



**Comfortable.  
Responsible.  
Natural Gas.**

**ENERGY  
SPOTLIGHT®**

January 2012

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**nicor**  
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An AGL Resources Company

**You enjoy cooking delicious hot meals and baking treats** with your natural gas oven range; and it sure feels good when your natural gas furnace clicks on during a frigid winter morning. But there's much more to that little blue flame than you might imagine. Read on...

## Good for the environment

Natural gas is a safe, reliable and efficient fuel source. But the benefits of natural gas extend beyond its performance. It's also the cleanest-burning fossil fuel. In fact, compared to the average all-electric home, the average natural gas home emits 46 percent less carbon. As we are all concerned with protecting the environment, it's a good time to remember that natural gas is not only the best choice for your home, but for our planet as well.



### An easy choice for all of your home energy needs

You can feel good about natural gas' minimal impact on the environment. But you can feel even better about the impact on your wallet. When you use high-efficiency natural gas equipment, the odds are good that you're saving money over those using electricity or propane. **Need proof? Check out these natural gas facts:**

#### ► HOME HEATING

- Natural gas is up to 97% efficient
- A natural gas system emits up to 40% less carbon emissions than an electric heat pump and reduces nitrous oxide emissions by up to 55%
- Unlike cooler air from an electric heat pump, a gas furnace delivers air that's as much as 25 degrees warmer
- You can expect your gas furnace to perform up to twice as long as an electric heat pump

#### ► COOKING

- You'll save energy and money when you cook with natural gas because it can be turned on or off instantly
- It costs about half as much to cook with a natural gas range as an electric one
- A natural gas range can be used during a power outage

#### ► OUTDOOR GRILLING

- Connecting your grill to natural gas means never running out of fuel again
- Natural gas is historically less expensive than propane
- You'll rid yourself of the mess and particulate emissions of a charcoal grill
- Your AC bill will be reduced in the summer, because the cooking heat will remain outside

### ► LAUNDRY

- On average, you can dry two loads of clothes in a natural gas dryer for the same amount it would cost you to dry one load in an electric dryer
- Natural gas dryers dry faster than electric dryers — with less tumbling, your clothes last longer and you get back valuable time on laundry day
- A natural gas water heater heats water up to twice as fast as an electric one, meaning you will always have plenty of hot water for washing on laundry day

### ► GENERATORS

- A natural gas generator turns on automatically during a power failure
- Depending on the size of the system you install, you can choose to power only critical appliances, or your entire home
- You'll never have to worry about running out of fuel like you do with a gasoline or diesel-powered generator – and fewer greenhouse gasses will be produced

### ► FIREPLACES

- A clean-burning, natural gas fireplace provides all the warmth and beauty of a real wood fireplace without cutting down trees, hauling wood or cleaning up soot
- It's easy to upgrade if you have a masonry fireplace and chimney
- Natural gas fireplaces can be vented through an outside wall or through the roof, without a conventional chimney

For additional information on all natural gas has to offer, visit [comfortableresponsible.org](http://comfortableresponsible.org). If you'd like to learn more about energy efficiency and how you can get rebates for purchasing high-efficiency natural gas equipment, visit [nicorgasrebates.com](http://nicorgasrebates.com).



## Check out the NEW [nicorgas.com](http://nicorgas.com)

Nicor Gas has a new website ([nicorgas.com](http://nicorgas.com)) that provides convenient customer service features, as well as easily accessible information about payment options, natural gas safety, gas costs and much more. While the look of the website has changed, your My Account online account management system and access remains the same.

As you may have heard, Nicor recently merged with Atlanta-based AGL Resources. This merger does not change anything related to your natural gas service. Rest assured you will still receive the same safe, reliable, cost-effective service from Nicor Gas.



To learn more about AGL Resources, please visit [aglresources.com](http://aglresources.com). And as always, you may contact Nicor Gas customer service by phone at 1 888 Nicor4u (1 888 642-6748) or by email at [customercare@nicorgas.com](mailto:customercare@nicorgas.com).

## January Natural Gas Cost



Every month, Nicor Gas files a gas supply charge with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). It is the price customers pay for gas purchased from Nicor Gas during that month. As a regulated utility, Nicor Gas does not profit from the sale of natural gas. The price we pay for gas is passed on to our customers without markup. Visit [nicorgas.com/gascost](http://nicorgas.com/gascost) for energy efficiency tips, historical natural gas price information and home energy audit tools that will help you manage your natural gas usage and keep your costs down.

\*At press time, this was the price Nicor Gas filed with the ICC. Under ICC rules, the price may be changed up until the first of the month in which it is effective.



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