

Overview:

IQ Fiber has made a proposal to be a second Internet Service Provider (ISP) to Fenwick that would provide a complete, end-to-end fiber-optic internet service.

This effort would require digging to install fiber through the town and into every home in Fenwick. Water, power and Comcast lines would need to be marked with orange paint before digging can begin. Would also require above-ground green box in the town (4x4x4), and WiFi equipment inside homes that choose to use IQFiber.

Today, Comcast's XFINITY is Fenwick's ISP. Their service is delivered through a fiber-optic backbone running through town, connected to copper coaxial cable running into every home.

Comcast has a "next generation" bandwidth upgrade underway using a *hybrid* fiber-coax cable network:

- Phase 1 is actively being rolled out across all markets. Will significantly increase upload speeds and overall capacity (5-10 times faster than standard cable)
- Phase 2 is planned. Will deliver symmetrical (meaning equal upload and download speeds), multi-gigabit bandwidth speeds over existing copper coaxial cables.
- Phase 3 is a longer range plan to replace cable with fiber to every home.

IQ Fiber's proposal outlines 3 major benefits:

	IQ Fiber	Comcast's XFINITY
Equal Download/Upload Speeds	Best	Phased rollout underway
Pricing	Better (includes WiFi equip.)	Competitive Base rates/WiFi equip. extra*
No Install Fees	None	Install fees but most homes have already

**Comcast does offer promotional pricing & you can buy your own equip (one time purchase) versus renting Comcast equipment.*

IQFiber Pros and Cons:

Pros:

1. Competition offers Fenwick residents choice.
2. Better pricing.
3. All fiber-optic solution.

Cons:

1. Disruptive:
 - Potential cuts to power, water or cable due to mismarked lines, hard to find older pipes, and/or contractor moving quickly.
 - Yards will need to be dug up to lay fiber potentially impacting driveways and landscaping.
 - Headaches and issues that come with any construction project.
2. High liability project because it involves the identification and marking of power, water and Comcast cable lines through the town and for every Fenwick home followed by digging to bury the fiber.
3. Town Resources needed to manage and monitor overall project in conjunction with IQFiber.
4. IQFiber's Points of Presence (POP) for uptime service availability is limited today (in Milford). Not as extensive as Comcast's POP throughout DE and MD.

Further Consideration:

Comcast already has a fiber network backbone with many established Points of Presence in our area with a 99.8% uptime availability record in Fenwick. Bandwidth speeds are sufficient for normal Internet streaming needs.

WiFi equipment is important to improve your existing Internet experience. Make sure you have adequate equipment including extenders located on every floor of your home meeting square footage specifications.

Fiber is internet only and cannot offer TV or local news services. UTubeTV will stream TV and local news for a fee.

There are a lot of providers and options in this broadband space: Fiber start-ups like IQFiber, Glo Fiber, Simple Fiber, Talkie—all focused in our area and along the Eastern Shore. These smaller companies will likely continue to experience merging and consolidation.

Big companies are AT&T Fiber, Google Fiber, Verizon Fios. Then there are also **wireless internet solutions** from Verizon, T-Mobile and AT&T. And let's not forget Starlink.

Summary:

IQFiber's proposal offers a competitive choice over Comcast at better, though not significantly better, price points.

Comcast already has a fiber-optic backbone in Fenwick and is actively increasing its internet performance speeds to more effectively compete with a pure fiber-optic solution like IQ Fiber.

Fenwick also has wireless internet solutions available today from T-Mobile 5-G Home Internet and Verizon's 5G Home. And Starlink is also available as a full ISP—mount Starlink's satellite dish on your roof or yard and pay a subscription fee. Dish measures 15x23". People do it all over Sussex County.