

# BGE Account: Are you overpaying for electricity?

Though third-party energy suppliers often advertise lower-than-BGE electricity and gas rates, the reality is that most households that switched energy suppliers **are paying more than if they had stayed with BGE's offer**. BGE is our utility and **delivers** the energy to our house, but we can buy electricity or gas from third-party suppliers.

Grab your BGE bill. Here's how to figure out if you're saving or not.

## 1. Who is Supplying Your Electricity or Gas?

On Page 1 of your bill, look for the green and blue circles on the upper left. If the company name to right of the circles is not BGE, your account is enrolled with a third-party supplier. These are two of the 60+ suppliers in MD.



The supplier's name and toll-free number is printed. If BGE is your supplier you can stop here. If not, go to step 2 below.

## 2. ARE YOU SAVING VS. BGE FOR ELECTRICITY?

To figure out if you're saving with a supplier, you need to know BGE's electricity price per kilowatt hour (kWh). It's buried in this green box on page 2 of your bill. It's about **8 cents** per kWh.

**BGE SUPPLY PRICE COMPARISON INFORMATION**

**BGE Supply Price Comparison Information:** The current price for Standard Offer Service (SOS) electricity is 8.076 cents/kWh, effective through May 31, 2019. SOS electricity will cost 6.731 cents/kWh beginning June 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019. The weighted average price of SOS electricity will be 7.587 through September 30, 2019. The price for SOS from October 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020 will be set in May 2019.

The price your supplier charged you is found in the **Electric Supplier Charges** box found on page 3. This account paid the supplier \$0.1255, about an extra \$0.05 for each kilowatt hour!

Electric Supplier Charges	
Billing Period: May 14, 2018 - Jun 14, 2018	
Energy Charges 109 109 KH x 0.1255	13.68
<b>Total Electric Supplier</b>	<b>\$13.68</b>
All inquiries on above supplier billing should be directed [redacted]	



## 3. ARE YOU SAVING VS. BGE FOR NATURAL GAS?

BGE natural gas rates are only found on the internet googling "BGE natural gas prices." BGE's historical gas rates are to the right. Though gas rates change each month, they have hovered around **\$0.45** per therm.



Gas Commodity Prices: Schedule D – Residential and Schedule C – General Service  
Please note that historical rates may not be an accurate indicator of future prices.

(Rates stated in dollars/therm)				
Month	2015	2016	2017	2018
Jan	\$0.5664	\$0.3895	\$0.4530	\$0.4829
Feb	\$0.5688	\$0.4166	\$0.4139	\$0.5068
Mar	\$0.4669	\$0.3806	\$0.3877	\$0.4477
Apr	\$0.3383	\$0.3343	\$0.4616	\$0.4251
May	\$0.3305	\$0.3368	\$0.5503	\$0.4303
Jun	\$0.3544	\$0.3396	\$0.4733	\$0.4315
Jul	\$0.3602	\$0.4039	\$0.4597	\$0.3984
Aug	\$0.3551	\$0.4225	\$0.4631	\$0.3855
Sep	\$0.3463	\$0.3981	\$0.4665	\$0.3982
Oct	\$0.3330	\$0.3963	\$0.4448	\$0.4043
Nov	\$0.3905	\$0.3689	\$0.4332	\$0.4684
Dec	\$0.4043	\$0.4007	\$0.4654	<b>\$0.5242</b>

### 3. NATURAL GAS CONTINUED...

Look for the **Gas Supplier Charges** box on page 3 of your BGE bill. It gets tricky.

Suppliers usually add a line explaining how many therms you used that month times (“x”) the rate/price. The account to the right used 14 therms of natural gas between May 14 to June 14, 2018 and was charged \$1.13 per therm. BGE charged \$0.43 (see rate chart above).

Gas Supplier Charges	
Billing Period: May 14, 2018 - Jun 14, 2018	
ENERGY CHARGE	15.84
<b>Total Gas Supplier</b>	<b>\$15.84</b>
All inquiries on above supplier billing should be directed to [REDACTED]	
COMMODITY CHARGE 14.0000(THERMS) X 1.1314(RATE) = 15.84	

If your supplier didn't include any information about what rate you were charged for natural gas, grab a calculator and divide the Total Gas Supplier charge by the therms used that invoice cycle.

In this example, the supplier charged \$80.33 for natural gas, yet printed no pricing info. Above, the invoice reads the account used 90 therms of natural gas.



GAS SUPPLY	
BGE GAS DELIVERY	80.33
Customer Charge	13.00
STRIDE Charge	2.00
Distribution Chg	90 therms x 4084 36.76
EmPower MD Chg	90 therms x .0469 4.22
TAXES & FEES	
Franchise Tax	90 therms x .00402 0.36
Local Tax	90 therms x .031988 2.86
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$139.00</b>

  

Gas Supplier Charges	
Billing Period: Apr 6, 2018 - May 7, 2018	
Energy Charges	80.33
<b>Total Gas Supplier</b>	<b>\$80.33</b>
All inquiries on above supplier billing should be directed to [REDACTED]	

\$80.33 divided by 90 therms is \$0.89 per therm. BGE charged \$0.43 per therm (see rate chart above), so this customer paid twice as much for the same gas that BGE sells.

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### 4. I'M PAYING TOO MUCH FOR ENERGY SUPPLY. WHAT NOW?

1. Consider cancelling supplier and go back to BGE's regulated rates.
2. Call supplier's toll-free number found on BGE page 1 to cancel. Don't call BGE.
3. Ask supplier's phone agent if you'll be charged a termination fee for cancelling.
4. If no cancel fee charged, cancel.
5. If phone agent says there is a cancel fee, try to get them to waive the fee or lower rate.
6. BGE will mail you a letter confirming that supplier has been cancelled.

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### 5. DO'S AND DON'TS

1. Be very careful choosing suppliers. Do not “set it and forget it.”
2. Do not show your BGE bill to anyone.
3. If you did not authorize a switch to supplier, file a PSC complaint at: <https://www.psc.state.md.us/online-complaints/>
4. Reduce your energy usage. Call nonprofit **Retrofit Baltimore 410-929-6139** for free energy efficiency programs.