



## 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

**UPDATED: May 11, 2012**  
*This publication is updated weekly.*

## Natural Gas Choice Program

The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) has developed this chart providing general information about competitive natural gas supplier offers for residential customers of Columbia Gas of Ohio.

Customers who have not chosen to enter into a contract with an independent supplier are billed at the Standard Choice Offer (SCO) rate. The SCO combines the monthly wholesale price listed on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) with a retail price adjustment, or adder, of 15.3 cents per hundred cubic feet (Ccf). The adder was determined through a retail auction. The SCO changes each month but the 15.3 cent adder will remain the same through March 31, 2013.

For more information about Columbia's change to the retail auction and the SCO, visit [www.pickocc.org](http://www.pickocc.org) for a free copy of [Frequently Asked Questions: Columbia Gas of Ohio SCO](#).

**Columbia Gas of Ohio's current Standard Service Offer (SSO) rate is: \$0.3566 (35.66 cents) per Ccf and will be effective for May 2012**

Because the SCO 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 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.

## More information

For more information on reading your natural gas meter or understanding the charges on your bill, please view a free copy of our fact sheet, [Guide to understanding your natural gas bill](#). A list of Columbia's historical natural gas rates can be found at [http://www.pickocc.org/publications/natural\\_gas/Historical\\_rates\\_COH.pdf](http://www.pickocc.org/publications/natural_gas/Historical_rates_COH.pdf).

Supplier:	Offer (per Ccf)	Type of Rate	Contract Term
<b>Border Energy Inc.</b> 9787 Fairway Blvd. Powell, OH 43065 1-888-479-4427 (toll free) <a href="http://www.border-energy.com">www.border-energy.com</a>	\$0.579	Fixed rate (\$75 early termination fee)	Through June 2013
<b>Direct Energy</b> PMB #51 7385 N. State Rt. 3 Westerville, OH 43082 1-888-566-9988 (toll free) <a href="http://www.directenergy.com">www.directenergy.com</a>	\$0.499	Fixed rate	6 months
<b>Dominion Energy Solutions</b> 120 Tredegar St. Richmond, VA 23219 1-800-990-4090 (toll free) <a href="http://www.dom.com">www.dom.com</a>	\$0.519	Fixed rate offer (\$50 ETF)	Through June 2013

Continued on next page

Supplier:	Offer (per Ccf)	Type of Rate	Contract Term
<b>Energy Cooperative of Ohio</b> 790 B Windmill Drive Pickerington, OH 43147 1-888-541-4646 (toll free) <a href="http://www.ohioenergycoop.com">www.ohioenergycoop.com</a>	\$0.460	Variable rate	Month to month
<b>IGS Energy DBA Columbia Retail Energy</b> <sup>4</sup> P.O. Box 9060 Dublin, OH 43017 1-877-444-7427 (toll free) <a href="http://www.ColumbiaRetailEnergy.com">www.ColumbiaRetailEnergy.com</a>	\$0.649 (max rate) \$0.549	Variable rate Fixed rate	Through June 2013 Through June 2013
<b>Integrus Energy Services</b> P.O. Box 1020 Worthington, OH 43085 1-888-367-4493 (toll free) <a href="http://www.integrusenergy.com">www.integrusenergy.com</a>	\$0.4435 \$0.549 \$0.569 \$0.598	Variable rate <sup>1,2</sup> Fixed rate <sup>1,2,3</sup> (\$75 ETF) Fixed rate <sup>1,3</sup> (\$75 ETF) Fixed rate <sup>1,3</sup> (\$75 ETF)	Month to month Through May 2013 Through May 2014 Through May 2015
<b>JustEnergy</b> (was Commerce Energy) P.O. Box 2210 Buffalo, N.Y. 14240-2210 1-866-587-8674 (toll free) <a href="http://www.JustEnergy.com">www.JustEnergy.com</a>	\$0.699 \$0.3477	Fixed rate (\$50 ETF) Variable rate (\$50 ETF) - 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
<b>MXenergy</b> 595 Summer St. Stamford, CT 05901 1-800-785-4373 (toll free) <a href="http://www.mxenergy.com">www.mxenergy.com</a>	\$0.499 \$0.599	Variable rate Fixed rate (\$150 ETF)	Month to month 1 year
<b>Ohio Natural Gas</b> P.O. Box 78760 Atlanta, GA 30357 1-888-466-4427 (toll free) <a href="http://www.onlyong.com">www.onlyong.com</a>	\$0.499 <sup>5</sup> \$0.539 <sup>5</sup> \$0.499	Fixed rate (\$75 ETF) Fixed rate (\$150 ETF) Variable rate	6 months 1 year Month to month
<b>Vectren Source</b> P.O. Box 3037 Evansville, IN 47730 1-800-516-6753 (toll free) <a href="http://www.vectrensource.com">www.vectrensource.com</a>	\$0.598	Fixed rate (\$100 ETF)	1 year
<b>Volunteer Energy Services</b> 790 Windmill Dr. Pickerington, OH 43147 1-800-977-8374 <a href="http://www.veenergy.com">www.veenergy.com</a>	\$0.3516	Variable rate	Month to month

<sup>1</sup> Offer not available in all areas; restrictions and other details apply.

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

<sup>3</sup> "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.

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

<sup>5</sup> Special promotional offer. Mention promo code APPLE

**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](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 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 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.

**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 3** - 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 5** - 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 10** - Infrastructure Replacement Program Rider: this charge covers the replacement of customer-owned gas risers and repair of customer-owned service lines.

**Lines 5, 6, and 10** - 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 Choice Offer (SCO) Rate	\$ 0.36		\$ 0.36	
2. Supplier Prices (choose an offer from pages 1-2)		\$ 0.50		<input type="text"/>
3. County Sales Tax - see page 4 for your county sales tax (Sample uses 6.5%)	+ \$ 0.02	+ \$ 0.03	+ \$ 0.02	+ <input type="text"/>
4. Gas Rate with Sales Tax You Pay Supplier	= \$ 0.38	= \$ 0.53	= \$ 0.38	= <input type="text"/>
5. Gas Transportation Charge	+ \$ 0.06	+ \$ 0.06	+ \$ 0.06	+ \$ 0.06
6. Total Usage Based Charges (#3 or #6 + #7)	= \$ 0.44	= \$ 0.59	= \$ 0.44	= <input type="text"/>
7. Your Monthly Gas Usage in Ccf	x 100	x 100	x <input type="text"/>	x <input type="text"/>
8. Total Cost Related to Gas Usage	= \$ 44.00	= \$ 59.00	= <input type="text"/>	= <input type="text"/>
9. Monthly Customer Charge	+ \$ 18.70	+ \$ 18.70	+ \$ 18.70	+ \$ 18.70
10. Infrastructure Replacement Program Rider	+ \$ 3.75	+ \$ 3.75	+ \$ 3.75	+ \$ 3.75
11. <b>TOTAL BILL</b>	= <b>\$ 66.45</b>	= <b>\$ 81.45</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**

**COLUMBIA GAS OF 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).

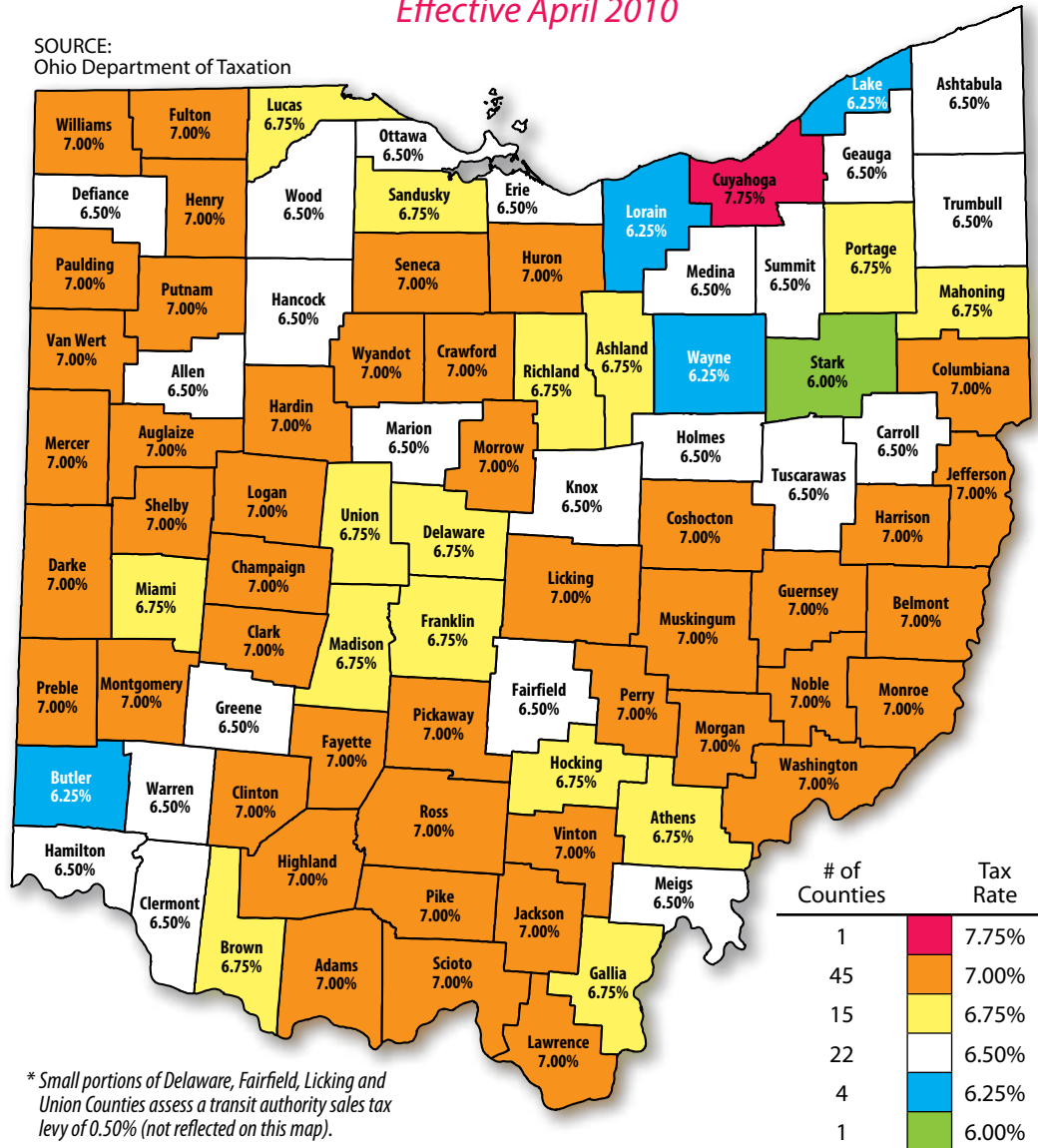


The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel is an equal opportunity employer and provider of services.

**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%