Consumer Advisory

How to Choose a Retail Energy Supplier

District residents can choose their electric generation and transmission supplier and their natural gas supplier, while Pepco remains the sole electric distribution company and Washington Gas Light (WGL) remains the sole natural gas distribution company. Before choosing your retail energy supplier, the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia (Commission) is encouraging consumers to “BE INFORMED.”

How to Choose a Retail Energy Supplier

Choosing a retail energy supplier can be confusing and time consuming. However, if you take the time to research and ask the right questions, you can better understand and navigate the process, and make a choice that best fits your needs (e.g., lowering your rates and bills and/or supporting green energy). The following is a list of steps and tools to help you make an informed decision about choosing a retail energy supplier.

**Step 1:** Review your current Pepco and WGL bills to determine how much you pay for energy supply and your monthly usage.

**Step 2:** Check the Commission’s website at dcpsc.org or contact the Office of Consumer Services on 202-626-5120 to obtain a list of approved suppliers to verify that the supplier is licensed and certified by the Commission.

List of Electric Retail Suppliers: [http://www.dcpsc.org/PSCDC/media/PDFFiles/Electric/EGTS_Approved.pdf](http://www.dcpsc.org/PSCDC/media/PDFFiles/Electric/EGTS_Approved.pdf)

List of Natural Gas Retail Suppliers: [http://www.dcpsc.org/PSCDC/media/PDFFiles/NaturalGas/NaturalGasSuppliers_ApprovedContacts.pdf](http://www.dcpsc.org/PSCDC/media/PDFFiles/NaturalGas/NaturalGasSuppliers_ApprovedContacts.pdf)

**Step 3:** Check price offerings and contact information for each licensed supplier serving the District from the Commission’s website and check the website of any supplier you are considering.


Natural Gas Retail Price Offerings: [http://www.dcpsc.org/PSCDC/media/PDFFiles/NaturalGas/Compare_NGSuppliers_Offers.pdf](http://www.dcpsc.org/PSCDC/media/PDFFiles/NaturalGas/Compare_NGSuppliers_Offers.pdf)

**Step 4:** Use the Commission’s bill calculator to compare price offerings between your current supplier and other retail suppliers to determine potential savings.


Questions for Electric & Natural Gas Retail Suppliers

- Do I have to sign a contract? If yes, what are the terms and conditions of your contract?
- Does the price vary month to month?
- If the price is fixed, for how long?
- Is there a minimum charge?
- What kind of billing and payment options are available?
- Is there a penalty for switching suppliers before the end of the contract? If yes, how much is the fee?
- What is your natural gas supply price?
- What is your generation and transmission rate?
- Is there a minimum charge?
- If the price is fixed, for how long?
- Does the price vary month to month?

Questions for Electric Retail Suppliers - http://dcpsc.org/Electric/Electric_FAQ.asp#A1

- What is your generation and transmission rate?
- Are renewable resources used and to what extent?

Questions for Natural Gas Retail Suppliers - http://dcpsc.org/Gas/Gas_FAQ.asp#A1

- Does this price include a "balancing charge?" If yes, how much is the balancing charge?