

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.

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.







PENNSYLVANIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY SHOPPING GUIDE (LAST UPDATED MARCH 2024)

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.

Please Select Your Rate Schedule. 🕕

- O RA Residential Add on Heat Pump Service
- O RH Residential Heating Service
- RS Regular Residential Service

G Back

Monthly Usage

kWh/month

Max

Price Per kWh Range:

700

Min

Compare Now 📀

At the top of this list, you will see the current price-to-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.

Rate Options

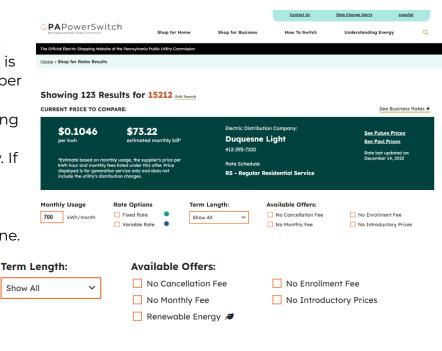
Variable Rate

Unlimited Rate

Sort By:

A-Z (default)

Fixed Rate



You can narrow your search results using the options under your "Current Price to Compare."

- a) **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.
- b) Variable Price A price that may change with the market conditions by the hour or day, according to the supplier's disclosure statement.
- c) **Fixed Price** A price that will remain the same for at least three billing cycles or however long the contract term is.



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



- d) **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.
- e) **Variable Price** A price that may change with the market conditions by the hour or day, according to the supplier's disclosure statement.
- f) **Fixed Price** A price that will remain the same for at least three billing cycles or however long the contract term is.
- g) **Unlimited Price** A set price that is locked in with an amount that does not change monthly based on kWh usage.
- h) **Term Length** The minimum number of months for a contract period.
- i) **Introductory Price** Products that include an introductory price that may not be maintained for the duration of the contract.
- j) **Discounts/Incentives Available** Offers that include special discounts, such as free usage hours, or incentives, such as payment for reduced usage during peak hours.
- k) **No Cancellation Fee** The contract can be canceled, and you can switch to a new supplier at any time without financial penalty.
- I) No Monthly Fee There is no additional monthly fee to enroll in this product.
- m) No Enrollment Fee There is no one-time fee to initiate a contract.
- n) **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.
- o) **Unit Price** Use this toggle to filter results based on price per kWh.

Select the "Compare" checkbox in the upper left- hand corner of every offer in the search	Showing 123 Results for 15212 Edit Sourch CURRENT PRICE TO COMPARE:		See Business Rates 🗲
	\$0.10046 per kwh \$73.22 estimated monthly bill? *Estimate based on monthly usage, the supplier's price per KWh hour and monthly tes listed under the drice. Price displayed is for generation service only and does not include the utility's distribution charges.	Electric Distribution Company: Duquesne Light 412-395-7100 Rate Schedule: R S - Regular Residential Service	See Future Prices See Past Prices Rote but updated orc December 14, 2023
results that you wish to compare on	700 kWh/month Fixed Rate Variable Rate Unlimited Rate	Term Length: Available Offers: Show All No Cancellation Fee No Monthly Fee Renewable Energy #	No Enrollment Fee No Introductory Prices
key search criteria. If you have decided	Price Per kWh Range: Sort By: Min Max A-Z (defoult)	~	Print Results 🖶 Export to CSV 🖪
on an offer, click "See Offer Details." and	Compare	Discount Available: No Cancellation Fee: No Enrollment Fee: No Introductory Prices: Ne Deneurohie Fourna NK. See All Romitar's Offere S	Term End Date: NO Monthly Fee: No

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.

Additional Shopping Tips

REAL

- 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 <u>PA Power Switch</u> 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 <u>PA Power Switch</u> 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: **Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission** Bureau of Consumer Services

1-800-692-7380

Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate (800) 684-6560

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 well-informed decisions within the market

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