



Choose natural gas for a season of outdoor fun

Energy-efficient natural gas appliances are a welcome guest at summer outdoor festivities. They help keep operating costs low and allow gatherings to stretch well into the evening. Customers can purchase the following natural gas appliances at their local home improvement retailer:

Grills. Backyard chefs avoid the hassle of charcoal and heavy propane tanks with natural gas grills. They can tap directly into their home's natural gas service and enjoy an endless source of fuel.

Outdoor lights. The soft glow of natural gas lights can brighten any home's sidewalk, driveway, entryway, yard, deck, patio or pool area.

Pool and spa heaters. Customers can extend the season's outdoor fun with energy-efficient natural gas pool and spa heaters.

Patio campfires, outdoor fireplaces and patio heaters. Cookout guests love the ambiance and warmth of these cozy natural gas appliances.

To learn more about the benefits and convenience of natural gas, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/gasisbetter.

Across six states, CNP supports March for Babies

2010 marked the 22nd consecutive year that CenterPoint Energy has participated in the March for Babies, the March of Dimes annual fundraiser. Company employees helped raise more than \$167,000 to help fight infant mortality, birth defects and premature births. In addition to walking, employees in Arkansas and Louisiana showed their support by cooking hot dogs on the day of the walk. In Houston, the company sponsored a checkpoint and provided support vehicles for tired walkers.



"I am so proud of our employees who, despite the difficult economy, far surpassed our goal," said Kenny Mercado, division senior vice president and executive walk chairman. "This is such a noble cause and our employees rose to the task of supporting it in a huge way."



Stay safe around natural gas pipelines

Each day, underground pipelines are used to safely transport natural gas to CenterPoint Energy customers. However, because natural gas is flammable, it's important for customers to be aware of how to stay safe around pipelines. If a natural gas leak occurs, it has the potential to cause a fire or explosion.

Customers can use their senses to detect a pipeline emergency. Here are the signs of a potential leak:

- **SEEING** dying vegetation or blowing dirt near a pipeline.
- **HEARING** a hissing sound.
- **SMELLING** natural gas, which is similar to rotten eggs.

If a person suspects a gas leak, he or she should:

- Leave the area immediately
- Go to a safe location and call the CenterPoint Energy Gas Leak hotline number for their area.

Arkansas	800-992-7552
Houston, Texas	713-659-2111 888-876-5786
Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas (except Houston)	888-876-5786
Minnesota	800-722-9326
Twin Cities metro area	612-372-5050

For more information on pipeline safety, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/safety.

Make way for meter readers

CenterPoint Energy meter readers serve customers best when they have a safe path to natural gas meters. This simple convenience can also help ensure that each meter receives an exact reading each month.



Customers can help their neighborhood meter reader by:

- Clearing outside paths of gardening tools and other items.
- Trimming shrubs near their meter and clearing vents.
- Keeping pets away from the meter during the days when it will be read.
- Reporting any unsafe conditions to CenterPoint Energy.

Take the guess work out of improving home energy efficiency



The green movement is everywhere. However, customers can sometimes find it challenging to learn how to lessen their home's energy consumption and then find the time to implement the desired improvements. That's why CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy have partnered to create the Home Energy Squad, a thorough and comprehensive program that takes the mystery out of improving a residence's energy efficiency.



Customers that sign up for this unique service choose an initial package of energy-efficient items for installation. The Home Energy Squad meets with them at their residence to review the

energy-saving equipment. Once customers are comfortable that the selections are right for their home, they are installed during the same visit. Home Energy Squad technicians provide installation instructions when appropriate and they always consult with homeowners at every step of the process to ensure their satisfaction. CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy cover the labor costs for this customized service. Customers only pay for the cost of the materials they select.

A visit from the Home Energy Squad pays for itself. Customers save immediately when they choose to install items such as programmable thermostats, weather stripping, water heater blankets and compact fluorescent light bulbs.

To qualify for a visit from the Home Energy Squad, homeowners must be both a CenterPoint Energy residential gas customer and an Xcel Energy electric customer. Schedule an appointment today. Call 1-866-222-4595 or visit Homeenergysquad.net.



Going green never felt so good

Earth Day was April 22 and many CenterPoint Energy customers made paperless payment their gift to the planet. Thanks to a partnership between CenterPoint Energy and the Arbor Day Foundation, customers who enrolled in Online Billing through the promotion from April 1 to May 15 could also have a tree planted in their state on their behalf. As a result, 1,459 trees will be added to neighborhoods across America! The official 2010 Earth Day promotion has concluded, but CenterPoint Energy customers can keep the spirit of the holiday alive by enrolling in Online Billing today! Learn more at CenterPointEnergy.com/onlinebilling.

Notice to Budget Plan customers

Budget Plan amounts are recalculated every six months. For many CenterPoint Energy customers, this happens in August and February. Budget Plan customers may see a message in this month's bill that shows their new monthly payment, which will begin next month. The recalculation is based on weather, projected natural gas prices and delivery rates.

CenterPointEnergy.com



Wed., July 21
8:30 p.m.

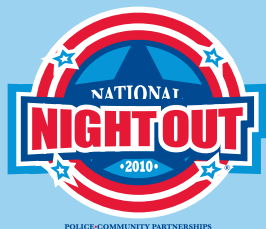
Celebrate the great outdoors

**Sponsoring a timeless
Minneapolis tradition**

**CenterPoint Energy
Torchlight Parade
Hennepin Ave.**

Downtown Minneapolis

For details, visit
CenterPointEnergy.com/torchlight



**Join the National
Night Out celebration**

For more than 25 years, National Night Out has encouraged neighbors, civic groups, businesses, organizations and local officials across the country to join together to promote safety in their communities. CenterPoint Energy is an enthusiastic supporter of this annual event. On August 3, company employee volunteers will again visit neighborhood block parties throughout the CenterPoint Energy service territory to meet customers and share safety messages.

Customers can join the celebration by attending or organizing a National Night Out event in their area. For more details, visit www.natw.org.