

Natural gas suppliers: Betty's picks

Prices change daily - prices as of Sept. 22

Natural gas supplier		Supplier rate (price per thousand cubic feet [mcf])	Offer details	Cancellation fee	Average annual price
Dominion East Ohio 800-362-7557 www.dom.com	Utility price if you don't pick a supplier	Standard Service Offer rate begins Oct. 12 - Will be September market closing price + \$1.44	Changes monthly with New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) price.	None	Not applicable
Betty's August 2006 pick		Capped at \$11.30/mcf. October prices won't be higher than \$10.45/mcf	Open to public; company says it is working on lower competitive rate for program.	\$25	Not applicable
WPS Energy Services 888-367-4493 www.wpsenergy.com/ohio					
One-year fixed rates ranked by price					
1. WPS Energy Services 888-367-4493 www.wpsenergy.com		\$10.30 fixed	One year.	\$25	\$1,582.75
2. Vectren Source 800-516-6753 www.getnaturalgas.com/akron		\$10.39 fixed	One year; open to first 5,000 customers or Nov. 10. After supply is gone, \$10.50/mcf rate.	\$25	\$1,593.65
3. Direct Energy 888-566-9988 www.directenergy.com		\$10.49 fixed	One year; effective Sept. 25	\$25	\$1,605.76
4. MXenergy 800-785-4373 www.mxenergy.com		\$10.70 fixed	One year.	\$25	\$1,631.20
5. Dominion East Ohio Energy (Dominion subsidiary) 800-236-9609 http://retail.dom.com		\$10.97 fixed	One year.	\$50	\$1,663.90
6. Commerce Energy 877-226-5371 www.commerceenergy.com		\$11.20 fixed	One year.	\$25	\$1,691.76
7. Interstate Gas Supply (IGS) 877-444-7427 www.igsenergy.com		\$11.29 fixed	One year.	\$150	\$1,702.66
8. Peoples Energy Services 866-273-5469 www.peoplesenergy.com		\$11.70 fixed	One year; company scheduled to be bought by WPS in early 2007. All contracts honored.	\$25	\$1,752.32
Multiyear fixed rates					
1. Direct Energy 888-566-9988 www.directenergy.com		\$10.99 fixed	Two years.	\$25	\$1,666.32
2. Commerce Energy 877-226-5371 www.commerceenergy.com		\$11.90 fixed	Two years.	\$50	\$1,776.55
3. MXenergy 800-785-4373 www.mxenergy.com		\$11.90 fixed	Three years.	\$25	\$1,776.55
If you want to ride the market with short-term rates					
1. WPS Energy Services 888-367-4493 www.wpsenergy.com/ohio		\$10.65 fixed quarterly	November 2006 - January 2007 rate.	None	Not applicable
2. WPS Energy Services 888-367-4493 www.wpsenergy.com/ohio		\$11.70 fixed winter	Summer variable monthly price.	\$25 during winter	Not applicable
If you want to ride the market with monthly variables					
1. Vectren Source 800-516-6753 www.vectrensource.com		\$7.82 variable	October rate; Vectren also has a monthly plan with \$13.30/mcf cap.	None	Not applicable
2. WPS Energy Services 888-367-4493 www.wpsenergy.com/ohio		\$7.94 variable	October rate; subsequent months will be NYMEX market price + \$1.32 mcf. WPS also has a monthly variable with \$13/mcf cap.	None	Not applicable
3. Direct Energy 888-566-9988 www.directenergy.com		\$7.99 variable	October rate.	None	Not applicable
4. Commerce Energy 877-226-5371 www.commerceenergy.com		\$8.80 variable	October rate.	None	Not applicable
5. Energy Cooperative of Ohio via SOAR Energy 877-439-3706 www.soarenergy.org		\$8.90 variable	September rate; October not available.	None	Not applicable
6. MXenergy 800-785-4373 www.mxenergy.com		\$8.90 variable	October rate.	None	Not applicable

All annual 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.

SOURCE: Akron Beacon Journal research by Betty Lin-Fisher

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