



# Shopping for Electricity

Just like you shop for other services like cell phone, cable or insurance, you can shop for electric. You may be able to save money by shopping for the generation portion of your bill. In many areas where rate caps have expired, competitive suppliers are making offers to electric customers for the generation portion of their bill.

You can shop based on price, environmental preferences or special services and deals. Consumers are encouraged to seek out competitive suppliers – generation supplier prices are unregulated by the PUC – to obtain pricing information for the generation portion of their bill. Competitive offers may not be available in all areas.

Both the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) and state Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) have information available for those consumers wishing to shop for their generation supply.

If you decide on a new supplier, all you need to do is contact the supplier and they will help you in the process of switching over. Some suppliers allow you to do this online, or by phone. The PUC has worksheets available at [www.papowerswitch.com](http://www.papowerswitch.com) to help you follow along when contacting suppliers as well as a list of questions you should ask the competitive suppliers to help make certain you are getting the full picture and have the tools to help you make an informed choice.

## Where to Shop

### PUC: [www.puc.pa.gov](http://www.puc.pa.gov)

1. On left side of page, click on **“Consumer Info”** to get to [www.papowerswitch.com](http://www.papowerswitch.com)
2. Click on the **Electricity** Tab on the wheel
3. Click on **“PAPowerSwitch - Read More”**
4. Click link to **“PAPowerSwitch”**
5. Click on **“Shop for Electricity”**
6. Find the name of your electric company
7. Click on your electric company name. A window will “pop up” giving you information on suppliers and pricing in your area.

**PA Power Switch**  
[www.papowerswitch.com](http://www.papowerswitch.com)

Navigation: Home | Switching Power | Shop For Electricity | Fixed & Variable | Your Rights & Protections | Ways to Save Energy | FAQs

Switching power is easier than ever.

Depending on where you live, you may be able to save money by switching your electric supplier.

In Pennsylvania, you can choose the company that generates your electricity – also known as your electric supplier. This means that you have the power to switch to a competing supplier who can offer the lowest price or provide a specific service you want, such as green/renewable energy.

See what options are available to you!

ZIP CODE

Are you a commercial customer?

**Education**  
 Educate yourself on all aspects of the power-buying experience here. From why to switch to what questions to ask.  
[Get Educated Now >](#)

**Ways to Save**  
 There are plenty of ways to continue saving money after you've switched power companies.  
[Learn How to Save >](#)

**Rate Change Alerts**  
 Sign up to receive email alerts when residential rates change in your area.  
 First Name  Last Name   
 Email Address   
 ZIP Code

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## ● Why should I shop?

It's your choice. You can shop for the best deal to meet your electric generation needs – just like you shop for a cell phone or cable provider. In areas where competitive offers are being made, you may be able to save money off your electric bill.

While 1 cent per kilowatt hour (kWh) doesn't sound like much, keep in mind that the average Pennsylvania home uses about 10,500 kWh a year – many use more. Saving 1 cent per kWh could translate into more than \$100 a year, depending on usage. Shop around – all you have to lose is dollars off your electric bill.

## ● If I choose a competitive supplier, can I still do budget billing?

Yes – Be sure to tell the competitive supplier that you want budget billing, which allows you to pay a “fixed amount” each month, providing certainty in your bills. Budget billing averages bills out over 12 months, but does not guarantee an annual fixed rate as budget bills are subject to quarterly adjustments based on usage.

## ● What is the “price to compare”?

The price to compare (PTC) is the price per kilowatt hour (kWh) your electric distribution company will charge. When asked, the competitive supplier also will provide you with a PTC, allowing you to make an apples-to-apples comparison on price for the generation portion of your bill. Be sure to ask how long the price is effective and verify if taxes or other fees are included in the PTC.

## ● But I have reliable electric service now, why would I choose some other company to supply my power?

Electric utilities do not care if you use a competitive supplier and are encouraging customers to shop around – especially in many areas where rate caps already have expired. You may be able to save money with a competitive supplier or you can stay with your electric utility. It's your choice.

The electric utility will continue to deliver your electricity, provide reliable service and respond to outage problems. Remember, regardless of who generates your electricity, you will still continue to call your electric utility for emergency services and questions regarding your residential service including outages. The quality, reliability, and maintenance of your electric service should not change as it is still monitored by the Commission. However, if you have a question about your generation charges you should first call your competitive supplier.

### **For further information, contact the Public Utility Commission:**

#### **Write**



PA Public Utility  
Commission Bureau  
of Consumer Services  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

#### **Call**

1-800-692-7380  
For people with speech  
or hearing loss, dial 7-1-1  
(Telecommunications Relay  
Service)

#### **Visit our website**

[www.puc.pa.gov](http://www.puc.pa.gov)  
[www.PAPowerSwitch.com](http://www.PAPowerSwitch.com)

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