

ELECTRIC AND GAS CO-OP

REQUIREMENT

To participate in the co-op, you must be a member of the Pikesville Chamber of Commerce OR you must belong to group that is a member of the Chamber. The Old Court/Greenspring Improv. Association (OCGS) is a member of the Chamber.

You can join the Chamber for \$250 or you can be a dues paying member of OCGS for \$35.

The Chamber estimates that if your electric bills are around \$325-350 per month, it would be advantageous to join the co-op. They estimate 6% to 10% savings.

See the attached pages for more information.



**You are invited
to be a part of our first-ever**

Residential Electricity and Gas Purchasing Cooperative

Now you can begin to save money on your home heating and electricity costs

**Through this exclusive offer
From the Pikesville Chamber of Commerce in partnership with our
energy consultant, CQI Associates, and your employer, club,
organization or residential association**

**We are going to pool the buying power of many homeowners to
negotiate a rate lower than would be available to you through BGE. The
program will save you 6 - 10% per year or equal to one month's billing.**

**Just go to *www.pikesvillechamber.org* and click on the link to the CQI,
our energy partner, application for Residential Electricity and Gas
Purchasing Cooperative**

**Frequently asked questions and sign-up information are all there for
you.**

**If you need to contact the Pikesville Chamber, call 410-484-2337 or
email us at pikesvillechamber@verizon.net**



Dear Member,

We have exciting news for you, your employees and associated members. The Pikesville Chamber of Commerce is launching the first-ever **Residential Electricity and Gas Purchasing Cooperative**. This opportunity is open only to Chamber Members, their employees, members and residents.

What this means for you is that you can offer this to your employees, members or residents as a **value-added benefit** that would not be available to them except through your organization. The best part is that this costs you nothing but is a benefit that will save them money.

We are attaching a flyer that you can give to your employees, members or residents which explains the program and how to get to the link to sign-up on-line. All that you have to do is give this out to your employees in their paychecks.

Information and applications are also available on the Chamber's website at www.pikesvillechamber.org.

The cost to enroll is \$37.50 per year per household for electricity and \$30 per year per household for gas. The Chamber expects the savings to be 6 – 10 % per year or equal to one month of your current BGE bill.

Like the commercial electricity purchasing coops which you are eligible for, the residential coop is an added value benefit that extends to your employees and associated members of your organization. At a time when we are all watching our expenses, both programs will be of benefit to you.

Thank you for your continued support of the Pikesville Chamber of Commerce.

Sincerely,

Sherrie Becker
Executive Director

7 Church Lane, Suite 14 • Pikesville, Maryland 21208
410 484-2337 • Fax 410 484-4151 • Email: pikesvillechamber@verizon.net
Web Site: www.pikesvillechamber.org



Pikesville Chamber of Commerce

Residential Electricity and Gas Purchasing Cooperative

A Unique Opportunity

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Residential Electricity and Gas Purchasing Cooperative?

The Pikesville Chamber of Commerce in partnership with CQI Associates, our energy broker, will pool the buying power of homeowners to negotiate a better price for electricity and gas from energy suppliers approved by the Maryland Public Service Commission.

Who is eligible to join?

Any residential customer in the BGE, Pepco or Delmarva area who is an employee or member of a business or organization who is a member or becomes a member of the Pikesville Chamber of Commerce is eligible to participate. Chamber membership is a requirement to joining the coop. Your residence, business or organization does not have to be in Pikesville.

What does it cost to join the coop?

The annual enrollment fee is **\$37.50** for electric per household and **\$30** for gas per household. These fees are only refundable if your credit does not check out.

What kind of savings can I expect?

6 – 10% annually, or equal to one month's electric bill

Why is this a good time to do this?

Rates are advantageously low right now which presents an opportunity for homeowners

How do I sign up?

You can go to the Pikesville Chamber Website at www.pikesvillechamber.org to find a link to the CQI on-line sign-up. After signing up, you will be contacted via email with the actual bid rate and a cost comparison with the BGE rate. You will be asked to either accept or decline the offer on bid day. The contract is between you and the supplier and there is no middleman.

What is the deadline to sign up?

There is no deadline. This is a rolling enrollment. The sooner you sign up, the sooner you begin to save.

What happens to my account with BGE?

BGE will continue to deliver, bill and service the account. The new supplier will notify BGE about your change in supplier. BGE will add a notation on your bill that indicates the name of your supplier. Other than that, nothing will change about your relationship with BGE. You do not have to notify BGE about the change.

What happens if I sign up and then want to get out of the contract?

This is a binding contract for one year.

Is my vacation home also eligible?

Yes, as long as you are a BGE, Pepco or Delmarva customer.

How does my organization or business join the Pikesville Chamber?

Membership in the Chamber is a nominal fee of \$200 per year. Contact the Pikesville Chamber of Commerce at 410 484-2337 or on the web at www.pikesvillechamber.org.

On-line Webinar meeting:

On-line web meeting on Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 and Thursday, April 9 at 7:00. To make a reservation please email pikesvillechamber@verizon.net and Rachel Trager at Rachel@cqiassociates.com.

If you have additional questions, we encourage you to attend one of our information meetings or webinars listed on our website, www.pikesvillechamber.org.



Commercial Electricity Purchasing Cooperatives New Members and Renewal Members

Are rising energy costs wreaking havoc on your bottom line?

Maryland businesses are feeling the effects of deregulated natural gas and electricity prices. Current pricing is being driven by reduced US refinery production, increased US and China consumption, international terrorism, an unprecedented hurricane season in the Gulf, and delays in passing energy legislation. In the midst of all this bad news, there is good news for our members.

The Pikesville Chamber of Commerce has developed an **Energy Purchasing Cooperative** and have gained significant experience in assisting businesses in purchasing electricity in a deregulated market. Increased purchasing power and a competitive bid process helps businesses save money and enjoy long-term budget stability.

Deregulation legislation allows Maryland commercial customers to stay with their current energy supplier or purchase on a contract basis from another licensed supplier. Contract prices are based on a negotiated or competitive selection process controlled by the customer. Prices are set for a specified term. Choosing a supplier typically provides Coop members price and budget stability for a contract period of 12 to 36 months.

The **Energy Purchasing Cooperative** pools the buying power of commercial customers to procure energy at the best available competitive market price. The program also saves individual members time and expense in choosing a supplier on their own. Members participating in the program also gain useful information on reducing consumption through the implementation of an energy management program.

This value-added service is available to any business in Maryland who has a BGE, Pepco or Delmarva account.

Co-op membership is based on the individual member's location. Members pay a one-time \$250 registration fee for each location. Each location can have multiple meters or accounts. Members complete a coop application and credit application. Members must meet the credit qualifications stipulated by the suppliers. Members must remain in the program through the RFP process. Members have the right to accept or reject the final price offer. Members who reject the final price will not receive a refund and will need to make other arrangements for electricity supply. duration of Each member will contract directly with the new supplier. Once the accounts are transferred to the new supplier, the Energy Purchasing Cooperative activities are complete.

For information, go to the Chamber Website at www.pikesvillechamber.org and click on Commercial Coops or call Sherrie Becker at the Pikesville Chamber of Commerce at 410 484-2337.



April 6, 2009

Dear Member:

As one of our newest members, you may not be aware of the commercial electricity cooperatives that we have been offering our members for the last five years. These have resulted in the savings of thousands of dollars for our members.

The concept is to group together large numbers of businesses so that we can negotiate a lower rate with an energy supplier. We have been able to do this to not only lower the cost of power but also each coop locked in the rate for three years to provide budget stability for that business.

We hope that you will join us for our latest business cooperative. Please refer to our website for additional information and applications.

Please feel free to call us if you have any questions. This is a great program that will impact your bottom line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sherrie Becker'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Sherrie Becker
Executive Director