

Natural gas suppliers: Betty's picks

Prices change daily - prices as of Aug. 4

Natural gas supplier	Supplier rate (price per thousand cubic feet [mcf])	Offer details)	Cancellation fee	Average annual price Energy Choice for more than 12 months*	Average annual price Energy Choice for less than 12 months**
Dominion East Ohio 800-362-7557 www.dom.com	Utility price if you don't pick a supplier Gas Cost Recovery (GCR) is \$9.10 starting Aug. 7	Changes monthly; beginning Oct. 1 system will change and market prices will be used	None	Not applicable	Not applicable
Best choice for WPS' \$10.35/mcf renewals (Betty's pick July 2005)					
WPS Energy Services 888-367-4493 www.wpsenergy.com/ohio	Capped at \$11.30/mcf, but prices could fall with market	One year contract; do nothing to automatically renew. Not open to the public	\$25	Not applicable	Not applicable
One-year fixed rates ranked by price – be aware of cancellation fees					
1. Interstate Gas Supply (IGS) 877-444-7427 www.igsenergy.com	\$11.29 fixed	Through October 2007	\$150	\$1,702.66	\$1,789.30
2. Direct Energy 888-566-9988 www.directenergy.com	\$11.49 fixed	One year	\$50	\$1,726.89	\$1,813.53
3. Peoples Energy Services 866-273-5469 www.peoplesenergy.com	\$11.70 fixed	One year; Peoples Energy parent company scheduled to be bought by WPS in early 2007. All contracts will be honored.	\$25	\$1,752.32	\$1,838.96
4. MXenergy 800-785-4373 www.mxenergy.com	\$11.89 fixed	One year	\$25	\$1,775.34	\$1,861.98
5. Vectren Source 800-516-6753 www.vectrensource.com	\$11.90 fixed	One year	\$25	\$1,776.55	\$1,863.19
6. Dominion East Ohio Energy (Dominion subsidiary) 800-990-4090 http://retail.dom.com	\$12.25 fixed	Through October 2007; limited to 5,000 customers	\$50	\$1,818.94	\$1,905.58
7. Commerce Energy 877-226-5371 www.commerceenergy.com	\$12.70 fixed	One year; price starts Aug. 7	\$25	\$1,873.45	\$1,960.09
Multiyear fixed rates					
1. MXenergy 800-785-4373 www.mxenergy.com	\$11.99 fixed	Three years	\$25	\$1,787.45	\$1,874.09
2. Commerce Energy 877-226-5371 www.commerceenergy.com	\$12.90 fixed	Two years	\$50	\$1,897.67	\$1,984.31
If you want to ride the market with short-term rates					
1. WPS Energy Services 888-367-4493 www.wpsenergy.com/ohio	\$7.96 variable for August, fixed winter rate to come	Summer monthly variable through October Fixed winter rate set in mid-September for November through April 2007, then back to variable.	Free to cancel during summer and at time of winter rate; \$25 after	Not applicable	Not applicable
2. WPS Energy Services 888-367-4493 www.wpsenergy.com/ohio	\$7.99 fixed quarterly	Changes every three months; \$7.99 is August through October. Enroll in August for \$10 gasoline card upon successful switch.	None	Not applicable	Not applicable
3. Interstate Gas Supply (IGS) 877-444-7427 www.igsenergy.com	\$8.73 fixed through Oct.; fixed winter rate to come	Through September 2007, winter rate will be determined by Oct. 16 for November 2006 through September 2007	Cancel for free through Nov. 30; \$150 fee after	Not applicable	Not applicable
4. MXenergy 800-785-4373 www.mxenergy.com	\$10.64 fixed	Through December 2006	\$25	Not applicable	Not applicable
If you want to ride the market with monthly variables					
1. WPS Energy Services 888-367-4493 www.wpsenergy.com/ohio	\$7.96 variable	August rate; WPS also has a separate monthly variable rate of \$7.96 for August with price cap of \$13.99	None	Not applicable	Not applicable
2. Vectren Source 800-516-6753 www.vectrensource.com	\$8.49 variable	August rate	None	Not applicable	Not applicable
3. Commerce Energy 877-226-5371 www.commerceenergy.com	\$8.62 variable	August rate	None	Not applicable	Not applicable
4. MXenergy 800-785-4373 www.mxenergy.com	\$8.68 variable	August rate	None	Not applicable	Not applicable
5. Energy Cooperative of Ohio via SOAR Energy 877-439-3706 www.soarenergy.org	\$8.90 variable	August rate	None	Not applicable	Not applicable

SOURCE: Akron Beacon Journal research by Betty Lin-Fisher

*Customers who have had a supplier other than Dominion East Ohio for more than 12 months.

** Customers who have had a supplier other than Dominion East Ohio for less than 12 months.

All calculations reflect Dominion monthly service charge, transportation charges effective Aug. 7, gas costs, Summit County sales tax of 6.25%, and annual average household use of 114 mcf.