



REAL

MD ELECTRIC CHOICE

2022



Electric Supply Market Overview¹

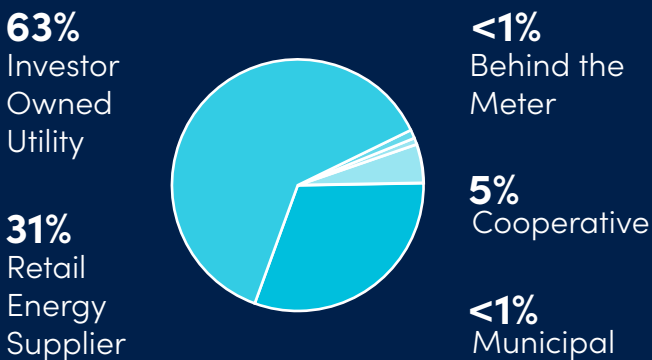
395

 Retail Energy Suppliers Licensed to Operate in MD

Number of Customers

Investor Owned Utility:	2,419,419
Municipal:	28,518
Behind the Meter:	57,140
Cooperative:	229,606
Retail Energy Supplier:	453,661

Electric load MWhs served by supplier



Retail Energy Supplier Customers

Broken out by Customer Class:

Residential Customers who shop: 368,589

Commercial Customers who shop: 83,648

Industrial Customers who shop: 1,424

About the State Energy Market

In Maryland, The Electric Restructuring Act of 1999 introduced a phased implementation of "customer choice" for investor-owned utilities alongside customer protections, a universal service program for low-income customers, and environmental safeguards within the restructured electric framework. Since July 1, 2000, this ended the utility monopoly on the generation and sale of electricity, made it possible for private companies to invest in energy resources, and empowered customers with options to shop for their electric or gas supply.

Electric utilities are still responsible for the transmission, distribution (poles and wires), and reliability of the local energy supply and receive a guaranteed rate of return approved by the Public Service Commission (PSC) to manage those assets.

Maryland is part of a regional transmission organization known as PJM. PJM oversees the competitive wholesale electricity market for 13 states and the District of Columbia.

The process

- 1 Power generators bid the electricity they produce into the wholesale market.
- 2 Utilities, retail energy suppliers, and other buyers can purchase it.
- 3 The purchased supply is then sold to industrial, commercial, and residential customers through the retail energy market.

The PSC Consumer Affairs Division and the Office of People's Counsel regulate the competitive retail energy market in Maryland.

In Maryland, if a customer chooses not to shop for their energy supply needs, they have elected to stay enrolled on the utility supply product, known as "standard offer service." Each utilities supply product price and term lengths vary, and most operate on a six-month cycle where prices are updated based on operating costs and procured supply as approved by the PSC.

Renewable Energy Requirements

The Maryland Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) Program requires retail electricity suppliers to meet a minimum portion of their retail electricity sales with renewable energy sources. The RPS policy aims to promote renewable energy usage, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and achieve a cleaner and more sustainable environment. **In 2022, the RPS requirement for Maryland is 32.6%. Maryland has a 50% by 2030 goal.** The program only accepts RECs derived from a source located in the PJM Region.

Many retail energy suppliers offer products above the RPS requirement through the purchase and retirement of Renewable Energy Credits (REC), so customers have the option to buy 100% clean energy and support the development of renewable energy resources.

MD's Renewable Portfolio Standard requirement (2022) is

 32%

Consumer Protections

Maryland has robust consumer protections for retail energy customers, overseen by the Maryland Public Service Commission Consumer Affairs Division. If customers have concerns about their energy service, they can file complaints with this institution. State consumer protection laws protect all customers in Maryland.

Shopping for Energy in Maryland



Maryland customers can shop for an electric or gas supplier using the state-managed [website](#), MD Electric Choice. The website allows customers to compare prices and options offered by licensed suppliers and choose a supplier based on their specific needs. Maryland residents and businesses in all municipal, A&N Electric Cooperative, and Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative territories do not participate in electric competition, so residents and businesses in those territories are unable to shop or enroll with a competitive energy supplier.

Types of products and plans available to retail energy customers:

- Long-term fixed-price plans
- Flat monthly bills
- Low-cost prices
- 100% renewable energy
- Time-of-use plans (incentives to use electricity during defined times)
- Electric vehicle programs (free chargers, discounted charging rates, etc.)
- Energy use management tools
- Bundled products and discounts (home warranties, gas, and electric plans, etc.)

Resources

Visit the "Resources" section of our website below to view a [Shopping Guide](#) with shopping tips and a step-by-step guide on how to use the MD Electric Choice website and our [Monthly Summaries](#) of offers available to MD's residential customers.



This resource was developed by the Retail Energy Advancement League.

RetailEnergyChoice.org

¹ United States. Energy Information Administration. Annual Electric Power Industry Report, Form EIA-861 detailed data files, n.p. EIA, 2022. <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/eia861/>. Online.