



Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

Your Residential Utility Consumer Advocate

CONSUMERS' FACT SHEET

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COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO: COMPARING YOUR NATURAL GAS CHOICES

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This publication is updated weekly.

Natural Gas Choice Program

This chart provides general information about competitive natural gas supplier offers for residential customers of Columbia Gas of Ohio.

For its customers who purchase their natural gas directly from the company rather than a competitive supplier, Columbia Gas of Ohio uses the Standard Service Offer (SSO). The SSO combines the monthly wholesale price listed on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) with a retail price adjustment, or adder, of 18.8 cents per hundred cubic feet (Ccf). The adder was determined through a wholesale auction. The SSO changes each month but the 18.8 cent adder will remain the same through March 31, 2012.

Because the SSO changes each month, and it can take between 30 and 45 days to switch from Columbia to another natural gas supplier, it may be difficult to compare potential savings. The chart on Pages 1 and 2 lists weekly offers submitted by competitive suppliers. It includes

Columbia Gas of Ohio's current Standard Service Offer (SSO) rate is: \$0.4558 (45.58 cents) per Ccf and will be effective for February 2012

the type and length of 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 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 Columbia's historical natural gas rates can be found at http://www.pickocc.org/publications/natural_gas/Historical_GCR_rates_COH.pdf.

Supplier:	Offer (per Ccf)	Type of Rate	Contract Term
Border Energy Inc. 9787 Fairway Blvd. Powell, OH 43065 1-888-479-4427 (toll free) www.border-energy.com	\$0.599	Fixed until May 31, 2012 Variable June-Sept. 2012 (\$75 early termination fee)	Through September 2012
Direct Energy PMB #51 7385 N. State Rt. 3 Westerville, OH 43082 1-888-566-9988 (toll free) www.directenergy.com	\$0.589	Fixed rate	6 months
Dominion Energy Solutions 120 Tredegar St. Richmond, VA 23219 1-800-990-4090 (toll free) www.dom.com	\$0.569	Fixed rate offer (\$50 early termination fee)	Through March 2013

Continued on next page

Supplier:	Offer (per Ccf)	Type of Rate	Contract Term
Energy Cooperative of Ohio 790 B Windmill Drive Pickerington, OH 43147 1-888-541-4646 (toll free) www.ohioenergycoop.com	\$0.499 (capped @ \$0.679)	Variable rate	Through March 2012
IGS Energy DBA Columbia Retail Energy ³ P.O. Box 9060 Dublin, OH 43017 1-877-444-7427 (toll free) www.ColumbiaRetailEnergy.com	\$0.719 (max rate) \$0.598	Variable rate Fixed rate	Through December 2012 Through December 2012
Integrus Energy Services P.O. Box 1020 Worthington, OH 43085 1-888-367-4493 (toll free) www.integrusenergy.com	\$0.489 \$0.615 \$0.655	Variable rate ^{1,2} Quarterly rate ^{1,2} (\$75 ETF) Fixed rate ^{1,2,3} (\$75 ETF)	Month to month Jan. 2012-Mar. 2012 Through Dec. 2012
JustEnergy (was Commerce Energy) P.O. Box 2210 Buffalo, N.Y. 14240-2210 1-866-587-8674 (toll free) www.JustEnergy.com	\$0.699 \$0.4239	Fixed rate (\$50 ETF) Variable plan (\$100 ETF) Variable rate (up to 5% below utility rate for first 3 months-\$125 rebate if customer pays more over term than utility rate)	1 year 5 years
MXenergy 595 Summer St. Stamford, CT 05901 1-800-785-4373 (toll free) www.mxenergy.com	\$0.649 \$0.780 \$0.649	Variable rate Fixed rate (\$150 ETF) Fixed rate (\$150 ETF)	Month to month 6 months 1 year
Ohio Natural Gas P.O. Box 78760 Atlanta, GA 30357 1-888-466-4427 (toll free) www.onlyong.com	\$0.569 \$0.569 \$0.399 \$0.599	Fixed rate (\$75 ETC) Fixed rate (\$150 ETC) Variable 2 month discount for new customers Variable rate	6 months 1 year Month to month Month to month
Vectren Source P.O. Box 3037 Evansville, IN 47730 1-800-516-6753 (toll free) www.vectrensource.com	\$0.569	Fixed rate (\$100 ETC)	1 year
Volunteer Energy Services 790 Windmill Dr. Pickerington, OH 43147 1-800-977-8374 www.veenergy.com	\$0.546	Variable rate	Month to month

¹ Offer not available in all areas; restrictions and other details apply.

² Council of Smaller Enterprises members and member employees are eligible for discounted rates. Must provide COSE membership number.

³ "Price match guarantee": If prices are low, customer may get best available 12-month price by contacting Intergys, who will match rate or release customer from contract.

⁴ Columbia Retail Energy is **NOT** an affiliate of Columbia Gas of Ohio or its parent company, NiSource.

Note: Not all participating suppliers on this comparison fact sheet serve all areas of Columbia Gas of Ohio service territory. Residents should verify the service area of the 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.

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 entering into 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 Service Offer (SSO): This agreement offers a discount off the natural gas company's monthly SSO. 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.

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 - The currently effective SSO rate per Ccf.

Line 2 - Gas purchased from Columbia at the SSO rate is subject to an excise tax.

Line 5 - Gas purchased from a supplier is subject to sales tax that varies by county from 6 percent to 7 percent (see

Page 4 for your county's tax rate). The sample calculation uses 6.5 percent.

Line 7 - The Gas Transportation Charge is made up of:

- Delivery Charges per Ccf: This charge covers costs such as pipeline maintenance, employee wages, investments in property and equipment and taxes.

Residential customers pay the gas transportation charge regardless of whether they choose a gas supplier other than Columbia.

Line 12 - Infrastructure Replacement Program Rider: this charge covers the replacement of customer-owned gas risers and repair of customer-owned service lines.

Lines 7, 11 and 12 - Include excise tax.

Calculating your choices - Columbia Gas of Ohio				
* Rates are in \$'s per Ccf and are rounded to the nearest cent. Sample calculation is based on a usage of 100 Ccf.	SAMPLE		WORKSHEET	
	If you stay with Columbia Gas:	If you choose a new supplier:	If you stay with Columbia Gas:	If you choose a new supplier:
1. Standard Service Offer (SSO) Rate	\$ 0.46		\$ 0.46	
2. Excise Tax at 4.987%	+ \$ 0.02		+ \$ 0.02	
3. Gas Rate with Excise Tax You Pay Columbia	= \$ 0.48		= \$ 0.48	
4. Supplier Prices (choose an offer from pages 1-2)		\$ 0.57		<input type="text"/>
5. County Sales Tax - see page 4 for your county sales tax (Sample uses 6.5%)		+ \$ 0.04		+ <input type="text"/>
6. Gas Rate with Sales Tax You Pay Supplier		= \$ 0.61		= <input type="text"/>
7. Gas Transportation Charge	+ \$ 0.02	+ \$ 0.02	+ \$ 0.02	+ \$ 0.02
8. Total Usage Based Charges (#3 or #6 + #7)	= \$ 0.50	= \$ 0.63	= \$ 0.50	= <input type="text"/>
9. Your Monthly Gas Usage in Ccf	x 100	x 100	x <input type="text"/>	x <input type="text"/>
10. Total Cost Related to Gas Usage	= \$ 50.00	= \$ 63.00	= <input type="text"/>	= <input type="text"/>
11. Monthly Customer Charge	+ \$ 18.70	+ \$ 18.70	+ \$ 18.70	+ \$ 18.70
12. Infrastructure Replacement Program Rider	+ \$ 2.76	+ \$ 2.76	+ \$ 2.76	+ \$ 2.76
13. TOTAL BILL	= \$ 71.46	= \$ 84.46	= <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

COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO NATURAL GAS CHOICE PROGRAM

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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.

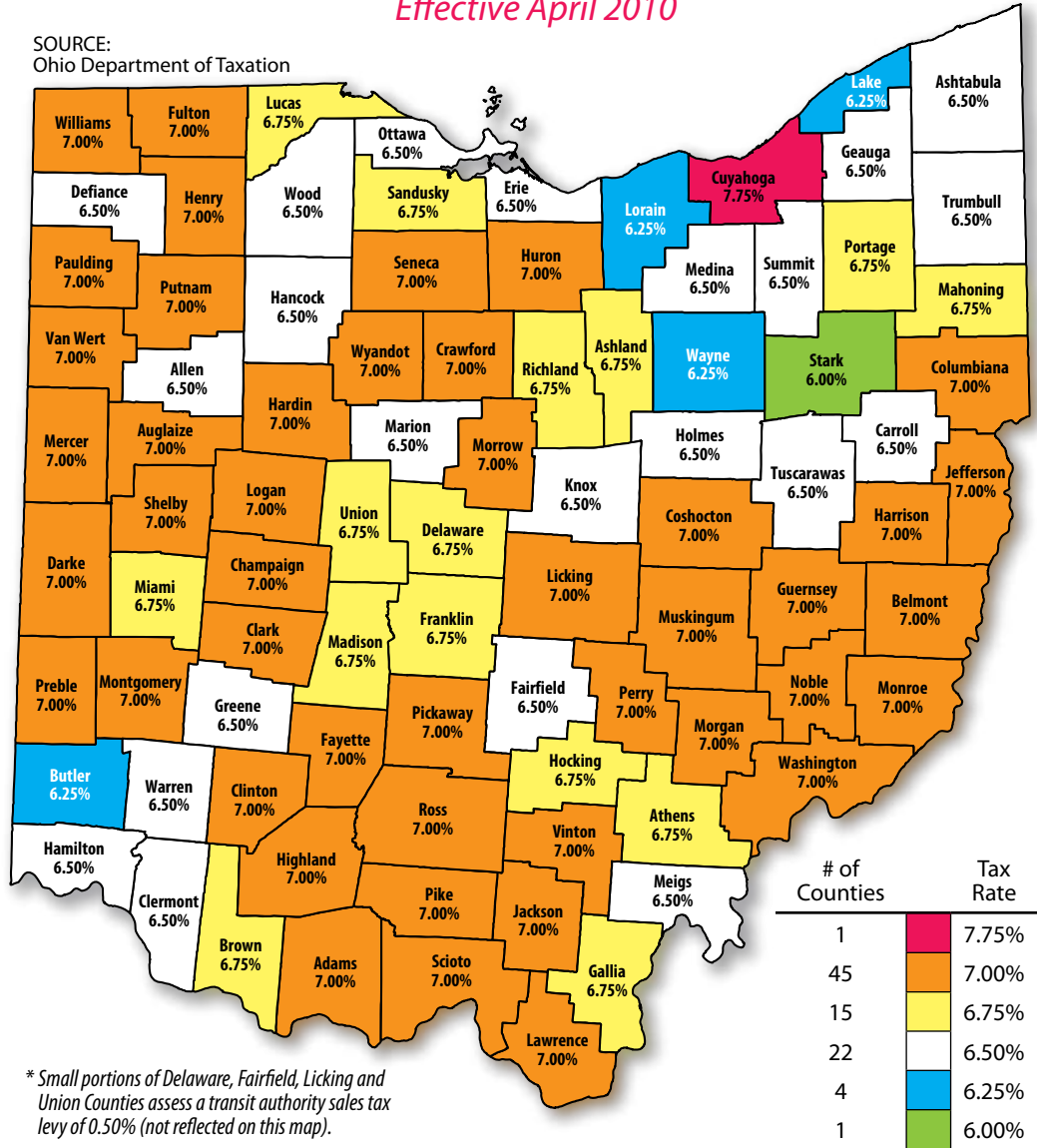


The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel is an equal opportunity employer and provider of services.

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%