



Energy Efficiency Program

USING ENERGY WISELY FOR A BETTER FUTURE™

Tops \$3 Million In Rebates!

ENERGY SPOTLIGHT®

January 2011

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Launched in May 2010, the Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program (EEP) has been extremely successful in bringing energy efficiency tools to our customers, while saving them money on their energy bills. As of this month, the program has paid out more than **\$3 million in incentive rebates** to those customers who have replaced old natural gas equipment with new, energy efficient equipment.

New Year... New Equipment?

2011 has arrived. Is it time to replace your old furnace, boiler or water heater? With winter's frosty bite in the air, heating equipment works hard to keep homes warm. If your furnace, boiler or water heater is outdated, it's using more natural gas than necessary – wasting a natural resource and costing you more on your gas bill.

According to ENERGY STAR, a government-backed program helping businesses and individuals protect the environment through superior energy efficiency, the average American home spends \$2,200 per year on energy costs, including space heating and water heating. A study conducted by the U.S. Energy Information Administration found that in Midwestern states like Illinois, space heating accounts for 54 percent

and water heating accounts for 18 percent of an average home's total energy use.

We encourage you to join the thousands of Nicor Gas customers who have learned how to be more energy efficient while improving their carbon footprint and receiving rebate incentives as much as \$400, by participating in the Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program (EEP). Visit nicorgasrebates.com for program details. Check out the "Resources" link where you can access our new high efficiency furnace Payback Analysis worksheet that provides cost savings information over the life of your equipment. You can also contact EEP by calling **1 877 886-4239**. The program runs through May 31, 2011 or until funds are depleted.

EEP in the Community

Community outreach is important to the program, as it gives our EEP staff the opportunity to meet with customers and "spread the word" in person about reducing energy consumption. In 2010, efforts included handing out educational materials to environmentally conscious visitors of the Brookfield Zoo's "Party for the Planet" celebration in May. Green-minded baseball fans were also provided with program materials at the Kane County Cougars' "Halfway to Halloween" event also held in May.

In November, the EEP team brought energy conservation awareness to 52 schools across our service area with its *Think! Energy with Nicor Gas* program. Thanks to the *Think! Energy* curriculum, nearly 5,000 fifth graders are learning to "think" about energy, "talk" about energy, and "take action" to help make a difference in their schools and homes. In addition to the instructional materials each school receives for participating in the program, students will help their classroom

receive a \$100 mini-grant if they complete a home energy report card. Find out more about EEP's community outreach efforts by visiting nicorgasrebates.com.

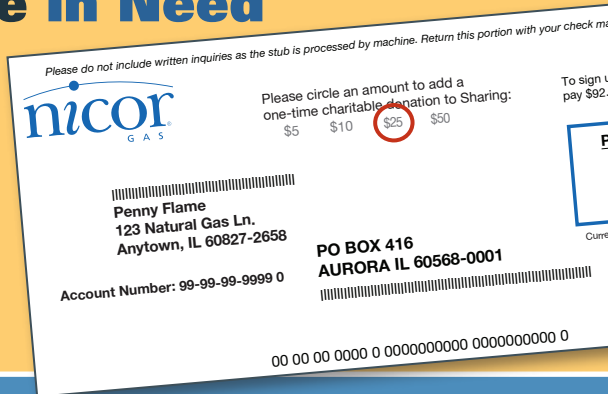


EEP General Manager Jim Jerozal distributes information to those interested in saving energy and money at Brookfield Zoo's "Party for the Planet"

Share with Someone in Need

As the holiday season fades we ask that you keep the spirit of giving to those in need alive with a donation to our Sharing program. Administered by The Salvation Army, Sharing provides grants of up to \$450 for those struggling to make ends meet and can't pay their gas bill. Making a donation is simple – just circle the amount on your Nicor Gas bill stub and add it to the amount.

Thank you for your generosity!



Get Help Paying Your Energy Bills

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 monetary relief once per year to be used for energy bills. Eligibility is based on several factors including household size, location and income. For more information, call **1 877 411-9276** or visit illinoisliheap.com.

America is Getting Greener

In 2008, Americans avoided greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 29 million automobiles, while saving more than \$18 billion on their energy bills by using ENERGY STAR-rated products. Americans also saved a significant amount of energy in 2008 – 190 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) – or almost five percent of the total 2008 electricity demand.

Source: "Energy Star and Other Climate Protection Partnerships 2008 Annual Report" (published 12/09)



Dial Down for Savings

Looking for ways to save on your gas bill? One simple tip is to put on your most comfy sweater and dial down your thermostat. Every one degree that you lower your thermostat results in a savings of between four and five percent on your energy bill. For example, lowering from 72 °F to 68 °F could save you 18 percent. For an average size home, the annual savings would be approximately \$131*.

For more energy savings tips, download our energy conservation booklet, *Keeping the Warmth In and the Cold Out* that you will find in the Residential section of nicor.com under "Energy Efficiency Tips."

*Savings calculated based on a home using 1,040 therms of natural gas per year at a cost of \$.70/therm.



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 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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