

ENERGY SOLUTIONS@ WORK

nicor
GAS

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October 2004

With winter approaching, you will soon begin using more natural gas. Nicor Gas wants you to be aware of our payment plans, choice program and online resources available to help moderate the affect of higher gas bills.

Nicor Gas programs and payment plans

Nicor Gas has a number of programs and payment plans that can help you manage your account this winter and throughout the year.

- **Budget Plan** – your natural gas costs will be spread over a 12-month period, allowing you to build up a credit in the summer to offset higher bills in the winter. Every few months we will review your Budget Plan amount and make adjustments as needed to stay in line with your usage and expected gas costs. Your bill must be \$4,000 or less per month to qualify.
- **Automatic Payment** – have your bill payment automatically transferred from your bank account to Nicor Gas each month. Better yet, pair Automatic Payment with the Budget Plan for ultimate convenience. Sign up online at the “My Account” section of nicorgas.com.
- **Customer Select** – purchase natural gas and services from a supplier other than Nicor Gas. This allows you access to a number of additional payment programs, options and contract opportunities.

For more information on gas costs or any of these programs, visit nicorgas.com or call us at 888 Nicor4u.

get with
the plan

Online resources at Nicorgas.com

Just click on “My Account,” enter your account number and the therm usage listed on your bill and choose from the options below.

- **Current account information** – get your account balance, last payment received, and due date of the next bill.
- **Email reminders** – notification of the date your bill was sent, when it’s due and when your meter will be read.
- **Bill payment options** – use a bank account, credit card or debit card to pay online. And, sign up for Automatic Payment and the Budget Plan online. (Your bills must be \$4,000 per month or lower to be eligible for the Budget Plan.)
- **Gas use history** – view your gas use, charges and cost of gas for the past two years.
- **Meter reading information** – find out your billing period, annual schedule and submit your own read.
- **Payment center directory** – find a location near you to pay your bill in person.
- **Survey** – we’re always interested in improving and enhancing your online experience with us, so we’d like to hear your thoughts.

We are periodically refining and adding new features to meet the needs of our customers, so bookmark the “My Account” section of nicorgas.com/commercial and visit often.

October is Energy Awareness Month!

Energy Awareness Month is the perfect time of the year for business and energy managers to:

> **Begin building an energy strategy for 2005.**

Learn how by visiting nicorgas.com/commercial and clicking on "Make the most of your energy dollars."

> **Commit to staying updated on emerging natural gas technologies and news.** Sign up for Nicor's Energy News, our monthly e-mail newsletter for businesses. Visit nicorgas.com/commercial and click on "Customer News." Be sure to read *Energy Solutions @ Work* every month for updates.

> **Share and implement energy-saving tips.**

You will save energy and money and protect the environment with these energy tips:

1. Install programmable thermostats and automatic room-lighting controls.

2. Remind employees to turn off machines and equipment when not in use. Don't underestimate the savings you can achieve by turning off unused computers, monitors, printers and copiers.

3. Insulate your water heater tank and pipes to reduce heat loss, and lower the temperature on your water heater thermostat.

4. Inspect steam distribution systems for leaks and repair where necessary. Possible sources of unnoticed leaks include piping, valves, process equipment, steam traps, flanges and seals.

5. Prevent scale accumulation by ensuring water treatment systems are operating effectively. Scale build-up inhibits throughput and heat transfer.

Visit nicorgas.com and click on "Gas Cost" for more energy tips.

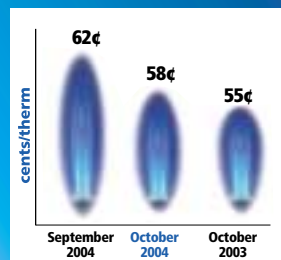
For more information on Energy Awareness Month, visit the ENERGY STAR® Web site at energystar.com and click on "Business Improvement" and then "October is energy awareness month." You'll find poster templates, ideas to communicate energy awareness and many more ideas and energy tips. Nicor Gas is proud to be the first commercial and industrial ENERGY STAR partner in Illinois.

DID YOU KNOW

By 2025, industrial demand for natural gas will rise by about 40 percent, from 7.3 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) to 10.3 Tcf, according to projections by the U.S. Department of Energy.

October Natural Gas Cost

Every month, Nicor files a gas supply charge with the Illinois Commerce Commission. 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.



*At press time, this was the price filed with the ICC. We reserve the right to change this price until the first of the month in which it is effective.



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