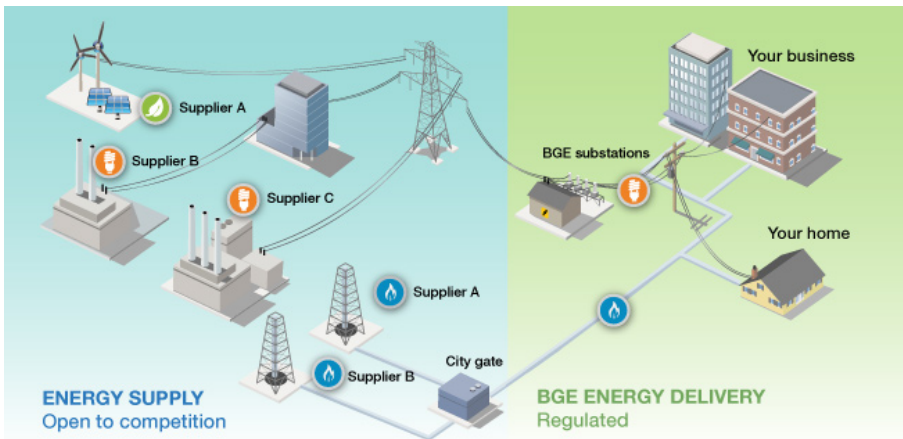


Energy Generation

Maryland has some of the most expensive electricity prices in the country. Although Maryland produces only small amounts of coal from its Appalachian Mountains, the state generates 55 percent of its electricity from coal. Maryland's one nuclear power plant, the dual-unit Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, supplies more than 30 percent of the state's electricity.¹



Supply refers to the electricity itself, which is generated in power plants and transmitted across high voltage lines to substations.

Delivery, also called distribution, is the process of delivering electricity to you along a network of power lines - the local distribution system.

Electric deregulation only affects the supply part of the business, giving you a

choice of the company that produces or supplies your power. The delivery portion of your service is still regulated. No matter which supplier you choose, or even if you don't choose at all, the utilities are responsible for delivering electricity to your home, maintaining the lines and equipment, and responding to power-related requests and emergencies. In Maryland, we have five utility suppliers: BGE, Delmarva, Pepco, Potomac Edison and SMECO.

Home and community renewable energy generation

Community renewable energy programs allow customers to purchase a share of a renewable system developed in the local community and receive the benefits of the energy that is produced by their share. Typically community renewable energy programs feature either solar or wind power generation.² There are four examples of this type of generation: community group purchasing, offsite shared solar, onsite shared solar (Multi-unit building) and community-driven financial models.



Community Group Purchasing: Once electricity generated by a solar/wind farm is placed on the grid, it is indistinguishable from electricity generated by a coal-fired plant. So energy customers who wish to support wind and solar power can do so by purchasing renewable energy certificates, also known as "RECs." This gives purchasing power to residential customers. Anyone who pays an electricity bill in the District of Columbia or Maryland can join with hundreds of caring neighbors to create a clean energy-buying group and secure the best prices for clean energy.

¹ <http://instituteforenergyresearch.org/media/state-regs/pdf/Maryland.pdf>

² http://apps3.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/community_development/

Two groups working on this in the state are [Groundswell](#) and [Interfaith Power and Light](#).

Offsite Shared Solar (single home and multi-unit): In Maryland we have [virtual Net metering](#), sometimes referred to as Solar Gardens or Community Energy Generating³ Facilities. It is when an array of solar panels is placed in a field, or installed on the roof of an apartment building, a box store, or any place where there is good solar access and then a solar project developer obtains the land or building site, installs the panels, and then finds investors or subscribers to pay for the panels. The subscribers likely live off site but get credit for the power generated by the panels they have purchased through a reduction in their home utility bill. One example of a group working on this in the state is [MD SUN](#).

Community Driven Financial Models: These programs operate on the principles of transparency, participation, local empowerment, demand-responsiveness, greater downward accountability, and enhanced local capacity. This model helps communities install electrical grid systems in critical facilities such as police and fire stations, schools that serve as community shelters, multi-family housing, food banks, wastewater treatment facilities, and other locations that need power to keep communities safe when the grid goes down.

³ <http://www.bge.com/safetyreliability/reliability/energybasics/Pages/How-Energy-is-Delivered.aspx>