



Taking Action by Choosing an Electric Supplier

Shop. Switch. Save.
The Power is in Your Hands.

www.PAPowerSwitch.com

PA PowerSwitch
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

The Electricity Generation Choice and Competition Act allows residential customers to choose the company that supplies their electricity, also known as an electric generation supplier (supplier). Your choice can be based on price, services and incentives. Competitive offers from electric suppliers are not available in all areas of Pennsylvania.

QUESTIONS TO ASK SUPPLIERS

As you shop for electricity, here is a list of important questions to ask competing suppliers:

- Is the supplier licensed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC)?
- What is the Electric Distribution Company's (EDC's) price to compare, and how long is that price effective?
- Are all taxes included in the supplier's price?
- What is the price per kilowatt hour (kWh)? Is the price fixed, variable or does it depend on time of day or usage?
- Is there a limit to how high or low the variable rate can go?
- Are there any built-in price increases or decreases?
- Is there an introductory rate, and how long does it last?
- If the supplier offers an introductory rate, what will the price be at the end of the introductory period? Will they be able to provide the rate in advance of the service being used?
- Does the supplier offer a choice of energy sources, such as renewable energy?
- Can the supplier provide historic pricing information? (for example: their average price over the last year)
- If my rate changes, how does it change? How will I be notified?
- Will the supplier provide their rate at the beginning of the month or in advance of the service being used?
- What is the length of the agreement? Can your price change in that time? If so, when can it change and how will you be notified?
- Will I receive a notice before my contract expires? What happens when my contract expires?
- Is there a cancellation fee or any penalty for switching suppliers before my contract expires?
- Is there a switching fee to change suppliers?
- What steps must I take to switch suppliers? Ask about the switching process.
- Is there a bonus or any customer incentives for signing up?
- Are there any special add-on services?
- Who provides billing, and will I receive one or two bills?
- Does the supplier offer a budget billing plan?
- Will I still get service from the supplier if I have an outstanding balance or bad payment history?
- Do I need a special meter? If so, is there a separate charge for that meter?

YOUR SHOPPING WORKSHEET

Using the chart below, you can determine if a supplier will offer a better price than your electric utility. Remember, this example only compares a portion of the bill (generation charges). Your actual bill will include the cost of delivering your monthly service. Enter the suppliers' name on the top line to begin.

1. Enter your EDC's or utility's price to compare, which is given in cents per kWh.
2. Call suppliers to find out what price they are offering for their electric generation using the questions on the front page for guidance, or refer to the Office of Consumer Advocate pricing list. Write that price on Line 2.
3. For you to save, the EGS's price must be lower than your present provider's price to compare. Subtract the new supplier price from the present price to compare and write that number on Line 3.
4. Write the average number of kWh your household uses in a month on Line 4. This can be found on your current electric bill.
5. Multiply Line 3 by Line 4 and put that number on Line 5.
6. Divide the subtotal by 100 to calculate your savings per month in dollars and cents (Line 6).
7. Some suppliers charge a monthly fee in addition to the charge for generation. If the supplier charges a fee, write the amount on Line 7. Enter zero if there is no fee.
8. Subtract the monthly fee from your savings per month (Line 7 from Line 6) and enter this on line 8. This will show you what your "Final Monthly Savings" may be.

Shopping Worksheet

Remember this example only compares electric generation prices. Your actual bill will also include the cost of delivering your monthly electric service.

You may want to make photocopies of this page to reuse and compare multiple offers.

| | Company 1 | Company 2 | Company 3 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| 1 EDC Price to Compare | \$ _____ | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |
| 2 New Supplier Price | - \$ _____ | - \$ _____ | - \$ _____ |
| 3 Savings | \$ _____ | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |
| 4 Average kWh/ month | x _____ | x _____ | x _____ |
| 5 Subtotal | \$ _____ | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |
| 6 Cents/mo. ___ / 100 | \$ _____ | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |
| 7 Monthly Fee? | \$ _____ | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |
| 8 Final Monthly Savings* (*Actual savings may vary) | \$ _____ | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |

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