

Need help paying your bill?

Financial assistance is available

ENERGY SPOTLIGHT®

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In today's challenging economy, many household budgets are being stretched thin, making it difficult for families to pay bills when money is tight. Nicor Gas wants to help its customers and offers several options for bill payment assistance.

Get help paying your bill with the following programs

Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP)

The PIPP Program is a level payment plan requiring a minimum monthly payment of 6 percent of your gross monthly income. The PIPP Program will pay for the difference between the payment and the monthly bill amount (up to \$100), excluding any non-service charges. PIPP also provides a monthly Arrearage Reduction Credit toward outstanding account balances as long as your payment posts to your account in full, on or before the bill due date. The amount of the credit will be 1/12 of your total arrears up to a maximum monthly credit of \$83.33.

LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), administered by the Illinois Department of

Commerce and Economic Opportunity, helps eligible low-income households pay for energy services. Qualifying households receive a grant once per year to be used for energy bills. Eligibility is based on several factors including household size, location and income.

Sharing

The Nicor Gas Sharing Program provides one-time annual grants of up to \$450 to qualified residential customers. Administered by the Salvation Army, the Sharing Program is funded by contributions from Nicor Gas customers and employees. Nicor Gas also contributes \$175,000 annually to the program. Customers can make donations to Sharing by circling an amount on their bill stub and including it with their payment, or online at nicor.com/myaccount.

To determine if you are eligible for any of these programs, visit nicorgas.com/financialassistance.

Budget Plan

A great strategy to prevent the impact of higher winter bills is by enrolling in The Nicor Gas Budget Plan. The plan provides you with the option to spread out your gas payments throughout the year, giving your budget a break during the winter months, when natural gas usage and bills are normally higher. You can sign up for the plan either online at nicor.com/myaccount or simply pay the Budget Plan amount shown on the payment stub of your bill...it's that easy.



MORE lights. MORE sights.
MORE MAGIC...

Three Magical Weekends Plus the Holiday Week!
December 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, and 26-31
4 to 9 p.m.

Come celebrate 30 years of Chicagoland's largest lights festival featuring a million twinkling lights. Enjoy live entertainment and amazing animals, and ride through the zoo in comfort aboard the Nicor-sponsored Motor Safari. For more info, go to CZS.org.

Nicor is a proud sponsor of Brookfield Zoo and the Chicago Zoological Society.



Buy One General Admission FREE
Get One General Admission FREE



Coupon must be presented at gate. Buy one Adult or Child General Admission to Brookfield Zoo and get one free General Admission of equal or lesser value. No refunds or exchanges. Not valid with any other promotional offer or package admissions. Coupon may not be sold or duplicated. Parking is not included. Offer good through 12/31/11.



BROOKFIELD ZOO

Child

Winter Safety Tips

As winter takes hold across the Midwest, your furnace and other heating equipment will be used more often. We'd like to remind you of some simple safety tips that can help you be safe at home.

Purchase a Carbon Monoxide Detector

Approximately 500 Americans die each year due to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. CO is a colorless, odorless gas that is produced during the combustion of fossil fuels, including natural gas. Many of these CO-related incidents could be avoided by simply installing a CO detector. In fact, **Illinois law requires** that every home have a properly operating CO detector installed within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping.

Those exposed to dangerous levels of CO will experience flu-like symptoms including dizziness, nausea, headache and coughing, irregular heartbeat, and pale skin with cherry red lips. You can avoid the buildup of dangerous levels of CO in your home by following these guidelines:

- Never run a combustion engine, such as the one found in your car, portable generator, lawn mower or snow blower, in enclosed areas
- Never leave a fuel-burning portable heater unattended while people sleep
- Never heat your home with your gas range or oven
- Never burn charcoal inside your home or garage
- Be sure to open your chimney flue when you use your fireplace
- Have your furnace cleaned and checked by a qualified contractor annually

Keep your loved ones safe by installing a CO detector today!



Use Caution with Space Heaters

Space heaters can take the chill out of a room, but they should always be used with caution. If you use a space heater, make sure it includes a tipover switch that shuts the unit off automatically if it accidentally turns over.

Keep space heaters off carpeting and at least three feet from draperies, blankets or sofas.

Never leave a space heater unattended. If you use a natural gas or kerosene space heater, be sure it's vented to the outside. Avoid purchasing a used space heater to be re-used in your home.

Remove Snow and Ice from Your Gas Meter

The regulator on your gas meter has to be able to release gas in the event of a malfunction. If ice or snow covers the vent, the regulator will sense that it cannot release gas. As a result, the entire system will automatically shut down, stopping gas service to your home. To avoid gas service interruption, keep your meter free from snow and ice build up, assuring proper operation. However, snow removal that damages or dislodges your gas meter can cause a dangerous gas leak, so make sure you follow these guidelines:

- Use a broom (not a shovel) to clear snow from your meter, regulator and vents
- Remove icicles hanging above your meter
- Sweep snow away from the outside vent openings of natural gas appliances (such as clothes dryers) to avoid a backup of dangerous CO gas into your home
- Be sure whomever removes snow from your property is aware of the placement of your meter if it is near a sidewalk or driveway
- If your meter becomes encased in ice or if you believe your meter has been damaged, call Nicor Gas immediately at 1 888 Nicor4U (1 888 642-6748)

December 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 nicor.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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