PA Office of Consumer Advocate's Electric Shopping Guide



September 2004

PA Office of Consumer Advocate

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A Residential Consumer's Electric Shopping Guide Includes:

- Introduction & How to Shop
- Price Comparison Charts:

Allegheny Power

Duquesne Light

Rate RS - Regular Residential Service

Rate RH - Residential Heating Service

Rate RA - Residential Add-on Heat Pump Service

Met-Ed (Formerly GPU Energy)

PECO Energy

Rate R - Regular Residential Service Rate RH - Residential Heat Service

Penelec (Formerly GPU Energy)

Penn Power

PPL

UGI

Residential Electric Shopping Guide

by the

Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate

ntroduction

Thanks to a new law in Pennsylvania, consumers can now choose the company that provides them with a portion of their electric service. This guide has been prepared by the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate to help residential consumers make that choice.

The Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate is a state office whose job is to represent Pennsylvania consumers in matters involving their utility services.

It is important to understand that consumers will only have a choice as to a portion of their electricity service. The power lines that run down your street and into your home will still be operated by your local electric distribution company, and the rates for the delivery portion of your service will still be regulated by the Pennsylvania Public Utility

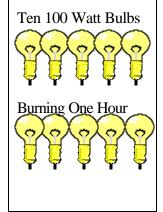
Commission.

But Pennsylvania consumers now get to choose the company that sells the electric power, or generation, that is delivered over those distribution lines. Some companies may offer electric generation service that is cheaper than the power sold by your local electric distribution company; some companies may offer types of generation that are cleaner to produce.



No matter who you buy your power from, the reliability and quality of your local electric distribution service will not change. In addition, only companies that are licensed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission are allowed to sell electric generation to consumers in Pennsylvania.

How To Shop for Electricity



As a residential electric customer, you should have received a letter that includes a list of electric generation suppliers serving residential consumers in your area. That letter also includes a "price to compare," which is the price charged by your local utility for the portion of your service open to competition.

The "price to compare" is given in cents per kilowatthour (kWh). One way to think about a "kilowatthour" is the amount of electricity needed to keep ten 100-watt light bulbs burning for one hour. A typical residential customer may use about 500 kilowatthours of electricity every month for normal lighting and appliances. If you have electric heat, you are likely to use much more electricity in the winter months. If you have air conditioning, your usage will likely be higher in the summer months. The best place to find your own monthly usage is by looking at recent

bills you received from your electric distribution company.

Once you know your utility's price to compare and your own typical monthly usage, you can begin to shop for your electric supplier.

Again, all consumers should have received a list of the names and telephone numbers of licensed electric generation suppliers who have indicated an interest in serving residential customers in their area. By comparing the supplier's price per kilowatt hour with your electric distribution company's price to compare, you can find out whether or not you will save money by switching.

For example, as this table shows, if your electric distribution company's price to compare is 5ϕ per kWh and the competing electric generation supplier is charging 4ϕ , then you can save 1ϕ on every kilowatthour that you use. If you use 500 kWh in a month, then you will save \$5.00.

Price to Compare	5¢/kWh
New Supplier Price	- <u>4¢/kWh</u>
Savings	1¢/kWh
Savings	1¢/kWh
Monthly Use	X <u>500 kWh</u>
Savings per Month	\$5.00

How To Use This Guide

The purpose of this guide is to help residential consumers get started in shopping for their electric supplier.

We have collected information about each of Pennsylvania's major electric distribution companies as well as the electric generation suppliers who are presently offering service to residential customers in each area. We have attached a chart for each company showing the utility company's price to compare, and the comparable price being charged by the electric generation suppliers. We have also calculated the monthly bills for suppliers' services at three different usage levels -- 500 kWh, 1000 kWh, and 2000 kWh per month. If a

supplier includes a monthly or annual charge in addition to the price per kilowatt hour, then we have spread that charge over the applicable usage. For example, if a supplier charges \$5.00 per month, plus 5¢ per kWh; and if a consumer uses 500 kWh, then the monthly bill in our chart would be \$30.00.

It is also important to note that we have **not** included other parts of your electric bill in our comparison charts. All customers will **also** have to pay other charges to their electric distribution company to have the power delivered to their home. Those additional charges are the same regardless of

New Supplier Price per kWh	5¢/kWh
Monthly Usage	X 500 kWh
Monthly Usage Cost	\$25.00
Monthly Fee	+ \$5.00
Monthly Generation Bill at 500 kWh per month	\$30.00

who you buy your power from, however, so that does not change the amount of your monthly savings.



Our chart points out those electric generation supply services that are certified with a Green-e logo . The Green-e Renewable Electricity Certification Program is a program of the non-profit Center for Resource Solutions. The Green-e program was established to provide information and an objective standard for consumers to compare electricity products, and to verify that consumers get what they pay for. In order to qualify for Green-e certification, the electricity service must use at least 50% renewable energy supply and meet certain other standards. For more information, you can call the Center for Resource Solutions at (888)-63 GREEN, or check their website at www.green-e.org.

Finally, our charts only include basic residential and residential heating rates under which the great majority of Pennsylvania residential consumers are served. Some Pennsylvania electric distribution companies also offer special rates that vary based on time of day and by peak usage or that are associated with particular types of service, such as thermal storage or off-peak water heating. If you are currently served under one of these special rates, then you should check with the electric suppliers in your service territory to see if any of them are offering comparable services.

Now It's Your Turn

This document is only a guide to **start** you in the shopping process. We have tried to gather accurate information from all the residential suppliers that we are aware of in each territory, but there may well be additional products available. Also, **prices change**. You should always contact the supplier directly to make sure that you understand the price that you will have to pay as well as all other contract terms, such as the length of the contract and any other fees for switching to or from a particular supplier. Also, each electric distribution company's price to compare may change in the future.

Disclaimer of Liability and Endorsement

Neither the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate nor any of its employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of the attached charts.

Reference in the charts to any specific commercial products, process, or service by trade name, trademark, or otherwise does not constitute or imply its endorsement or recommendation by the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate. The information contained in the charts shall not be used for advertising or product endorsement purposes. The Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate is not responsible for the contents of any off-site Internet web pages referenced.

We can help

If you have any questions, please contact our office by calling our **toll free number 800-684-6560** (Pennsylvania consumers only), or (717) 783-5048 or by email at consumer@paoca.org. The Office of Consumer Advocate also has a website at www.oca.state.pa.us which has other educational material available.

You can obtain a current list of suppliers serving your area, and a wealth of other information about the Pennsylvania Utility Choice Program, from the Program's website at www.utilitychoice.com or by calling toll-free 888-PUC-FACT (888-782-3228).

Allegheny Power		Rate RS	Regular Res	idential Serv	/ice
Allegheny Power 800-255-3443 www.alleghenypower.com	Prices in	Your Monthly Generation Bill If You Use:			Green-e Certified?
	cents per kWh	<u>500 kWh</u>	<u>1000 kWh</u>	2000 kWh	
Price to Compare for					
<u>2004:</u>	3.871 ¢	\$19.36	\$38.71	\$77.42	
Licensed Competin	tive Supplie	er Prices i	for <mark>New</mark> Cu	ıstomers	Only:
Green Mountain Energy 888-246-6730 www.greenmountain.com Green Mountain Energy®					
50% renewable		\$41.25	\$78.55	\$153.15	
Nature's Choice sm 100% renewable F		\$38.55	\$73.15	\$142.35	Yes

Duquesne Light		Rate RS	Regular Resid	ential Servic	е
Duquesne Light 888-393-7100 www.duquesnelight.com Price to Compare for 2004:	Prices in cents per kWh	500 kWh \$29.15	\$58.30	<u>2000kWh</u> \$116.60	Green-e Certified?
Licensed Competi	tive Suppl	ier Prices	for <mark>New</mark> C	ustomers	Only:
Community Energy 866-WIND-123 www.NewWindEnergy.com New Wind Energy ^{TM3} 100% renewable *This product is available as an a current supply purchase		Current supplier charge plus 2.5 ¢ per kWh, or \$2.50 for each 100 kWh block *You must purchase a minimum of two 100 kWh blocks. This minimum purchase would increase your current generation bill by \$5.00 per month.			Yes
Green Mountain Energy 888-246-6730 www.greenmountain.com Green Mountain Energy 50% renewabl	 B	\$40.65	\$77.35	\$150.75	
Nature's Choice s 100% renewabl Plus		\$38.55	\$73.15	\$142.35	Yes

Duquesne Light		Rate RH	Residential H	leating Serv	ice
Duquesne Light 888-393-7100 www.duquesnelight.com Price to Compare for 2004: Summer (May-October)	Prices in cents per kWh 3.17 ¢ 5.26 ¢	Monthly G 500 kWh \$26.30	eneration & Tra Bill If You Use: 1000 kWh \$52.60	ansmission 2000 kWh \$105.20	Green-e Certified?
1st 500 kWh over 500 kWh Licensed Compete Community Energy 866-WIND-123 www.NewWindEnergy.com New Wind Energy TM 100% renewable *This product is available as an add- current supply purchase	5.26 ¢ 1.90 ¢ itive Supp	Current supplie \$2.50 for each *You must purcha	r charge plus 2.5 ¢ 100 kWh block se a minimum of two 1 chase would increase y	per kWh, or	only:
Green Mountain Energy 888-246-6730 www.greenmountain.com Green Mountain Energy® 50% renewable Nature's Choice sn 100% renewable Plus S	7.34 ¢	\$40.65 \$38.55	\$77.35 \$73.15	\$150.75 \$142.35	Yes

Duquesne Light		Rate RA	Residential Ad	dd On Heat P	ump
Duquesne Light 888-393-7100 www.duquesnelight.com	Prices in cents per kWh	Monthly Ge	eneration & Tran If You Use:	smission Bill	Green-e Certified?
. 0		<u>500 kWh</u>	<u>1000kWh</u>	2000kWh	
Price to Compare for 2004:	6.53 ¢				
Summer (May-October)	8.00 ¢	\$40.00	\$80.00	\$160.00	
Winter (November - April)		\$40.00	\$54.50	\$83.50	
1st 500 kWh	8.00 ¢				
over 500 kWh	2.90 ¢				<u> </u>
Licensed Competit	ive Suppli	er Prices	for New C	ustomers	Only:
Community Energy 866-WIND-123 www.NewWindEnergy.com					
New Wind Energy ^{TM*} 100% renewable			er charge plus 2.5	¢ per kWh, or	
*This product is available as an add-ocurrent supply purchase	on to your	*You must purch	nase a minimum of two archase would increase y \$5.00 per month.		

Met Ed		R	ate RS F	Regular Resider	ntial Service
(formerly GPU Energy) 888-478-2300 www.firstenergycorp.com Price to Compare	Prices in cents per kWh	•	eneration & Tra fill If You Use 1000 kWh	Green-e Certified?	
for 2004:	4.588 ¢	\$22.94	\$45.88	\$91.76	
Licensed Competit	ive Suppli	ier Prices f	or New C	ustomers	Only:
Community Energy 866-WIND-123 www.NewWindEnergy.com New Wind Energy ^{TM*} 100% renewable *This product is available as an add-o current supply purchase		Current supplier charge plus 2.5 ¢ per kWh, or \$2.50 for each 100 kWh block *You must purchase a minimum of two 100 kWh blocks. This minimum purchase would increase your current generation bill by \$5.00 per month.			Yes
Green Mountain Energy 888-246-6730 www.greenmountain.com Green Mountain Energy 50% renewabl	- · · B	\$40.90	\$77.85	\$151.75	
Nature's Choice s 100% renewabl Plu		\$41.75	\$79.55	\$155.15	Yes

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PECO Energy	Ra	te R F	Regular Reside	ential Service	е
PECO Energy					
800-494-4000	Prices in	Monthly G	eneration & Tra	nsmission	Green-e
www.peco.com	cents per	I	Bill If You Use:		Certified?
	kWh	<u>500 kWh</u>	<u>1000 kWh</u>	<u>2000 kWh</u>	
Price to Compare					
<u>for 2004</u>	6.17 ¢				
Summer: June - September	er	\$30.25	\$64.20	\$132.10	
First 500 kWh	6.05 ¢				
over 500 kWh	6.79 ¢				
Winter: October - May		\$30.25	\$60.50	\$121.00	
Each kWh	6.05 ¢				
Market Share Threshold	Program Serv	ice (MST) pro	vided by Dom	inion Retail (or
It's Electric & Gas, L.L.C.					
This service is available only	to preselected I	MST customers	s. It is not availab	le to new cust	omers.
Dominion Retail MST					
866-535-9522					
www.retail.dom.com					
It's Electric & Gas MST					
800-603-9178					
www.itselectric.us					
Price to Compare	<i>(</i> 00)				
<u>for 2004</u>	6.08 ¢	Φ20.00	\$ 62.25	#100.15	
Summer: June - September		\$29.80	\$63.25	\$130.15	
First 500 kWh	5.96 ¢				
over 500 kWh	6.69 ¢	_			
Winter: October - May	5 06.	\$29.80	\$59.60	\$119.20	
Each kWh	5.96 ¢				
1.		D ' (N O		
Licensed Competiti	ve Supplie	er Prices to	new Cus	stomers C	niy:
ACN Energy, Inc.					
877-226-5392		400.15	h	.	
www.acnenergy.com	6.07 ¢	\$33.13	\$63.48	\$124.18	
Plus	\$2.78 per month				

Rate R PECO Energy Licensed Competitive Supplier Prices for New Customers Only:

	Prices in cents per	<u> </u>	eneration & Tra Bill If You Use:		Green-e Certified?
	kWh	500 kWh	1000 kWh	2000 kWh	
Community Energy 866-WIND-123 www.NewWindEnergy.com	1,1,1		1000 K 11 II	2000 R H H	
New Wind Energy ^{TM*} 100% renewable		Current supplier \$2.50 for each 1	charge plus 2.5 ¢ 00 kWh block	per kWh, or	Yes
*This product is available as an add- on to your current supply purchase			e a minimum of two 1 hase would increase y 5.00 per month.		
electricAMERICA					
800-electric www.electricAmerica.com 50% hydro					
Summer: June - September First 500 kWh	6.50 ¢	\$32.50	\$67.00	\$136.00	
over 500 kWh	6.90 ¢				
Winter: October - May Each kWh	6.50 ¢	\$32.50	\$65.00	\$130.00	
		navlvanja			
Energy Cooperative Asso 800-223-5783 or 215-413- www.theenergy.coop		iisyivaina 			
EcoChoice					
100% renewable	7.25 ¢	\$36.67	\$72.92	\$145.42	Yes
Standard	5.97 ¢	\$30.27	\$60.12	\$119.82	
Plus \$5 annual fee (waived fo	r senior citizens, pers	sons of low-income &	k persons with a disab	ility)	
New Wind Energy™*		Current suppl	lier charge plus 2.5	5¢ per kWh,	
*This product is available as an add-or supply option	nis product is available as an add-on to the above ply option		for each 100 kWl	-	
Green Mountain Energy 888-246-6730	Company				
www.greenmountain.com Green Mountain Energy® 50% renewable	7.54 ¢	\$41.65	\$79.35	\$154.75	
Nature's Choice sm 100% renewable Plus	7.56 ¢ s \$3.95 per month	\$41.75	\$79.55	\$155.15	Yes
	1				

Rate R PECO Energy Licensed Competitive Supplier Prices for New Customers Only:

	Prices in cents per kWh	1	eneration & Tra Bill If You Use:		Green-e Certified?
PowerChoice by Pepco E 800-363-7499	nergy Services	500 kWh	1000 kWh	2000 kWh	
www.PowerChoice.com					
Standard	7.94 ¢	\$39.70	\$79.40	\$158.80	
10% renewable	8.02 ¢	\$40.10	\$80.20	\$160.40	
51% renewable	8.35 ¢	\$41.75	\$83.50	\$167.00	
100% renewable	8.74 ¢	\$43.70	\$87.40	\$174.80	
Wind, 51% renewable	8.92 ¢	\$44.60	\$89.20	\$178.40	
Wind, 100% renewable	9.85 ¢	\$49.25	\$98.50	\$197.00	

				•	ica September 2, 1
PECO Energy	Ra	te RH F	Residential Hea	ating Service	Э
PECO Energy					
800-494-4000	Prices in	Monthly G	eneration & Tra	nsmission	Green-e
www.peco.com	cents per		Bill If You Use:		Certified?
	kWh	<u>500 kWh</u>	<u>1000 kWh</u>	2000 kWh	
Price to Compare					
<u>for 2004</u>	4.99 ¢				
Summer: June - Septemb	per	\$31.45	\$66.70	\$137.20	
1st 500 kWh	6.29 ¢				
over 500 kWh	7.05 ¢				
Winter: October - May		\$31.45	\$51.78	\$86.88	
1st 600 kWh	6.29 ¢				
over 600 kWh	3.51 ¢				
Licensed Compet	itive Supplie	er Prices fo	r New Cus	stomers C	only:
ACN Energy, Inc.					
877-226-5392					
www.acnenergy.com	6.07 ¢	\$33.13	\$63.48	\$124.18	
PI	us \$2.78 per month				
Community Energy					
866-WIND-123					
www.NewWindEnergy.com			1 1 25 /	1 33 71	Vac
New Wind Energy TM * 100% renewabl	e	\$2.50 for each 1	charge plus 2.5 ¢	per KWn, or	Yes
*This product is available as an add				00 kWh blooks	
current supply purchase	-on to your	*You must purchase a minimum of two 100 kWh blocks. This minimum purchase would increase your current			
		generation bill by \$.	5.00 per month.		
Energy Cooperative Ass	sociation of Pen	nsylvania			
800-223-5783 or 215-413					
www.theenergy.coop					
EcoChoic		фо <i>с</i> - 5	Φ72.02	ф1 4 7 4 5	T 7
100% renewabl	e 7.25 ¢	\$36.67	\$72.92	\$145.42	Yes
Standard	d 5.99 ¢	\$30.37	\$60.32	\$120.22	
Plus \$5 annual fee (v	vaived for senior cit	tizens, persons of	low-income & pe	rsons with a dis	ability)
New Wind Energy TM *		Current suppl	ier charge plus 2.5	ø¢ per kWh.	
*This product is available as an add	on to the above		for each 100 kWh	-	
supply option					

	PECO Energy		Nove O) or how
Licensed Competit					
	Prices in	_	eneration & Tra Bill If You Use:		Green-e Certified?
	cents per kWh	500 kWh	1000 kWh	2000 kWh	
Green Mountain Energy 888-246-6730 www.greenmountain.com Green Mountain Energy® 50% renewable	Company 7.54 ¢	\$41.65	\$79.35	\$154.75	
Nature's Choice sm 100% renewable Plus	7.56 ¢ s \$3.95 per month	\$41.75	\$79.55	\$155.15	Yes
PowerChoice by Pepco E 800-363-7499 www.PowerChoice.com	nergy Services				
Standard	7.94 ¢	\$39.70	\$79.40	\$158.80	
10% renewable	8.02 ¢	\$40.10	\$80.20	\$160.40	
51% renewable	8.35 ¢	\$41.75	\$83.50	\$167.00	
100% renewable	8.74 ¢	\$43.70	\$87.40	\$174.80	
Wind, 51% renewable	8.92 ¢	\$44.60	\$89.20	\$178.40	
Wind, 100% renewable	9.85 ¢	\$49.25	\$98.50	\$197.00	

Penelec	Rate RS Regular Reside			ntial Service	
Penelec (formerly GPU Energy) 888-478-2300	Monthly Generation & Transmission Bill If You Use:			Green-e Certified?	
www.firstenergycorp.com	cents per kWh	<u>500 kWh</u>	<u>1000 kWh</u>	2000 kWh	
Price to Compare for 2004	4.592 ¢	\$22.96	\$45.92	\$91.84	
Licensed Competitive Supplier Prices for New Customers Only:					
Community Energy 866-WIND-123 www.NewWindEnergy.com 100% renewable *This product is available as an add-on to your current supply purchase		Current supplier charge plus 2.5 ¢ per kWh, or \$2.50 for each 100 kWh block *You must purchase a minimum of two 100 kWh blocks. This minimum purchase would increase your current generation bill by \$5.00 per month.			Yes
Green Mountain Energy (888-246-6730 www.greenmountain.com Green Mountain Energy@					
50% renewable		\$40.70	\$77.45	\$150.95	
Nature's Choice st 100% renewable Plus		\$41.75	\$79.55	\$155.15	Yes

Penn Power		Rate RS	Generation C		
Penn Power 888-478-2300 www.firstenergycorp.com Price to Compare	Prices in Cents per kWh		onthly Generation Bill If You Use: 1000 kWh (8kW)		Green-e Certified
for 2004:	*	\$30.41	\$52.73	\$75.26	
Licensed Compet	lier Prices	for New C	Customers	: Only:	
Community Energy 866-WIND-123 www.NewWindEnergy.com New Wind Energy ^{TM*} 100% renewable *This product is available as an add-on to your current supply purchase		Current supplier charge plus 2.5 ¢ per kWh, or \$2.50 for each 100 kWh block *You must purchase a minimum of two 100 kWh blocks. This minimum purchase would increase your current generation bill by \$5.00 per month.			Yes
Green Mountain Energy 888-246-6730 www.greenmountain.com Green Mountain Energy 50% renewab	⁄®	\$39.80	\$75.65	\$147.35	
Nature's Choice 100% renewab Plus	sm	\$38.55	\$73.15	\$142.35	Yes

^{*} For Penn Power customers, each customer's price to compare varies, based on both usage (kWh) and monthly peak demand (kW). The numbers on this chart for customers who continue to purchase generation from Penn Power, reflect average usage and demand characteristics. The numbers for competitive suppliers on this chart only vary by usage, not demand. Your individual price to compare is printed on your monthly Penn Power electric bill or you can receive it by contacting Penn Power directly.

PPL Utilities	Rate RS	Regular Residential Service			е
PPL Utilities					
888-668-4775	Prices in	Monthly Generation & Transmission			Green-e
www.pplweb.com/choice	cents per	Bill If You Use:			Certified?
	kWh	<u>500 kWh</u>	<u>1000 kWh</u>	<u>2000 kWh</u>	
Price to Compare					
<u>for 2004:</u>	4.84 ¢	\$25.47	\$48.98	\$93.78	
1st 200 kWh	5.46 ¢				
next 600 kWh	4.85 ¢				
over 800 kWh	4.48 ¢				
Licensed Compe Community Energy 866-WIND-123 www.NewWindEnergy.com New Wind Energy ^{TM*} 100% renewable *This product is available as an ad current supply purchase		Current supplie \$2.50 f *You must purchase	er charge plus 2.5 For each 100 kWh e a minimum of two 1 hase would increase y	¢ per kWh, or block 100 kWh blocks.	Only: Yes
Green Mountain Energy 888-246-6730 www.greenmountain.com Green Mountain Energy 50% renewab	® le 6.97 ¢	\$38.80	\$73.65	\$143.35	
100% renewab Plu	le 7.56 ¢ as \$3.95 per month	\$41.75	\$79.55	\$155.15	Yes

UGI		Rate R	Residential S	Service	
UGI 888-285-2133 www.ugi.com/	Prices in cents per	Monthly Generation & Transmission Bill If You Use:			Green-e Certified?
electric/home.htm	kWh	<u>500 kWh</u>	1000 kWh	2000 kWh	
Price to Compare					
<u>for 2004:</u>		\$31.01	\$58.06	\$100.39	
1st 500 kWh	6.201 ¢				
next 500 kWh	5.410 ¢				
over 1000 kWh	4.233 ¢				
Licensed Compet	titive Supp	lier Prices	for New C	Customers	S Only:
Community Energy 866-WIND-123 www.NewWindEnergy.com New Wind Energy ^{TM*} 100% renewable			er charge plus 2.5 For each 100 kWh	-	Yes
*This product is available as an add-on to your current supply purchase		*You must purchase a minimum of two 100 kWh blocks. This minimum purchase would increase your current generation bill by \$5.00 per month.			
Green Mountain Energy 888-246-6730 www.greenmountain.com Green Mountain Energy 50% renewabl	3	\$40.95	\$77.95	\$151.95	
Nature's Choice s 100% renewabl Plus		\$41.75	\$79.55	\$155.15	Yes