Pennsylvania Electric Supply Shopping Guide



What is Electric Choice?

In restructured states such as Pennsylvania, customers are empowered with the freedom to select their electricity provider.

In Pennsylvania, the two primary charges included in your monthly electric bill are for the "Supply" or "Generation" and "Delivery" or "Distribution" of your electricity. Other charges that could be included on your monthly electric bill, depending on your plan, are "Solar Requirements," "Default Service Support Charge," or "Non-Utility Generation Charge." Customers have the opportunity to explore and compare offers for the "supply" portion of their bill, enabling them to choose a supplier other than their local electric distribution company or utility.

What are some of the reasons for shopping?

PRICE

In Pennsylvania, customers who do not actively shop are enrolled in the "default service" provided by their local utility. These services entail paying a price per kilowatt hour (kWh), which may fluctuate periodically throughout the year. Customers can shop offers from competitive suppliers and take advantage of lower prices, short-term contracts, or lock in a price for a long-term contract that may be slightly higher than the utility rate but will be lower than future utility rates term, "hedging" against the higher price to come.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Many customers like to purchase clean energy to reduce their carbon footprint. In Pennsylvania, both utilities and competitive suppliers are required to source renewable energy for 18% of the supply they provide to customers. Additionally, certain competitive suppliers provide products with a higher, even up to 100%, renewable energy makeup.

SPECIAL PRODUCTS

Within competitive markets, companies have the opportunity to offer unique and innovative products and services tailored to meet individual customer energy requirements. These offerings encompass a variety of innovative solutions, such as free nights and weekends for residential electric vehicle charging, home warranty products, smart home devices, and digital tools to help customers control and optimize their energy usage. Details on these products are not always listed on the state shopping platforms. Still, they can be found on the individual supplier websites.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The Retail Energy Advancement League developed this guide to provide customers with valuable insights into the advantages of selecting a competitive electric supplier and equipping them with the knowledge to make wellinformed decisions within the market.

If you have any questions, please email info@retailenergychoice.org

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Bureau of Consumer Services 1-800-692-7380

puc.pa.gov/complaints

Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate (800) 684-6560 <u>oca.pa.gov</u>

PAPowerSwitch papowerswitch.com



How to Shop



Determine your current electric supply cost by examining indicators such as "Consumption," "Electric Supply," "Supply Charges," "Generation Charge," or "Supply" on your utility electric bill. This price is then multiplied by the kilowatt hours (kWh) you consume monthly to calculate your "supply" charge.

Visit **<u>PAPowerSwitch.com</u>**, input your zip code, and hit the "Next" arrow. This will lead to a question asking

you to confirm your Electric Distribution Company. Hit

"Next" to proceed to the next question that asks you to "Select Your Rate Schedule." Choose from the menu options listed. If you do not know your rate schedule, you can find it on your bill, where it lists your rate.









Once you've chosen your rate schedule, click "Compare Now" to be taken to a list of current offers for your zip code.



At the top of this list, you will see the current priceto-compare (PTC). This is your local utility and its current rate per kWh. If you are not enrolled with a competitive supplier and are shopping based on price, this is the price to compare with the offers listed below. If you are enrolled with a competitive supplier, you can see how much you are currently paying in the supply portion of your bill shown on page one.



MONTHLY USAGE

The estimated energy costs and savings in the search results are calculated based on the average home's monthly usage of 700 kWh. You can find that information on your utility bill if you wish to update this number using your home's specific energy usage.

VARIABLE PRICE

A price that may change with the market conditions by the hour or day, according to the supplier's disclosure statement.

FIXED PRICE

A price that will remain the same for at least three billing cycles or however long the contract term is.

UNLIMITED PRICE

A set price that is locked in with an amount that does not change monthly based on kWh usage.

TERM LENGTH

The minimum number of months for a contract period.

INTRODUCTORY PRICE

Products that include an introductory price that may not be maintained for the duration of the contract.

DISCOUNTS/INCENTIVES AVAILABLE

Offers that include special discounts, such as free usage hours, or incentives, such as payment for reduced usage during peak hours.

NO CANCELLATION FEE

The contract can be canceled, and you can switch to a new supplier at any time without financial penalty.

NO MONTHLY FEE

There is no additional monthly fee to enroll in this product.

NO ENROLLMENT FEE

There is no one-time fee to initiate a contract.

RENEWABLE ENERGY SELECTIONS

Select these options to show products with a higher renewable energy makeup than the minimum state requirement. "Renewable Energy" and "Solar" energy supplies are sourced from renewable energy sources nationwide. "PA Wind" and "Renewable PA" are sourced from renewable energy sources in Pennsylvania.

UNIT PRICE

Use this toggle to filter results based on price per kWh.

OFFER FILTERS

Monthly Usage 700 kWh/month

Term Length

Price per l	kWh	Range
Min	to	Max

~

Show All

Rate Options

Fixed Rate
Variable Rate
Unlimited Rate

Terms & Conditions

No Cancellation Fee
 No Enrollment Fee
 No Monthly Fee
 Not an Introductory Price
 Renewable Energy

SORT BY

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Select the "Compare" checkbox in the upper lefthand corner of every offer in the search results that you wish to compare on key search criteria. If you have decided on an offer, click "See Offer Details," and you will be directed to a new page with instructions for completing your enrollment. This page varies in appearance from plan to plan. Carefully review the terms and conditions before signing up.

100% Renewable By SmartEnergy 800-443-4440

Fixed	ł 🛛
Rate S	tructure
Discou	unt Available: No
Cance	llation Fee: No
Term E	End Date: No
Month	ly Fee: No

tate for 100% renewable electricity with no hidden charges a ation fees!

12 Months Term Length

Enrollment Fee: No Introductory Prices Renewable Energy:



Rate last updated on June 11, 2024

Additional Shopping Tips

AUTOMATIC RENEWAL

An automatic renewal will renew your contract with the same supplier. However, that product may no longer be available, and the renewal may include different terms or a different price. Your supplier is required to provide a renewal notice and renewal terms for your review prior to the expiration of the original contract. This will include any updated terms, including changes to your rate.

HOW TO CANCEL

If you want to return to utility service, you must contact your retail energy supplier to cancel the contract. If you want to switch suppliers, you do not need to call your current supplier to cancel. Simply enroll with the new supplier, and you will be switched in your next billing cycle.

Smart Shopper Tips

- Note the contract end date with your new supplier and set a reminder on your calendar to review the contract terms (if it will be automatically renewed) or shop for a new supplier.
- Even if you are in a long-term contract, check the PA Power Switch site monthly to see if you can find an offer that better suits your needs.
- If you are shopping for cost savings, consider your local utility's upcoming rate changes (typically in the winter and summer) in addition to the current rates. Many suppliers provide long-term, fixed-rate contracts. While the price might not be lower than the current utility rate, it may be lower than the utility rate in the upcoming term and worth switching for future savings.
- With automatic renewal, your contract with the supplier will automatically be renewed at the end of the term. However, that product in the initial contract may no longer be available, and the renewal may include different terms or a different price. Your supplier is required to provide two notifications of renewal 30 to 60 days prior to the expiration of the original contract. This will include any updated terms. Review the updated terms and compare them with current offers on the PA Power Switch site.
- Most Pennsylvania customers can be switched to their new supplier in three (3) business days once the electric utility is notified of the switch by the supplier. If the utility does NOT have accelerated switching, the effective date of service with the new supplier depends on the customer's next meter read date and can take 11 to 40 days. You should receive a confirmation email or letter from your new supplier with your contract details. Review this information to ensure the terms align with the product you selected online. Your utility will also send you a confirmation letter. You will still receive your bill from your local utility. Once you have enrolled with a new supplier, the supplier's name and price per kWh will be reflected on your utility bill in the supply section noted on page one above.



Unhappy with your Service?

If you find yourself dissatisfied with the service provided by your supplier or note discrepancies between the rate you agreed upon and the rate you're currently paying, start by reviewing the terms outlined in your contract and reaching out to your supplier directly. Should you encounter difficulties in resolving the issue with the company, you have recourse to state resources, below, for further assistance.

CONTACT

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio 180 E. Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215-3793 (800) 686-7826

SUBMIT A COMPLAINT