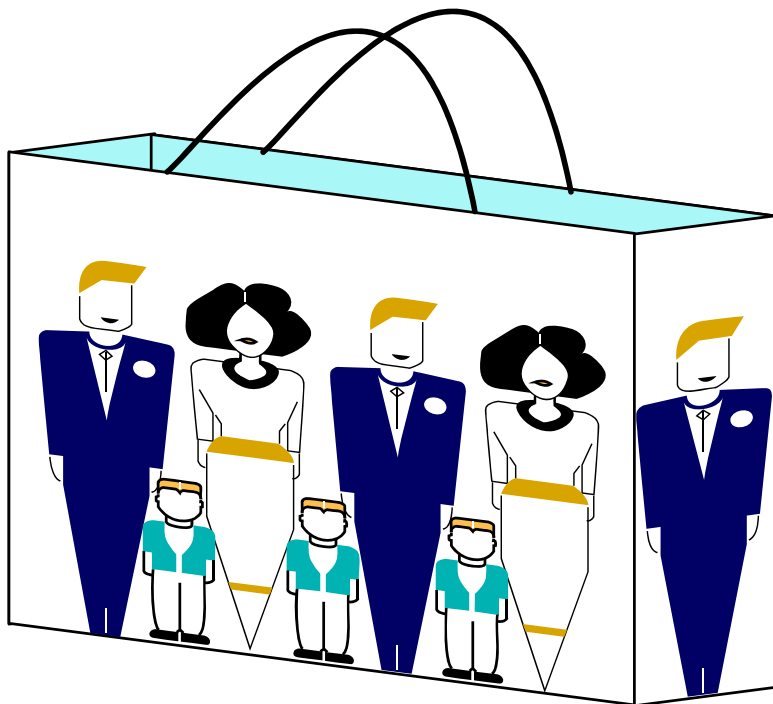


# PA Office of Consumer Advocate's Electric Shopping Guide



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Sonny Popowsky, Consumer Advocate

# **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**

## **I**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.

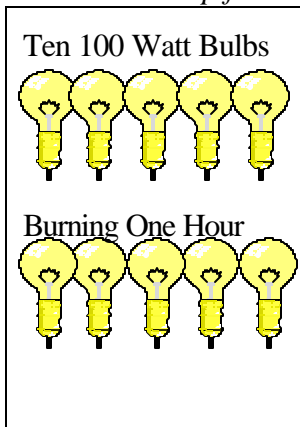
It is important to understand that consumers will only have a choice as to a portion of their electricity service. The power lines that run down your street and into your home will still be operated by your local electric distribution company, and the rates for the delivery portion of your service will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

## **H**ow 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 kilowatt-hour (kWh). One way to think about a “kilowatt-hour” 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 kilowatt-hours 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 5¢ per kWh and the competing electric generation supplier is charging 4¢, then you can save 1¢ on every kilowatt hour 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           |
| <hr/>              |                  |
| 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

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

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



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](http://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](mailto:consumer@paoca.org). The Office of Consumer Advocate also has a website at [www.oaca.state.pa.us](http://www.oaca.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](http://www.utilitychoice.com) or by calling toll-free 888-PUC-FACT (888-782-3228).

| <b>Allegheny Power</b>  |                                     | <b>Rate RS</b>   | <b>Regular Residential Service</b> |                 |                 |                       |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Allegheny Power</b><br>800-255-3443<br>www.alleghenypower.com                  | Prices in<br>cents per<br>kWh       | Your Monthly Generation Bill<br>If You Use:  | <u>500 kWh</u>                     | <u>1000 kWh</u> | <u>2000 kWh</u> | Green-e<br>Certified? |
| <u>Price to Compare for</u><br><u>2006:</u>                                       | <b>4.286 ¢</b>                      | \$21.43  | \$42.86                            | \$85.72         |                 |                       |
| <b><i>Licensed Competitive Supplier Prices for <u>New</u> Customers Only:</i></b> |                                     |  |                                    |                 |                 |                       |
| <b>Community Energy</b><br>866-WIND-123<br>www.NewWindEnergy.com                  | New Wind Energy™*<br>100% renewable | Current supplier charge plus 2.5 ¢ per kWh, or<br>\$2.50 for each 100 kWh block  |                                    |                 |                 | Yes                   |
| *This product is available as an add-on to your<br>current supply purchase        |                                     | *You must purchase a minimum of two 100 kWh blocks.<br>This minimum purchase would increase your current<br>generation bill by \$5.00 per month. |                                    |                 |                 |                       |

| <b>Duquesne Light</b>   |  | <b>Rate RS Regular Residential Service</b>  |                       |  |  |
|---|--|---|-----------------------|--|--|
| <b>Duquesne Light</b><br>888-393-7100<br>www.duquesnelight.com<br><br>Price to Compare<br>for 2006:   | Prices in<br>cents per<br>kWh<br><br><b>6.67 ¢</b> | Monthly Generation & Transmission Bill<br>If You Use:<br><br><u>500 kWh</u> <u>1000kWh</u> <u>2000kWh</u><br><br>\$33.35      \$66.70      \$133.40   | Green-e<br>Certified? |  |  |
| <b>Licensed Competitive Supplier Prices for <u>New</u> Customers Only:</b>  |  |   |                       |  |  |
| <b>Community Energy</b><br>866-WIND-123<br>www.NewWindEnergy.com<br>New Wind Energy™*<br>100% renewable<br><br>*This product is available as an add-on to your<br>current supply purchase |  | Current supplier charge plus 2.5 ¢ per kWh, or<br>\$2.50 for each 100 kWh block<br><br>*You must purchase a minimum of two 100 kWh blocks.<br>This minimum purchase would increase your current<br>generation bill by \$5.00 per month. | Yes                   |  |  |
| <b>Dominion Peoples Plus</b><br>1-800-903-0380<br>www.dom.com<br>Monthly variable through 12/06   | 6.6 ¢  | \$33.00      \$66.00      \$132.00  |                       |  |  |

| Duquesne Light  |       | Rate RH  | Residential Heating Service |          |                    |
|---|-------|--|-----------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| <b>Duquesne Light</b><br>888-393-7100<br>www.duquesnelight.com<br><br>Prices in cents per kWh<br><br><u>Price to Compare for 2006:</u><br><b>Summer (May-October)</b> 7.98 ¢<br><b>Winter (November - April)</b><br>1st 500 kWh 7.98 ¢<br>over 500 kWh 2.96 ¢ |       | Monthly Generation & Transmission<br>Bill If You Use:<br><u>500 kWh</u> <u>1000 kWh</u> <u>2000 kWh</u>  |                             |          | Green-e Certified? |
|   |       |  |                             |          |                    |
|   |       |  |                             |          |                    |
|   |       |  |                             |          |                    |
|   |       |  |                             |          |                    |
| <b>Licensed Competitive Supplier Prices for <u>New</u> Customers Only:</b>  |       |  |                             |          |                    |
| <b>Community Energy</b><br>866-WIND-123<br>www.NewWindEnergy.com<br><br>New Wind Energy™*<br>100% renewable<br><br>*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<br><br>*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                |
|   |       |  |                             |          |                    |
| <b>Dominion Peoples Plus</b><br>1-800-903-0380<br>www.dom.com<br><br>Monthly variable through 12/06   | 6.6 ¢ | \$33.00  | \$66.00                     | \$132.00 |                    |



**Duquesne Light**      **Rate RA**      Residential Add On Heat Pump

|   |  |   |                |                |                       |
|---|--|---|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Duquesne Light</b><br>888-393-7100<br>www.duquesnelight.com<br><br>Price to Compare<br>for 2006:<br><br><b>Summer</b> (May-October)<br><br><b>Winter</b> (November - April)<br>1st 500 kWh<br>over 500 kWh | Prices in<br>cents per<br>kWh<br><br>6.78 ¢<br><br><b>8.15 ¢</b><br><br><b>8.15 ¢</b><br><b>3.10 ¢</b> | Monthly Generation & Transmission<br>Bill If You Use: |                |                | Green-e<br>Certified? |
|   |  | <u>500 kWh</u>  | <u>1000kWh</u> | <u>2000kWh</u> |                       |

**Licensed Competitive Supplier Prices for New Customers Only:**

|   |  |   |  |  |     |
|---|--|---|--|--|-----|
| <b>Community Energy</b><br>866-WIND-123<br>www.NewWindEnergy.com<br><br>New Wind Energy™*<br>100% renewable<br><br>*This product is available as an add-on to your<br>current supply purchase |  | Current supplier charge plus 2.5 ¢ per kWh, or<br>\$2.50 for each 100 kWh block<br><br>*You must purchase a minimum of two 100 kWh blocks.<br>This minimum purchase would increase your current<br>generation bill by \$5.00 per month. |  |  | Yes |
|---|--|---|--|--|-----|

|   |       |         |         |          |  |
|---|-------|---------|---------|----------|--|
| <b>Dominion Peoples Plus</b><br>1-800-903-0380<br>www.dom.com<br><br>Monthly variable through 12/06 | 6.6 ¢ | \$33.00 | \$66.00 | \$132.00 |  |
|---|-------|---------|---------|----------|--|

| <b>Met Ed</b>   |  | <b>Rate RS</b>   |  |  | Regular Residential Service |
|---|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>(formerly GPU Energy)</b><br>888-478-2300<br>www.firstenergycorp.com<br><br>Prices in cents per kWh<br><br><u>Price to Compare for 2006:</u> |  | Monthly Generation & Transmission<br>Bill If You Use:<br><u>500 kWh</u> <u>1000 kWh</u> <u>2000 kWh</u><br>\$24.16      \$48.32      \$96.64 |  |  | Green-e Certified?          |
| <b>4.832 ¢</b>  |  |  |  |  |                             |

**Licensed Competitive Supplier Prices for New Customers Only:**

|  |  |  |  |  |     |
|--|--|--|--|--|-----|
| <b>Community Energy</b><br>866-WIND-123<br>www.NewWindEnergy.com<br>New Wind Energy™*<br>100% renewable<br><br>*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<br><br>*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 |
|--|--|--|--|--|-----|

| <b>PECO Energy</b>  |  | <b>Rate R</b>                             | <b>Regular Residential Service</b>  |                 |                 |                       |     |
|---|--|---|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----|
| <b>PECO Energy</b><br>800-494-4000<br>www.peco.com  |  | Prices in<br>cents per<br>kWh             | Monthly Generation & Transmission<br>Bill If You Use:   |                 |                 | Green-e<br>Certified? |     |
| <u>Price to Compare</u><br>for 2006:  |  |   | <u>500 kWh</u>  | <u>1000 kWh</u> | <u>2000 kWh</u> |                       |     |
| <b>Summer:</b> June - September   |  | <b>6.7 ¢</b>                              | \$32.85   | \$69.75         | \$143.55        |                       |     |
| First 500 kWh   |  | 6.57 ¢                                    |   |                 |                 |                       |     |
| over 500 kWh  |  | 7.38 ¢                                    |   |                 |                 |                       |     |
| <b>Winter:</b> October - May  |  |   | \$32.85   | \$65.70         | \$131.40        |                       |     |
| Each kWh  |  | 6.57 ¢                                    |   |                 |                 |                       |     |
| <b>Licensed Competitive Supplier Prices for <u>New</u> Customers Only:</b>                                  |  |   |   |                 |                 |                       |     |
| <b>Commerce Energy, Inc.</b><br>877-226-5392<br>www.commerceenergy.com                                      |  | 12.00 ¢<br>Plus \$2.78 per month          | \$62.78   | \$122.78        | \$242.78        |                       |     |
| <b>Community Energy</b><br>866-WIND-123<br>www.NewWindEnergy.com  |  | New Wind Energy™*<br>100% renewable       | Current supplier charge plus 2.5 ¢ per kWh, or<br>\$2.50 for each 100 kWh block   |                 |                 | Yes                   |     |
| *This product is available as an add-on to your current supply purchase                                     |  |   | *You must purchase a minimum of two 100 kWh blocks.<br>This minimum purchase would increase your current generation bill by \$5.00 per month. |                 |                 |                       |     |
| <b>Energy Cooperative Association of Pennsylvania</b><br>800-223-5783 or 215-413-2122<br>www.theenergy.coop |  | <b>EcoChoice</b><br><b>100% renewable</b> | 17.20 ¢   | \$86.00         | \$172.00        | \$344.00              | Yes |
| <b>PowerChoice by Pepco Energy Services</b><br>800-213-7719<br>www.PowerChoice.com                          |  |   |   |                 |                 |                       |     |
| *Internet Enrollment Only   |  |   |   |                 |                 |                       |     |
| 10% renewable   |  | 11.20 ¢                                   | \$56.00   | \$112.00        | \$224.00        |                       |     |
| 51% renewable   |  | 11.54 ¢                                   | \$57.70   | \$115.40        | \$230.80        |                       |     |
| 100% renewable  |  | 11.96 ¢                                   | \$59.80   | \$119.60        | \$239.20        |                       |     |
| Wind, 51% renewable   |  | 11.92 ¢                                   | \$59.60   | \$119.20        | \$238.40        |                       |     |
| Wind, 100% renewable  |  | 12.71 ¢                                   | \$63.55   | \$127.10        | \$254.20        |                       |     |



| <b>Penelec</b>   |   | <b>Rate RS</b>   |  |  | Regular Residential Service |
|--|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>Penelec</b><br><b>(formerly GPU Energy)</b><br>888-478-2300<br>www.firstenergycorp.com<br><u>Price to Compare</u><br><u>for 2006:</u> | Prices in<br>cents per<br>kWh<br><br><b>4.821 ¢</b> | Monthly Generation & Transmission<br>Bill If You Use:<br><br><u>500 kWh</u> <u>1000 kWh</u> <u>2000 kWh</u><br><br>\$24.11    \$48.21    \$96.42 |  |  | Green-e<br>Certified?       |

***Licensed Competitive Supplier Prices for New Customers Only:***

|   |  |     |
|---|--|-----|
| <b>Community Energy</b><br>866-WIND-123<br>www.NewWindEnergy.com<br>100% renewable<br><br>*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<br><br>*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 |
|---|--|-----|

| <b>Penn Power</b>  |                                      | <b>Rate RS</b>  | <b>Generation Only</b> |          |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------|----------|---|
| <b>Penn Power</b><br>888-478-2300<br>www.firstenergycorp.com | Prices in<br><b>Cents per</b><br>kWh | <b>Monthly Generation<br/>           Bill If You Use:</b><br>500 kWh (5kW)    1000 kWh (8kW)    2000 kWh (11kW) |                        |          | <b>Green-e<br/>           Certified</b> |
| <u>Price to Compare<br/>           for 2006:</u>             | *                                    | \$31.16   | \$54.04                | \$ 77.12 |   |

**Licensed Competitive Supplier Prices for New Customers Only:**

|  |  |            |
|--|--|------------|
| <b>Community Energy</b><br>866-WIND-123<br>www.NewWindEnergy.com<br>New Wind Energy™*<br>100% renewable<br>*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<br>*You must purchase a minimum of two 100 kWh blocks. This minimum purchase would increase your current generation bill by \$5.00 per month. | <b>Yes</b> |
|--|--|------------|

\* 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.

| <b>PPL Utilities</b>  |  | <b>Rate RS</b>   | <b>Regular Residential Service</b>  |  |  |                       |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|-----------------------|
| <b>PPL Utilities</b><br>888-668-4775<br>www.pplweb.com/choice<br><br><u>Price to Compare</u><br><u>for 2006:</u><br>1st 200 kWh<br>next 600 kWh<br>over 800 kWh                           |  | Prices in<br>cents per<br>kWh<br><br><b>5.56 ¢</b><br>6.27 ¢<br>5.58 ¢<br>5.17 ¢ | Monthly Generation & Transmission<br>Bill If You Use:<br><u>500 kWh</u> <u>1000 kWh</u> <u>2000 kWh</u><br><br>\$29.28       \$56.36       \$108.06   |  |  | Green-e<br>Certified? |
| <b>Licensed Competitive Supplier Prices for <u>New</u> Customers Only:</b>  |  |  |   |  |  |                       |
| <b>Community Energy</b><br>866-WIND-123<br>www.NewWindEnergy.com<br>New Wind Energy™*<br>100% renewable<br><br>*This product is available as an add-on to your<br>current supply purchase |  |  | Current supplier charge plus 2.5 ¢ per kWh, or<br>\$2.50 for each 100 kWh block<br><br>*You must purchase a minimum of two 100 kWh blocks.<br>This minimum purchase would increase your current<br>generation bill by \$5.00 per month. |  |  | Yes                   |

| <b>UGI</b>  |  | <b>Rate R</b>   | <b>Residential Service</b> |  |  |
|---|--|---|----------------------------|--|--|
| <b>UGI</b><br>888-285-2133<br>www.ugi.com/<br>electric/home.htm<br><u>Price to Compare</u><br><u>for 2006:</u><br>1st 500 kWh<br>next 500 kWh<br>over 1000 kWh                            | Prices in<br>cents per<br>kWh<br><br>6.917 ¢<br>6.028 ¢<br>4.708 ¢ | Monthly Generation & Transmission<br>Bill If You Use:<br><br><u>500 kWh</u> <u>1000 kWh</u> <u>2000 kWh</u><br><br>\$34.59      \$64.73      \$111.81   | Green-e<br>Certified?      |  |  |
| <b><i>Licensed Competitive Supplier Prices for <u>New</u> Customers Only:</i></b>   |  |   |                            |  |  |
| <b>Community Energy</b><br>866-WIND-123<br>www.NewWindEnergy.com<br>New Wind Energy™*<br>100% renewable<br><br>*This product is available as an add-on to your<br>current supply purchase |  | Current supplier charge plus 2.5 ¢ per kWh, or<br>\$2.50 for each 100 kWh block<br><br>*You must purchase a minimum of two 100 kWh blocks.<br>This minimum purchase would increase your current<br>generation bill by \$5.00 per month. | Yes                        |  |  |