



PA ELECTRIC CHOICE

2022



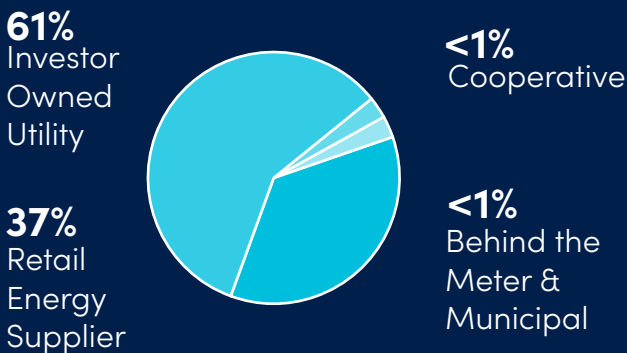
Electric Supply Market Overview¹

109 Retail Energy Suppliers Licensed to Operate in PA

Number of Customers

Investor Owned Utility:	5,938,950
Municipal:	11,466
Behind the Meter:	17,778
Cooperative:	189,662
Retail Supplier:	1,470,353


Electric load MWhs served by supplier



Retail Energy Supplier Customers

Broken out by Customer Class:

 Residential Customers who shop: 1,223,115

 Commercial customers who shop: 244,221

 Industrial customers who shop: 3,017

Energy Markets and Oversight

In 1996 the Pennsylvania legislature passed the Electricity Generation Customer Choice and Natural Gas Choice and Competition Act. 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 Utility Commission (PUC) to manage those assets.

The process

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

In Pennsylvania, the competitive retail energy market is regulated by the PUC and the Office of Competitive Market Oversight.

In Pennsylvania, 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 "default 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 PUC.

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.

Renewable Energy Requirements

In Pennsylvania, the PUC oversees compliance with the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS) that mandates 18% of the utility or retail energy supply must come from renewable energy sources as prescribed by the state. The utility and retail energy supplier are held to the same standards for the AEPS requirement.

Many retail energy suppliers offer products above the AEPS 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.



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Consumer Protections

Pennsylvania has robust consumer protections for retail energy customers, overseen by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Office of Consumer Advocate, and Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection. These protections include standardized contracts, the ability to switch suppliers within three days, and a complaint resolution center. Customers can file complaints with these institutions if they have concerns about their energy service. All customers in Pennsylvania are protected by state consumer protection laws.

Shopping for Energy in Pennsylvania



Pennsylvania customers can shop for their electric supply using the state-managed website PAPowerSwitch.com where they can view the current utility supply price, and compare prices and options offered by licensed retail energy suppliers.

- Pennsylvania residents and businesses in the territories of the 14 electric cooperatives or 35 municipal programs or boroughs that operate their own electric company cannot 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 [PAPowerSwitch](#) website and our [Monthly Summaries](#) of offers available to PA's residential customers.



This resource was developed by the Retail Energy Advancement League.

RetailEnergyChoice.org