Massachusetts

Electric Supply Shopping Guide

2024



What is Electric Choice?

In Massachusetts, the two primary charges included in your monthly electric bill are for "supply" and "delivery." Customers can shop and compare offers for the "supply" portion of their bill and choose a supplier other than their local utility.

What are some of the reasons for shopping?

PRICE

Customers who do not shop, remain on default service with their local utility and will pay the price per kilowatt hour (kWh). Throughout the year, your local utility will periodically increase or decrease its price per kWh. Customers can shop offers from competitive suppliers and take advantage of less expensive short-term rate contracts or lock in a rate for a long-term contract that may be slightly higher than what they are currently paying but will be lower than the rate the utility will be charging in the next term.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Many customers like to purchase clean energy to reduce their carbon footprint. Massachusetts utilities and suppliers are required to source renewable energy for 59.17% (as of 2023) of the supply provided to ratepayers. However, customers are able to offset more of their carbon footprint by selecting competitive supplier offers that include up to 100% renewable energy.

SPECIAL PRODUCTS

In competitive markets, companies can provide unique and innovative products and services based on a customer's individual energy needs. Some examples of special products include free nights and weekends for residential electric vehicle charging, home warranty products, smart home devices, and digital tools to help customers control their energy usage.

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

Energy Switch Massachusetts <u>energyswitchma.gov</u>

Scan to learn more about Energy Choice in MA!





How to Shop

1

Find out how much you are currently paying for electric supply by looking at the "standard service rate," "supplier rate" or "supply services" on your electric bill. That is multiplied by the number of kilowatt hours you use per month to generate your "supply" charge.



2

Visit <u>EnergySwitchMA.gov</u>, select "Home," enter your home address zip code, and click "start shopping."



3

Select "Show Options" to filter the results based on your preferences.

CONTRACT TERM

This is the number of months in your contract at the price per kilowatt hour rate you lock in.

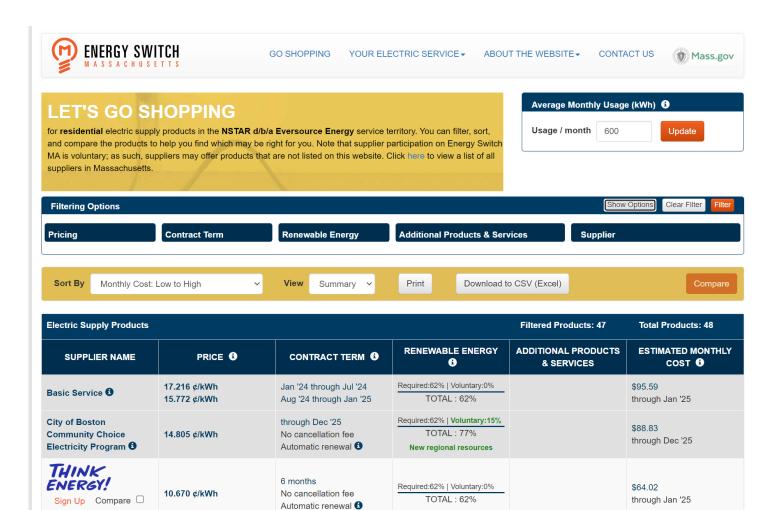
EARLY CANCELLATION FEE

If you decide to change suppliers prior to the end of your contract term, some suppliers charge an early cancellation fee. This will be noted in the terms of your contract.

AUTOMATIC RENEWAL

Your contract will be automatically renewed at the end of term. With an automatic renewal, your contract will be renewed with the same supplier, but that product may no longer be available and the renewal may include different terms or a different price. With automatic renewals, your supplier is required to provide a notification of renewal 30 to 60 days prior to the expiration of the original contract. This will include any updated terms.







New Customers Only 6

Compare the price per kilowatt hour you are paying from your electric bill with the available offers under "Price." Consider upcoming rate increases that have been announced by your utility. Check the varying lengths of contracts under "Term Length." The renewable makeup of the product is located under "Renewable Energy." Your estimated monthly costs based on your personalized inputted usage at the top is the final column. If you do not adjust this, the estimated monthly costs are calculated using the typical monthly usage of 600 kWh.

5

After you choose your product and click "Sign Up," you will be directed to the supplier's website. If you are not immediately directed to a page with the offer you have selected, review the supplier's available offers and be sure to select the same product you chose on the Energy Switch MA platform. Carefully review the terms and conditions before signing up. If you are in the middle of a billing cycle, your updated rate and supplier information will be reflected on the bill following the close of the current cycle you are in.

Additional Shopping Tips

AUTOMATIC RENEWAL

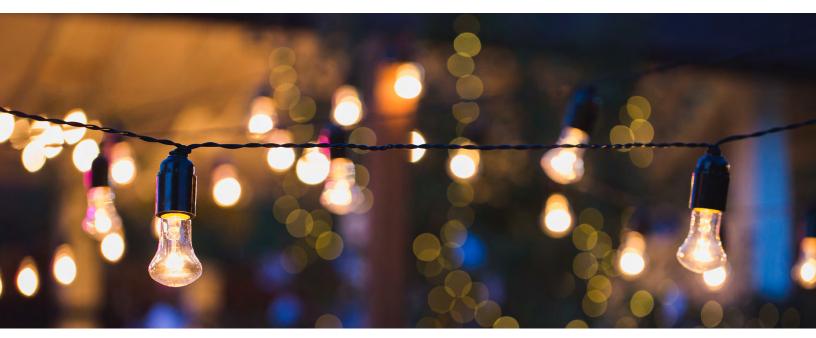
An automatic renewal will renew your contract with the same supplier. However, that product may no longer be available, and the renewal may include different terms or a different price. Your supplier is required to provide a renewal notice and renewal terms for your review prior to the expiration of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

- When you sign up for a new supplier, note the contract end date and set a reminder on your calendar in advance of the end date to review the terms of the contract (if it will be automatically renewed) or shop for a new supplier.
- Even if you are in a long-term contract, check the Energy Switch MA site monthly to determine 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 increases 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 what the utility rate will be in the upcoming term and worth switching for future savings.



Unhappy with your Service?

If you are not happy with the service your supplier is providing or the rate you signed up for is not the rate you are paying, review the terms of your contract and contact your supplier. If you are unable to resolve the issue with the company, you can contact the Commonwealth resources below for assistance.

SUBMIT A COMPLAINT

CONTACT

Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (877) 886–5066 mass.gov

Massachusetts Attorney General's Consumer Advocacy & Response Division (617) 727–8400 Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.