euros) or a micro-company that has at least one withdrawal point with contractually committed power greater than 15kW.**

For domestic customers and micro-companies in general, the end of price protection is scheduled for 1 January 2023.

In addition to ARERA's social channels and the free market offer comparison tool www.ilportaleofferte.it, a dedicated area has been set up on the website www.arera.it/finetutela to provide information and help you make an informed choice. Together with the trade associations and chambers of commerce, an updated information sheet has been distributed to stakeholders and can also be downloaded from the website.