



# ENERGY CHOICE



***We're on it.***<sup>SM</sup>

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[bge.com](http://bge.com)



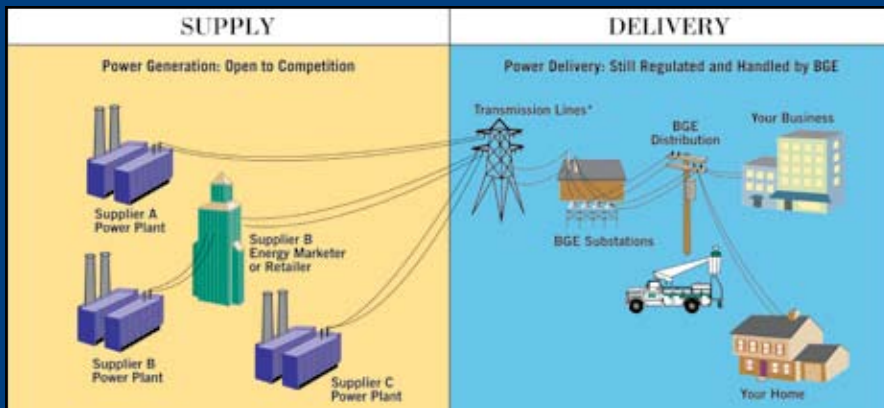
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# Energy Choice

In the past, utilities such as BGE, were responsible for supplying and delivering our customers' natural gas and/or electricity supply. This meant that you could buy natural gas and electricity supply only from your local utility at the price authorized by the state's Public Service Commission (PSC). Today, natural gas and electricity supply are deregulated. Now, customers can choose to purchase their gas and/or electricity supply from any energy supplier that is licensed by the Maryland PSC and registered with BGE.

Whether its natural gas or electricity, your service consists of two parts - supply and delivery:

## Electricity



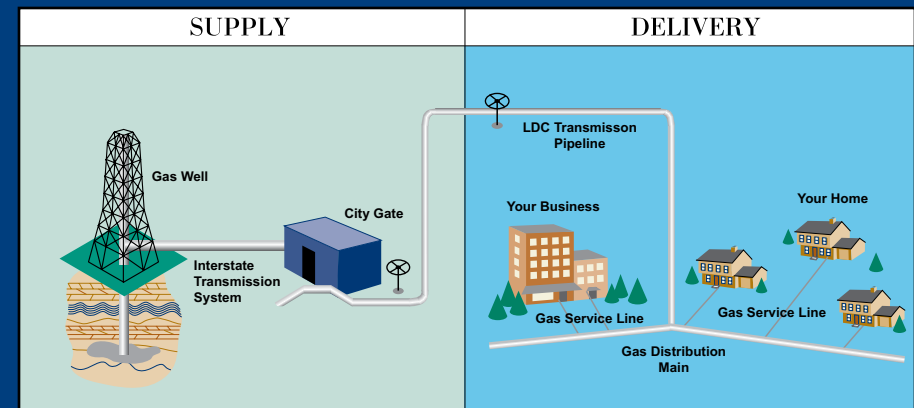
- Supply is the electricity itself, which is generated in power plants and transmitted across high voltage lines to substations.
- Delivery, also called distribution, is the process of delivering electricity to you along a network of power lines - the local distribution system.
- Electricity deregulation only affects the supply part of the business, giving you a choice of the company that produces or supplies your power.

# It's Your Choice

With energy choices, you can choose the supplier for natural gas and/or electricity who meets your needs for your home, business or organization.

No matter who you purchase your gas and/or electricity from, BGE will continue to safely and reliably deliver it. As always, BGE will respond to emergencies, gas leaks and restore power during outages. Just call **410-685-0123** or **1-800-685-0123**.

## Natural Gas



- Supply is the natural gas itself, which is produced at a well, refined and transported through transmission pipelines to local distribution points.
- Delivery, also called distribution, is the process of delivering gas to you through local distribution pipelines.
- Natural Gas deregulation only affects the supply part of the business, giving you a choice of the company that supplies your gas.



## BGE's Role

No matter who you purchase your gas and/or electricity supply from, BGE will deliver the natural gas or electricity to your home, organization or business. This delivery service is still regulated by the Maryland Public Service Commission. And, because competition only affects the natural gas and electricity supply and not the delivery, all distribution pipelines and power lines will continue to be maintained by BGE. So you will still call BGE at **1-800-685-0123** to handle emergencies and to restore power during outages.

If you stay with or return to BGE's gas and/or electricity supply, you will be charged the same rate that the PSC has authorized for all customers in your rate class who are purchasing supply from BGE, no more, no less.

## The Process – It's easy for gas or electricity:

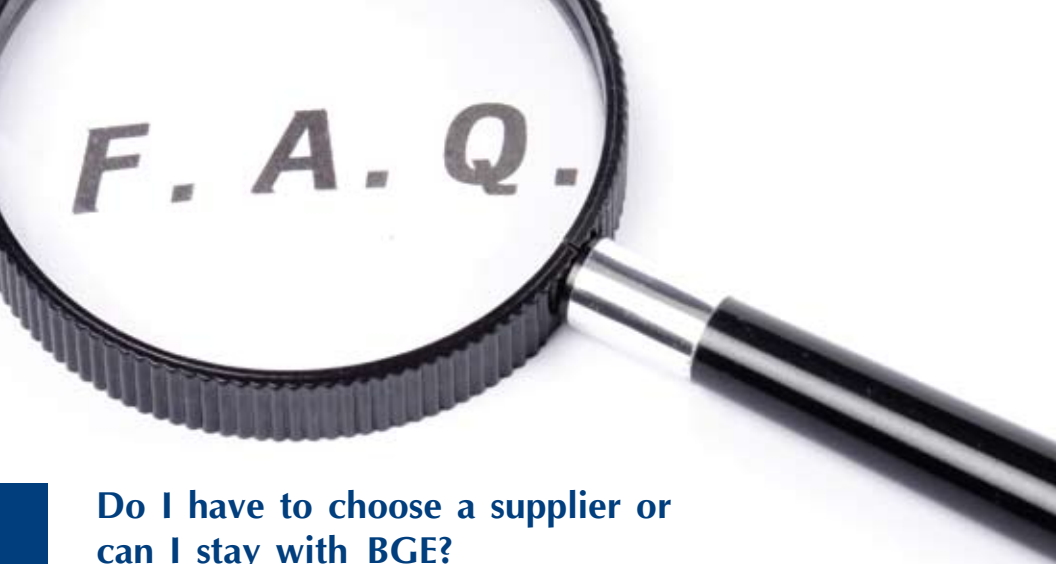
- Compare costs
  - BGE charges the market price for gas, which changes monthly. BGE's historical monthly gas commodity prices can be used to compare BGE's prices to suppliers offers. These prices are posted on **bge.com**. Note that past performance does not reflect future prices. Prices do not include delivery costs.
  - For electricity supply, use the Price to Compare, which appears on your bill below the Summary Box, to compare BGE's prices to suppliers offers. This price

reflects the average annual price per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for generation and transmission for a BGE customer in your rate class; it does not include the delivery price.

- Be sure to research suppliers and their programs and billing options carefully.
- When you have selected a supplier, **contact that supplier directly**.
- Before signing a contract with a new supplier, be sure the company is licensed by the PSC and registered by BGE. For a list of suppliers, visit **bge.com** and click on **Energy Choices** or visit **psc.state.md.us**.
- After you authorize a supplier to enroll you, the supplier will contact BGE.

## Changing or Canceling Suppliers

- If you decide to switch to another supplier, or return to BGE supply service, first check the terms of your agreement, including early termination fees, with your existing suppliers.
- If you choose to use a new supplier, that supplier will initiate enrollment and terminate service with your existing supplier.
- If you choose to return to BGE supply service, contact your existing supplier about terminating service and returning to BGE supply service.



## Do I have to choose a supplier or can I stay with BGE?

You can choose to stay with BGE. If this is your choice, you do not need take any action.

## What happens if my supplier cannot meet my gas or electricity requirements?

BGE is the Provider of Last Resort for all customers. This means BGE will always be available to provide your gas and/or electricity supply, should your alternate supplier fail to do so.

## Who are the other gas and electricity suppliers and how do I get more information about them?

All gas and electricity suppliers providing service to BGE customers must be licensed by the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) and registered with BGE.

- BGE maintains a list of all gas and electricity suppliers providing energy to residential and/or business customers. Visit [bge.com](http://bge.com) and click on **Energy Choice**.
- In addition, the PSC maintains a directory, which is posted on its website, of gas and electricity suppliers that have met PSC and utility requirements to provide gas and electric supply in Maryland. Visit [psc.state.md.us](http://psc.state.md.us).

## What should I look for in a new gas or electricity supplier?

Before signing a contract with a new supplier, be sure the company is licensed by the PSC and registered by BGE. You may want to consider each supplier's offer. For example, does the supplier offer a flat rate, does the supplier charge the market price – which may vary, and does the supplier guarantee a discount vs. BGE's price. You may also want to consider the length of the contract and whether or not the supplier charges an early termination fee. There may be other factors that are important to you. For example, you may be interested in an electricity supplier that offers green power, such as solar, wind or hydro power.

## Will I still get just one bill from BGE?

That depends on the supplier you choose. If a supplier uses BGE's billing system, then the supplier's gas and/or electricity charges and BGE's delivery charges will show on your BGE bill. However, some suppliers prefer to bill separately. In this case, your BGE bill will only include our delivery charges.

## If I have questions about my supplier's bill, do I call BGE?

No. If you are purchasing your gas and/or electricity from a company other than BGE, you will call that company with questions concerning the supply portion of your bill. You should still call BGE if you have any questions about the delivery portion of your bill.

## What do I do if I have a gas leak or electric outage?

No matter who you purchase your gas and/or electricity from, BGE will continue to safely and reliably deliver it. As always, BGE will respond to emergencies, gas leaks and restore power during outages. Just call **410-685-0123** or **1-800-685-0123**.