

MAKING A *SMART* ELECTRICITY CHOICE

HOW TO CHOOSE AN ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU

Your electric bill is divided into three services: generation, transmission and distribution. You have the ability to choose which company supplies the generation portion of your electricity service. Before making a choice, there are a few questions you should consider:

- Why is this choice important to you?
- What do you currently pay for electricity?
- What are your choices?
- What should you know about signing a contract?
- How do you make a choice?

This guide will help you answer these questions and make a smart electricity choice.

Know What Is Important to You in Choosing an Electricity Supplier

Before making a choice, take a few moments to decide why choosing an electricity supplier is important to you.

- Is it the supplier who has the lowest price?
- Do you want electricity generated by environmentally friendly or renewable resources such as wind or solar?
- Do you want flexibility to switch suppliers without a long-term contract?

Knowing the answers to these questions will help you determine which electricity supplier best suits your needs.

Know Your Price to Compare

On the bottom of page two of your electric bill, you will find your **price to compare**. This is the price you pay per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity. Each supplier provides the District of Columbia Public Service Commission with its average price per kWh, which enables you to see which supplier has the lowest rates.

So if your price to compare is \$0.0683 or 6.83 cents per kWh, and you want electricity at the lowest price, a new supplier would have to supply your electricity for less than 6.83 cents per kWh.

When making cost comparisons, remember the cost per kWh may be only one part of the generation cost. Suppliers can also include other standard fees in addition to the per kWh rate that could affect the price you pay. **Make sure you ask about additional fees.**

Also keep in mind, the generation supply is only one of three parts to your electricity bill. Pepco will continue to charge you for distribution and transmission services, regardless of who your supplier is.



Know Who the Licensed Suppliers Are

Before choosing an alternative supplier, make sure you know all of the electricity supply choices that are available to you. To find out about all of the licensed suppliers in the District, contact the **District of Columbia Public Service Commission (DCPSC) at www.dcpsc.org or (202) 626-5100, or the Office of the People's Counsel at (202) 727-3071.**

DCPSC can tell you which companies are taking new customers and what their rates are — remember to have your **price to compare** number handy!

Currently, the number of alternative electricity suppliers for the District of Columbia is limited, but that number may increase as competition in the marketplace develops.

Current alternative suppliers include:

Washington Gas Energy Services
www.wges.com, 1-888-884-WGES

Pepco Energy Services
www.pepcoenergy.com, 703-253-1800

If you decide not to choose a new supplier or simply take no action, Pepco, as the default provider, will continue to supply your electricity. This is called Standard Offer Service. You can contact Pepco at 202-833-7500 or visit www.pepco.com for more information.

You may also receive materials in the mail about new suppliers. Contact DCPSC to learn more about any offers you receive.



Know About the Contract Details Before You Sign It

Before signing a contract with a new electricity supplier, you should:

- Carefully review the contract;
- Ask about additional fees;
- Determine the length of the contract;
- Determine what happens if you need to break the contract; and
- Ask for the generation supply to be included in your monthly Pepco bill.

Once you sign a new contract with a new electricity supplier, your new supplier will notify Pepco that you are switching suppliers. It will take approximately 30 days for the transfer to occur. Your electricity service will **not** be interrupted during this process.

By asking your new supplier to include their generation cost in your monthly Pepco bill, you will continue to receive one electric bill from Pepco. The “Generation Services” section of your electric bill will have the new suppliers’ name identified on it. **You will continue to make one monthly payment to Pepco and then Pepco will pay the electricity supplier.**

If you have already made a choice and have a contract with an alternative electricity supplier and are interested in switching back to Pepco or to another supplier, make sure you understand any fees associated with canceling your contract. Contact DCPSC for information on your choices and follow the steps outlined above before signing another contract.