

ENERGY CHOICE DC

What is Energy Choice DC?

Energy Choice DC is an education and outreach initiative organized by the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) to educate residents and businesses about their ability to bundle their collective electricity demand for the opportunity to secure a more affordable, reliable, and sustainable electricity option. This bundled purchase is called “aggregation.”

Why should I choose aggregation?

DC residents and businesses can choose their electricity supplier. In addition to choosing a supplier individually, ratepayers have the option to work with a broker who will bundle the needs of many ratepayers to solicit competitive pricing from third party suppliers – a process known as “aggregation.” Aggregation has significant benefits, such as supporting renewable energy—which in turn will reduce air pollution, including pollutants that cause asthma, locking in a consistent price for your electricity contract, and helping make DC a leader in sustainability.

How do I participate in Energy Choice DC?

Energy Choice DC provides ratepayers with information about electricity purchase options as well as the contact information for electricity brokers. Ratepayers then act on their own to connect with a broker or an aggregator, who will seek competitive pricing on electricity, including options for conventional electricity as well as electricity generated from renewable sources.

What’s the process to aggregate my electricity?

- 1 Review your electricity bill in detail, including your monthly rate and consumption level, to see where you’re starting from.
- 2 Review the list of approved aggregators to determine if there are aggregators who will serve your needs. If you know of others who are interested in buying electricity together, you may be able to contact an approved broker directly.
- 3 Contact the approved broker(s) of your choice who will seek competitive pricing on electricity, including options for conventional electricity and electricity generated from renewable sources. The broker(s) will present you with a negotiated rate that could be lower than your existing rates.
- 4 If you choose this option, you will then sign a contract with the selected supplier and pay an electricity bill based on a consistent rate during the period specified in the contract.

Where can I find a list of approved brokers and aggregators and how can I contact them? Do any suppliers offer electricity produced from wind, solar, or other resources?

The Energy Choice DC website features a list of brokers and aggregators approved by the Public Service Commission and indicates whether they are taking on new customers. There are a variety of suppliers available, offering energy from both conventional (e.g., fossil fuel and nuclear) and renewable sources.

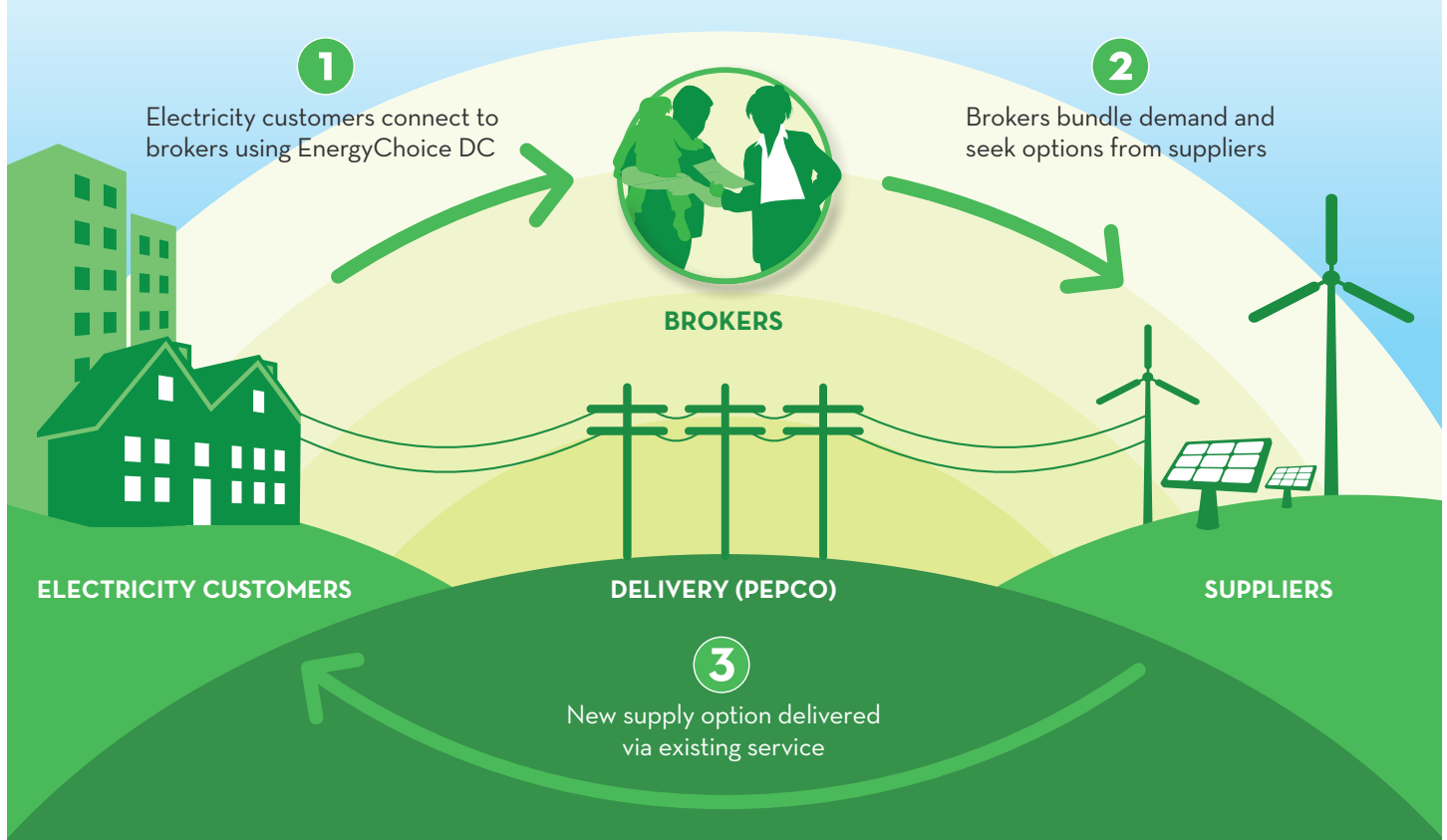
If I choose to switch electric suppliers, what happens after I switch?

Your electricity will be provided by a third-party supplier but will continue to be distributed by Pepco. While your electricity supply will come from a different source, it will be delivered through Pepco, using the same transmission lines you use now. Your service continues uninterrupted and issues such as moving or outage will continue to be handled by Pepco.

Will low-income customers be able to participate in aggregation?

There are no restrictions that prohibit low-income customers from participating. Additionally, the Utility Discount Programs, available through DOEE, helps low-income District residents reduce their utility costs. To qualify, your utility bills must be in your own name, and you must meet income guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. You can see learn more by visiting doee.dc.gov/udp.





How should I assess a broker?

Start by fully understanding your electricity bill, including your monthly rate and consumption. You'll also want to consider your needs and priorities. Are you looking to reduce the cost of your electricity supply, or purchase electricity generated from renewable sources?

Take the time to thoroughly read offers and terms of service prior to signing an agreement. There are several questions you should consider asking suppliers, including the following:

- Is it a fixed rate or variable rate? (note: variable rates could offer lower prices but increase risk because those prices could move up or down)
- What is the length of the contract?
- Is there a cancellation fee?
- What are my monthly savings if I switch?
- Will the contract automatically renew at the end of the term?
- How much notice must I give if I don't wish to renew?
- How is the electricity generated (coal, gas, nuclear, hydroelectric, etc.)?
- Is the generation provided from renewable sources? If not all, what portion is generated by renewable sources?
- What type of renewable power (e.g., is it methane gas from landfills or from a wind farm)?
- Is a security deposit, enrollment, or other similar fee required?
- Is there a credit check, late payment fee, or other similar fee assessed? (If yes, be sure to get a list of the charges and what each charge will cost.)
- What kind of billing and payment options are available?

Learn more about your energy options:

- DOEE Energy Choice DC: www.EnergyChoiceDC.com
- DOEE EnergySmart Resources: doee.dc.gov/energy
- DOEE EnergySmart DC - Solar Initiatives: doee.dc.gov/service/green-energy-dc
- DOEE Energy Benchmarking: doee.dc.gov/service/energy-benchmarking
- DC Sustainable Energy Utility: doee.dc.gov/service/dc-sustainable-energy-utility
- Buying Green Power: doee.dc.gov/node/22372
- Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE): doee.dc.gov/service/property-assessed-clean-energy-pace
- Public Service Commission List of Approved Electric Suppliers: www.dcpsc.org/pdf_files/customerchoice/electric/EGTS_Approved.pdf

Learn more about your electricity options by visiting Energy Choice DC online at www.EnergyChoiceDC.com.

