



CUBFacts^{Natural Gas}

“Choices For You” – Making the Right Choice

What is “Choices For You”?

The “Choices for You” program allows Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas customers to choose an alternative company to supply their natural gas.

How does it work?

Traditionally, a utility buys gas on the market and uses its pipelines to deliver fuel to your home. The utility is supposed to sell the gas at the same price it pays, with no markup. Opting for Choices For You means you will still pay Peoples Gas or North Shore Gas to deliver gas to your home, but you will pay a different company to buy and supply the actual gas. Unlike your utility, the rates and services of your new supplier will not be regulated or reviewed by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC).

An alternative gas supplier’s charges would appear on page 2 of your bill, under “Summary of Supply Charges”

Bill Date	Account Number	Payment Due Date	Amount Due
08/15/2013		09/06/2013	\$49.04

Name

Summary of Supplier Charges

Current Charges \$14.81

Free Energy - \$14.81

Charges Not Available From Supplier

Choices For You
ABC Supplier Inc.
Customer Inquiries

Are there other charges?

Yes, and these charges will inflate the advertised price. Some suppliers charge a monthly fee. Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas charge participants a “storage gas charge.” Beware of an “exit” fee if you want to get out of your plan before the term of service ends. Companies may have an “opt-out period” during which a customer can exit without being penalized. Find out when that period begins and ends. Always contact a company to verify all the charges.

What gas consumer protections does Illinois have?

State law mandates that any customer signing up with an unregulated supplier on or after April 10, 2009...

- Has up to 10 days to cancel a contract once the supplier’s charges first appear on the gas bill without paying a cancellation penalty.
- Won’t have to pay a cancellation penalty higher than \$50.
- Must give consent, through a signature and a third-party verification process, before being signed up for a door-to-door offer.

Should I participate in Choices For You?

There’s no guarantee you’ll save money. In fact, CUB’s Gas Market Monitor, at www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org, shows that consumers are much more likely to lose money with unregulated gas companies. Remember, Choices For You is optional. If you don’t sign up, you will continue to be served by Peoples Gas or North Shore Gas, with rates regulated by the ICC. If you find Choices For You too confusing or too risky, you’re not alone.

Avoiding Natural Gas Scams:

- 1) Don’t sign up for any offer on the spot. You may be charged a termination fee if you later want out.
- 2) Don’t give out your utility account number to any sales representative at your door or over the phone.
- 3) Don’t sign up for a new supplier until you compare the prices and terms of service with other companies, including your utility.
- 4) If you’re not interested in switching suppliers, ask your gas utility to put a block on your account, which will prohibit any unauthorized changes to your service.
- 5) If you don’t want unregulated gas companies to bother you with a sales pitch, get on your utility’s do-not-market list. Peoples Gas customers should call 1-866-556-6001. North Shore customers should call 1-866-556-6004.

Choices for You Prices as of February 15, 2017*

Compare the prices below with Peoples Gas' current 41.82¢ per therm variable rate or North Shore Gas' 48.78¢ per therm variable rate.

*This is a snapshot of plans being offered. The rates and details of these offers can change often, even daily. Beware that plans may change drastically after the initial term. A "Storage Gas Charge" may add a few dollars per month to Choices For You participants' bills. Please note that Choices for You customers may pay Peoples Gas or North Shore Gas slightly different delivery charges to pipe the heating fuel from their alternative supplier to their home. Call a company to verify all charges, to get a plan in writing, and to find out what happens to that plan after the initial term. The rates only reflect the price of natural gas. Peoples Gas or North Shore Gas will continue to bill you for the cost of delivering gas to your home.

Company	Offer	Term	Fees
Ambit Energy 1-877-282-6248 www.ambitenergy.com	90.41¢ per therm variable rate (91.41¢ for North Shore Gas)	Monthly	No
Ambit Energy	43.5¢ per therm fixed rate (47.9¢ for North Shore Gas)	12 months	No
Archer Energy 1-844-795-7491 www.archerenergy.com	39.7¢ per therm variable rate (for Peoples Gas)	Monthly	\$4.99 monthly fee, \$50 cancellation fee (10-day opt-out period after receiving first bill)
Constellation Energy Services 1-877-377-7297 www.constellation.com	45.9¢ per therm fixed rate	12 months	\$50 cancellation fee (10-day opt-out period after receiving first bill)
Constellation Energy Services	46.9¢ per therm fixed rate	18 months	\$50 cancellation fee (10-day opt-out period after receiving first bill)
Direct Energy 1-866-910-3401 directenergy.com	45.9¢ per therm fixed rate	12 months	No
Direct Energy	45.9¢ per therm fixed rate (44.9¢ per therm for military personal only [Web Only])	18 months	No
Direct Energy	54.9¢ per therm fixed rate w/ Nest Thermostat	27 months	\$200 cancellation fee
IGS Energy 1-888-995-0992 www.igsenergy.com	46.9¢ per therm fixed rate (for PG) 46.9¢ per therm fixed rate (for NSG)	12 months	No
IGS Energy	41.9¢ per therm fixed rate (for PG) 42.9¢ per therm fixed rate (for NSG)	12 months	\$50 exit fee
IGS Energy	40.9¢ per therm fixed rate (for PG) 40.9¢ per therm fixed rate (for NSG)	18 months	\$50 exit fee
Just Energy 1-866-587-8674 www.justenergy.com	53.9¢ per therm fixed rate with 20% "green energy" option	36 or 60 months	\$50 cancellation fee (10-day opt-out period after receiving first bill)
Just Energy	55.9¢ per therm fixed rate with 20% "green energy" option	12 months	\$50 cancellation fee (10-day opt-out period after receiving first bill)

Company	Offer	Term	Fees
Nicor Advanced Energy 1-866-369-0911 www.nicoradvancedenergy.com	Lock 12, Flex, TruBalance plans (These plans are based on formulas known only to the company, so it is impossible to make an apples-to-apples comparison with Nicor Gas' rates)	Varies	Lock 12 and TruBalance charge a \$50 cancellation fee (10-day opt-out period after receiving first bill). Flex Plan has no fees.
Nicor Advanced Energy	50.1¢ per therm variable rate	Monthly	No
Nicor Advanced Energy	49.9¢ per therm "PriceGuard" fixed rate	12 months	\$50 cancellation fee (10-day opt-out period after receiving first bill)
Nicor Advanced Energy	46.9¢ per therm "Price Guard for Renters" fixed	11 months	\$50 cancellation fee (10-day opt-out period after receiving first bill)
Nordic Energy Services 1-877-808-1022 www.nordicenergy-us.com	39.1¢ per therm variable rate	Monthly	No
NRG 1-855-674-7697 www.nrghomepower.com	37¢ per therm variable rate (3-month introductory rate.	Monthly	No
NRG	39¢ per therm variable rate (3-month introductory rate.	Monthly	No
NRG	45¢ per therm variable rate (3-month introductory rate.	Monthly	No
Realgy Energy Services 1-877-300-6747 www.realgyenergyservices.com	41¢ per therm variable rate	24 months	\$2.50 monthly fee, \$50 exit fee
Santanna Energy Services 1-800-827-0067 www.santannaenergyservices.com	40.9¢ per therm fixed rate	6 months	\$7.99 monthly fee, \$50 exit fee
Santanna Energy Services	39.9¢ per therm fixed rate	12 months	\$7.99 monthly fee, \$50 exit fee
Spark Energy 1-877-228-9427 www.sparkenergy.com	46.5¢ per therm fixed rate for Peoples Gas 46.5¢ per therm variable rate for North Shore Gas	12 months	\$4.95 monthly fee, \$50 cancellation fee
Viridian 1-866-663-2508 www.viridian.com	45.98¢ per therm fixed rate for Peoples Gas 45.46¢ per therm fixed rate for North Shore Gas	12 months 25% renewable	\$50 exit fee

Company	Offer	Term	Fees
Viridian 1-866-663-2508 www.viridian.com	49.46¢ per therm fixed rate for Peoples Gas 48.98¢ per therm fixed rate for North Shore Gas	36 months 25% renewable	\$50 exit fee
Viridian 1-866-663-2508 www.viridian.com	45.72¢ per therm fixed rate for Peoples Gas 45.21¢ per therm fixed rate for North Shore Gas	21 months 25% renewable	\$50 exit fee
Viridian 1-866-663-2508 www.viridian.com	55.24¢ per therm fixed rate for Peoples Gas 55.24¢ per therm fixed rate for North Shore Gas	1 month 25% renewable	\$50 exit fee
Vista Energy Marketing, LP 1-888-508-4782 vistaenergymarketing.com	40.0¢ per therm variable rate	Monthly	No
Xoom Energy 1-888-997-8979 www.xoomenergy.com	47.9¢ per therm fixed rate	12 months	\$50 cancellation fee (10-day opt-out period after receiving first bill)
Xoom Energy	50.9¢ per therm fixed rate	12 months	\$50 cancellation fee (10-day opt-out period after receiving first bill)
Xoom Energy	48.9¢ per therm fixed rate	24 months	\$50 cancellation fee (10-day opt-out period after receiving first bill)
Xoom Energy	38.9¢ per therm variable rate	Monthly	No