



## Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

Your Residential Utility Consumer Advocate

# CONSUMERS' FACT SHEET

### Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

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# DOMINION EAST OHIO: COMPARING YOUR NATURAL GAS CHOICES

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*This publication is updated weekly.*

## Natural Gas Choice Program

The Comparing Your Energy Choices chart provides general information about competitive natural gas supplier offers for residential customers of the Dominion East Ohio Gas Co.

For its customers who purchase their natural gas directly from the company rather than a competitive supplier, Dominion uses the Standard Choice Offer (SCO) or the Standard Service Offer (SSO). Both offers combine the price of natural gas reported at the end of each month on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), plus a retail price adjustment, or adder, of \$1.00 per thousand cubic feet (Mcf). The SCO and SSO will change each month due to fluctuations in the NYMEX rate, but the \$1.00 adder will remain the same through March 31, 2012.

Because the SCO and SSO change each month, and it can take between 30 and 45 days to switch from Dominion to another natural gas supplier, it may be difficult to

**Dominion East Ohio's current Standard Choice and Service Offer rate is: \$4.084 per Mcf and will be in effect January 12, 2012 through February 12, 2012.**

compare potential savings. The chart on Pages 1 and 2 lists weekly offers submitted by competitive suppliers. It includes the type and length of a contract for each supplier as well as contact information. The worksheet on Page 3 can be used to estimate what you will pay for natural gas if you choose a new supplier or to verify your current natural gas bill.

## Who can help

For more information about how to choose a natural gas supplier, including important questions to ask a supplier before you enroll, visit [www.pickocc.org](http://www.pickocc.org) for a free copy of our fact sheet **Gas Choice 101**. To learn more about the different charges on your natural gas bill and definitions of commonly used terms, you can request a free copy of **Your Natural Gas Bill Made Easy**. A list of Dominion's historical natural gas rates can be found at [http://www.pickocc.org/publications/natural\\_gas/Historical\\_GCR\\_rates\\_DEO.pdf](http://www.pickocc.org/publications/natural_gas/Historical_GCR_rates_DEO.pdf).

Supplier:	Offer (per Mcf)	Type of Rate	Contract Term
<b>Constellation Energy</b> 9960 Corporate Campus Drive, Suite 2000 Louisville, KY 40223 Phone: (502)426-4500 www.newenergy.com	\$4.99	Fixed rate (\$25 Early Termination Fee (ETF))	1 year
	\$4.50	Variable rate	Month to month
<b>Direct Energy</b> PMB #51 7385 N. State Route 3 Westerville, OH 43082 1-888-566-9988 (toll free) www.directenergy.com	\$5.49	Fixed rate	Through May 2012
<b>Dominion Energy Solutions</b> 120 Tredegar St. Richmond, VA 23219 1-800-990-4090 (toll free) www.dom.com	\$5.79	Fixed rate (\$75 ETF)	Through February 2013
	\$4.68	Variable rate	Through February 2013

Supplier:	Offer (per Mcf)	Type of Rate	Contract Term
<b>Energy Cooperative of Ohio</b> 790 B Windmill Drive Pickerington, OH 43147 1-888-541-4646 www.ohioenergycoop.com	\$5.99 (capped @ \$6.79)	Variable rate	Through March 2012
<b>IGS Energy</b> P.O. Box 9060 Dublin, OH 43017 1-877-444-7427 (toll free) www.igsenergy.com	\$6.99 (max rate) \$5.49	Variable rate Fixed rate	Through December 2012 Through December 2012
<b>Integrus Energy Services</b> P.O. Box 1020 Worthington, OH 43085 1-888-367-4493 (toll free) www.integrusenergy.com	\$4.078 \$5.46 \$5.79	Variable rate <sup>1,3</sup> Quarterly rate (\$75 ETF) <sup>1,3</sup> Fixed rate (\$75 ETF) <sup>1,2,3</sup>	Month to month Jan. 2012-Mar. 2012 Through January 2013
<b>JustEnergy</b> (was Commerce Energy) P.O. Box 2210 Buffalo, N.Y. 14240-2210 1-866-587-8674 (toll free) www.JustEnergy.com	\$6.85 \$6.85 \$3.64 <sup>5</sup>	Variable rate Monthly variable rate <sup>4</sup> Monthly variable rate (carbon credit) <sup>5</sup>	Month to month 5 years
<b>Kratos Gas and Power</b> 8044 Montgomery Road Suite 700 Cincinnati, OH 45236 1-800- 296-2203 http://www.kratosgpc.com	\$4.70	Monthly variable rate	Month to month
<b>Lakeshore Energy Services</b> 44444 Hayes Road Clinton Township, MI 48038 1-888-200-3788 (toll free) www.lakeshoreenergy.com	\$4.48	Managed price	March 2013
<b>MXenergy</b> 595 Summer St. Stamford, CT 05901 1-800-785-4373 (toll free) www.mxenergy.com	\$5.49 \$5.99 \$5.49	Variable rate Fixed rate (\$150 ETF) Fixed rate (\$150 ETF)	Month to month 6 months 1 year
<b>Ohio Natural Gas</b> P.O. Box 78760 Atlanta, GA 30357 1-888-466-4427 (toll free) www.onlyong.com	\$4.97 \$4.97 \$3.69  \$5.99 \$5.99	Fixed rate (\$75 ETC) Fixed rate (\$150 ETC) 2 month discount-new customers Variable rate Monthly variable rate <sup>4</sup>	6 months 1 year Month to month  Month to month Month to month
<b>Vectren Source</b> P.O. Box 3037 Evansville, IN 47730 1-800-516-6753 (toll free) www.vectrensource.com	\$4.99	Fixed rate (\$100 ETF)	1 year
<b>Volunteer Energy Services</b> 790 Windmill Dr. Pickerington, OH 43147 1-800-977-8374 http://www.volunteerenergy.com/residential	\$5.29	Variable rate	Month to month

**Note:** Not all participating suppliers listed on this comparison fact sheet serve Allen, Auglaize, Hardin, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Shelby and Van Wert counties. Residents of these counties should verify the service area of a supplier prior to enrolling.

**This information has been obtained by the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel and should be used only as a guide. The OCC is not responsible for selections you make based on the information contained herein. Contact the supplier before enrolling to verify its rate, contract terms and availability in your county. For more information about the natural gas choice programs and participating suppliers visit [www.pickocc.org](http://www.pickocc.org).**

### What do these offers mean?

**Fixed Rate:** This is a fixed price per unit of natural gas that will not change for the length of your agreement. Typically, agreement periods range anywhere from six months to three years.

**Variable Rate:** This type of agreement offers a price per unit of natural gas that can change over a period of time, based on various conditions. Consumers considering a variable rate agreement should ask the supplier how often the rate is subject to change and what factors will cause the rate to change.

**Percentage off the Standard Choice Offer (SCO):** This agreement offers a discount off the natural gas company's monthly SCO. This charge makes up the largest portion of your monthly natural gas bill. While the percentage of discount a supplier offers will remain the same for the duration of the agreement, the actual price will vary with monthly changes in the wholesale price of natural gas.

**Hybrid Programs:** These offers often have different rates associated with seasonal changes. Most offers charge one rate for the winter months (November – April) and another rate during the summer months (May–October). Other hybrid offers may include a variable rate for a period of time and a fixed rate for the remainder of the agreement period.

<sup>1</sup> Restrictions and other details apply.

<sup>2</sup> "Price match guarantee": If prices are low, customer may get best available 12-month price by contacting Integrus, who will match rate or release customer from contract

<sup>3</sup> Council of Smaller Enterprises members & member employees are eligible for discounted rates. COSE membership number required.

<sup>4</sup> The Monthly Variable Rate is the price assessed to customers who leave an aggregation or contracted choice program and do not, after two months billed at the SCO price, opt to purchase their natural gas supply from Dominion. It is not to be confused with a variable monthly rate offered by a marketer.

<sup>5</sup> Up to 5 percent below current utility rate for first three months. \$125 rebate if customer pays more over term than on the utility rate.

**Incentive Offers:** In addition to the rate, some supplier offers may include incentives or discounts. You may see a fixed or variable rate offer that includes a certain month of the year for free or a rebate at the end of the agreement period. Other offers may include gift certificates or promotional coupons. The added incentives should be accounted for when you are trying to estimate how much, if any, money you would save by choosing a certain supplier.

**Calculating your choices**  
(see chart below)

**Line 1** - Currently effective Standard Choice Offer (SCO) per Mcf.

**Line 4** - Gas purchased from a supplier is subject to sales tax that varies by county from 6 percent to 7.75 percent (see Page 4 for your county's tax rate). The sample calculation uses 7 percent.

**Line 5** - The Gas Transportation Charge covers costs such as pipeline maintenance, employee wages, investments in property and equipment, taxes, uncollectible expense, PIPP recovery, demand side management programs and balancing the deliveries of natural gas into Dominion's system with the customer's actual usage.

► Delivery Charges per Mcf:  
Residential customers pay

the gas transportation charge regardless of whether they choose a gas supplier other than Dominion.

**Lines 5, 9, 10, 11** - Include gross receipts tax of 4.60 percent.

**Line 10** - The Automated Meter Reading charge enables Dominion to recover the depreciation, property taxes and carrying charges associated with installing automated meter reading equipment.

**Line 11** - The Pipeline Infrastructure Replacement Cost Recovery Charge covers costs related to the company's pipeline replacement program.

Calculating your choices - Dominion East Ohio				
* Rates are in \$'s per Mcf and are rounded to the nearest cent. Sample calculation is based on a usage of 10 Mcf.	SAMPLE		WORKSHEET	
	If you stay with Dominion East Ohio:	If you choose a new supplier:	If you stay with Dominion East Ohio:	If you choose a new supplier:
1. Standard Choice/Service Offer	\$ 4.08		\$ 4.08	
2. Supplier Prices (choose an offer from pages 1-2)		\$ 4.97		<input type="text"/>
3. County Sales Tax - see page 4 for your county sales tax (Sample uses 7.00%)	+ \$ 0.29	+ \$ 0.35	+ \$ 0.29	+ <input type="text"/>
4. Gas Rate with Sales Tax You Pay Supplier	= \$ 4.37	= \$ 5.32	= \$ 4.37	= <input type="text"/>
5. Gas Transportation Charge	+ \$ 1.17	+ \$ 1.17	+ \$ 1.17	+ \$ 1.17
6. Total Usage Based Charges (#4 + #5)	= \$ 5.54	= \$ 6.49	= \$ 5.54	= <input type="text"/>
7. Your Monthly Gas Usage in Mcf	x 10	x 10	x <input type="text"/>	x <input type="text"/>
8. Total Cost Related to Gas Usage	= \$ 55.40	= \$ 64.90	= <input type="text"/>	= <input type="text"/>
9. Monthly Customer Charge	+ \$ 18.39	+ \$ 18.39	+ \$ 18.39	+ \$ 18.39
10. Automated Meter Reading Charge	+ \$ 0.60	+ \$ 0.60	+ \$ 0.60	+ \$ 0.60
11. Pipeline Infrastructure Replacement Cost Recovery Charge	+ \$ 2.32	+ \$ 2.32	+ \$ 2.32	+ \$ 2.32
12. <b>TOTAL BILL</b>	<b>= \$ 76.71</b>	<b>= \$ 86.21</b>	= <input type="text"/>	= <input type="text"/>

**PLEASE NOTE:** This worksheet does not represent all possible offers and should be used only as a guide. The OCC is not responsible for selections you make based on your calculations.

**COMPARING YOUR ENERGY CHOICES**

**DOMINION EAST OHIO NATURAL GAS CHOICE PROGRAM**

**CONSUMERS' FACT SHEET**

The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), the residential utility consumer advocate, represents the interests of 4.5 million households in proceedings before state and federal regulators and in the courts.

The state agency also educates consumers about electric, natural gas, telephone and water issues.

For more information, please visit the OCC website at [www.pickocc.org](http://www.pickocc.org).

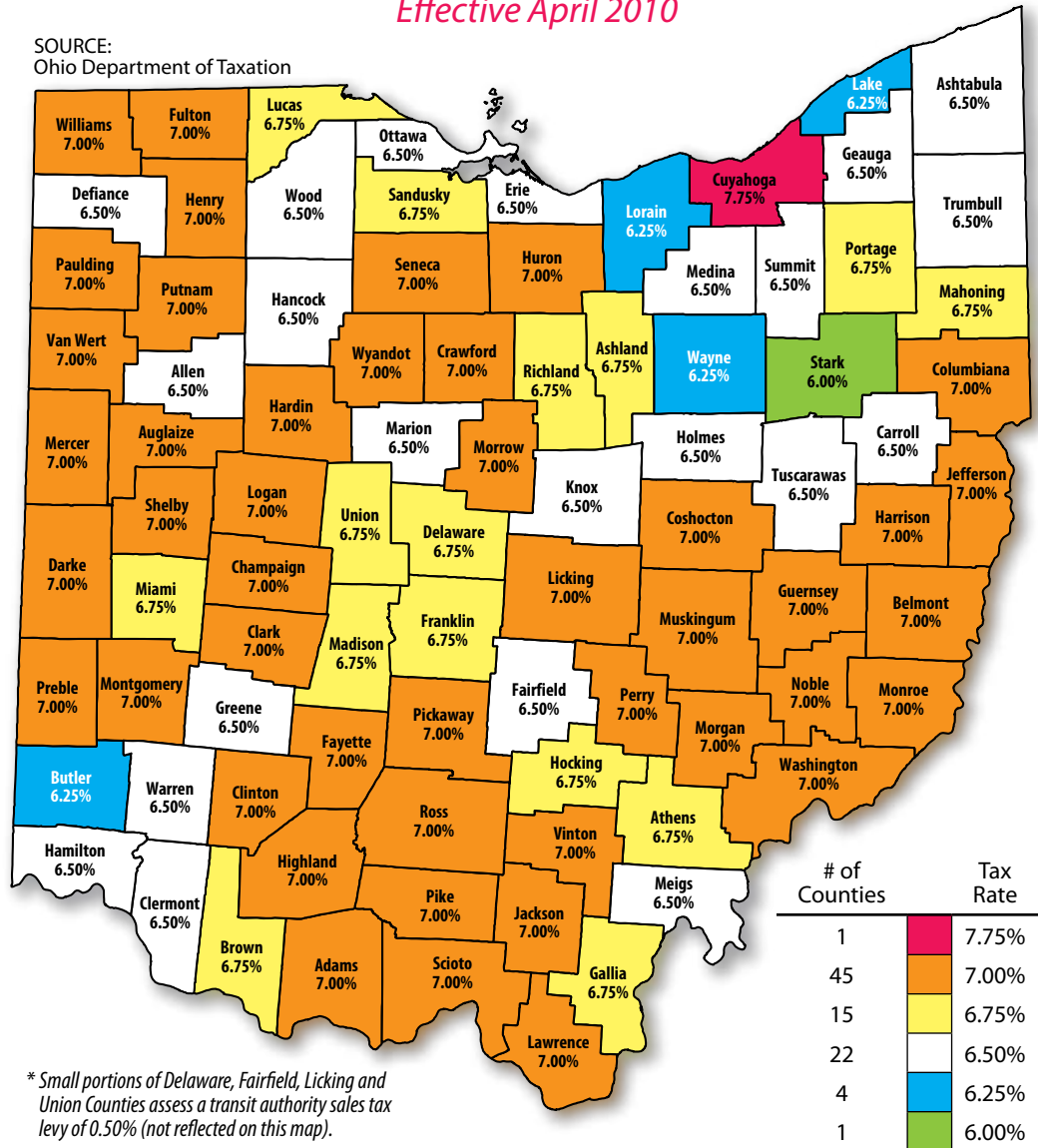


The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel is an equal opportunity employer and provider of services.

**Total state and local sales tax rates by county.**

*Effective April 2010*

SOURCE: Ohio Department of Taxation



\* Small portions of Delaware, Fairfield, Licking and Union Counties assess a transit authority sales tax levy of 0.50% (not reflected on this map).

County	Tax Rate	County	Tax Rate	County	Tax Rate	County	Tax Rate
Adams	7.00%	Fairfield	6.50%	Licking	7.00%	Portage	6.75%
Allan	6.50%	Fayette	7.00%	Logan	7.00%	Preble	7.00%
Ashland	6.75%	Franklin	6.75%	Lorain	6.25%	Putnam	7.00%
Ashtabula	6.50%	Fulton	7.00%	Lucas	6.75%	Richland	6.75%
Athens	6.75%	Gallia	6.75%	Madison	6.75%	Ross	7.00%
Auglaize	7.00%	Geauga	6.50%	Mahoning	6.75%	Sandusky	6.75%
Belmont	7.00%	Greene	6.50%	Marion	6.50%	Scioto	7.00%
Brown	6.75%	Guernsey	7.00%	Medina	6.50%	Seneca	7.00%
Butler	6.25%	Hamilton	6.50%	Meigs	6.50%	Shelby	7.00%
Carroll	6.50%	Hancock	6.50%	Mercer	7.00%	Stark	6.00%
Champaign	7.00%	Hardin	7.00%	Miami	6.75%	Summit	6.50%
Clark	7.00%	Harrison	7.00%	Monroe	7.00%	Trumbull	6.50%
Clermont	6.50%	Henry	7.00%	Montgomery	7.00%	Tuscarawas	6.50%
Columbiana	7.00%	Highland	7.00%	Morgan	7.00%	Union	6.75%
Coshocton	7.00%	Hocking	6.75%	Morrow	7.00%	Van Wert	7.00%
Crawford	7.00%	Holmes	6.50%	Muskingum	7.00%	Vinton	7.00%
Cuyahoga	7.75%	Huron	7.00%	Noble	7.00%	Warren	6.50%
Darke	7.00%	Jackson	7.00%	Ottawa	6.50%	Washington	7.00%
Defiance	6.50%	Jefferson	7.00%	Paulding	7.00%	Wayne	6.25%
Delaware	6.75%	Knox	6.50%	Perry	7.00%	Williams	7.00%
Erie	6.50%	Lake	6.25%	Pickaway	7.00%	Wood	6.50%
		Lawrence	7.00%	Pike	7.00%	Wyandot	7.00%