



To: All Howard County Chamber Members and Member Employees

From: Chamber of Commerce Energy Purchasing Co-Op

Subject: Residential Energy Purchasing Co-Operative for Howard County Chamber of Commerce Member Employees

[New Residential Co-Op!](#)

Feeling Charged up over steep electricity rates? Relief is on the way ... and it is spelled C-H-A-M-B-E-R!

The Howard County Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce its new Residential Energy Co-Op. Our Commercial Energy Co-Op was a big hit saving member businesses thousands of dollars; so now, we've made a residential program to bring these savings to the employees of all our member businesses...

Deregulation legislation in Maryland permits customers to purchase electricity and natural gas supply services on a contract basis from a licensed supplier. Whether customers continue to purchase energy under the "standard offer service" from their current utility or purchase from an alternative licensed supplier, the utility will continue to deliver that energy service to the customer's home.

Residential rates were deregulated in January 2006 and many customers have seen a 60% or more increase in their rates.

Now, Residential customers in Maryland can join the Howard County Chamber of Commerce Energy Purchasing Co-Op created to reduce the cost of electricity and natural gas supply services at their homes. Residential customers who have selected licensed suppliers have reduced their costs by 6 to 10 percent on an annual basis.

Employees of current Chamber member organizations can now join the residential Energy Purchasing Co-Op.

[This is an excellent time to seek pricing for electricity and natural gas supply services.](#)

The Chamber is holding an information meeting on March 26th at 7 PM at The Howard County Chamber of Commerce Offices. Register on line for this session at www.howardchamber.com in the Calendar of Events.

The Chamber is holding a noon time on-line web based information briefing about the Co-Op on March 18th and March 27th at 12:00 NOON. Register on line at www.howardchamber.com in the Calendar of Events.

Members interested in enrolling in the Residential Energy Co-Op should go to the Chamber website home page at www.howardchamber.com click on "Energy Purchasing Co-Op" and click on "New Residential Co-Op."

The initial application deadline is Friday, March 27, 2009.

The application fee \$37.50 per account. If your employer is not a current member of the Chamber or if you are not employed by a current member of the Chamber the application for cooperative participation will not be processed.

The cooperative application fee pays for the administrative costs of the energy purchasing cooperative and selecting a licensed energy supplier who is offering to sell the electricity or natural gas at a lower price than the Standard Offer Service rates offered by the local utility company. Application fees are not refundable.

The cooperative will be monitoring the market and working with numerous licensed energy suppliers over the next 45 to 90 days to select a supplier. The typical contract for is 24 to 36 months. Once a supplier is selected, you will receive a contract offer directly from that energy supplier. Acceptance of the supplier's contract will ensure budget stability throughout the term of the contract. However, if you do not accept the contract offer you must reapply.

If you have any questions contact the Chamber.

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