

Purchasing Clean Energy

You may choose to buy a percentage (or all) of your electricity from clean energy sources like wind or solar. You don't need to install special equipment to receive clean energy. This clean energy is delivered to your house by your local utility in the same way it provides regular energy.

If you haven't already entered into a contract with a competitive electricity supplier, you can switch suppliers today. If you already have a contract, be sure to check it before you switch products or suppliers. To avoid penalties, you might have to wait until your current contract expires to change suppliers. Here are some steps and tips to help you make the switch.

QUICK TIPS: The Maryland Office of People's Counsel provides:

- [Monthly summaries of electric supplier prices](#) to help consumers compare prices (scroll to Pepco service area).
- [Consumer Rights Handbook](#) with additional information on how to select an electricity supplier.

Step 1: Find Clean Energy Suppliers for Your Service Area

- The U.S. Department of Energy provides a summary of the [green power products](#) available in Maryland and nationally available renewable energy certificate (REC) products.
- [Maryland Public Service Commission](#) provides a list of electricity suppliers in the Pepco service area.

Step 2: Evaluate Offers from Electricity Suppliers

You may receive offers from electricity suppliers through direct mail, telemarketing, advertising and through the Internet. Read offers carefully and ask the suppliers questions to compare offers:

- Is the energy price fixed or does it fluctuate monthly? Does it vary by amount used or time of use?
- What is the length of the contract? Is there an early termination fee? How much notice is required to switch suppliers?
- Will the contract automatically renew at the end of the term? How much notice must you give if you don't wish to renew?
- How is the electricity generated (coal, gas, nuclear, hydro, wind, etc.)? What percentage of the fuel source is renewable, and what are the emissions levels?
- Is the renewable energy certified by a third party (such as Green-e)?
- Is there a deposit or sign-on fee? A fee for late payments? Any other fees?
- Will you be billed by the supplier or by the electric company? Will you receive two separate bills or one combined bill?

Step 3: Compare Prices

Use Pepco's [Maryland Standard Offer Service \(SOS\)](#) rates to compare with offers from competing green energy providers and select the best value. SOS is the average cost per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for generation and transmission services, based on your rate classification.

Step 4: Select an Electric Supplier

You may need to sign an agreement or contract. It is then up to your supplier and Pepco to make the switch. Remember not to give your utility account number to a supplier or agent until you are ready to sign up with that supplier.

If your home or business purchases green power, your green power supplier should automatically report your green energy contribution to EPA's Green Power Community Challenge.