

CenterPoint Energy Extras delivers simply exceptional savings



CenterPoint Energy is excited to introduce CenterPoint Energy Extras, a discount shopping network exclusively for online customers. Extras offers access to instant bargains from Best Buy, Target,

Macy's, Barnes & Noble and more than 28,000 additional merchants. CenterPoint Energy customers can save up to 50 percent on electronics, appliances, furniture, clothing, food, entertainment, travel and more! There are no hidden fees or points to accumulate. Customers simply click, shop and save.

To begin shopping today, enroll in or log into CenterPoint Energy's free and convenient *My Account Online* service at CenterPointEnergy.com/savenow.



Energy Underground offers safety fun for all ages

Customer safety is CenterPoint Energy's top priority. That's why the company funds Energy Underground, an engaging website with age-specific natural gas safety content. At CenterPoint.Energyunderground.com, parents, children, educators and other professionals will discover:

- **The Underground**, where elementary students can learn about natural gas safety, energy conservation, famous scientists and more.
- **Deep Earth**, a place where middle school students can find a career section and language arts exercises that feature energy topics.
- **The Zone**, the source for a variety of topics including advertising/public awareness games for high school students.
- **Natural Source**, the spot for energy conservation tips for adults.
- **Teacher's Lounge**, the resource for lesson plans for educators.
- **Safezone**, the place for vital safety information for contractors.

Stay safe with Energy Underground. Visit CenterPoint.Energyunderground.com today!



Scratch & Sniff
Rasca y huele

What to do if you smell natural gas

Natural gas has no odor, so CenterPoint Energy adds a harmless, unpleasant-smelling odorant so customers can recognize it. Customers can scratch the flame above to become familiar with the smell.

If someone smells natural gas inside a home or building, they should:

Step 1: Leave immediately!

Individuals should not use electric switches, telephones (or cell phones) or anything that could cause a spark.

Step 2: Go to a safe location in a nearby home or building.

Then, call the CenterPoint Energy Gas Leak Hotline (See below). Customers should never assume that someone else has reported the leak. They should also alert their neighbors. CenterPoint Energy checks suspected natural gas leaks at no cost to customers.

Step 3: Never try to repair a natural gas leak. Customers should leave all repairs to a trained technician.

Emergency Gas Leak Hotlines

Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas: **888-876-5786**

Arkansas: **800-992-7552**

Minnesota: **800-722-9326**

New rates encourage energy conservation

Customers will now pay a lower rate for the cost of natural gas when they conserve energy and use less of the fuel source. This new structure, known as the Inverted Block Rate, was recently approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. It is designed to encourage energy conservation and help the environment. Customers will see a reduced cost-of-gas charge on their bills when they use less natural gas and a higher cost-of-gas charge when their consumption is above the average residential level.



The Inverted Block Rates, which went into effect in July, apply to all residential and commercial customers that use up to 5,000 therms of natural gas per year. Under the new rates, the typical residential customer's monthly bill will rise by \$1.50 per month. However, there are numerous energy-saving measures that customers can take to reduce their natural gas usage.

Reduce energy and lower monthly bills

Customers can follow these tips to reduce energy use and trim monthly natural gas payments:

- During the colder months, customers should set their thermostat to 68 degrees and lower the thermostat to 58 degrees when away or at night. For every one-degree reduction in the thermostat setting, customers can save up to 3 percent on heating bills.
- Furnace filters should be changed according to manufacturer's recommendation. Customers can also clean ducts and vents to improve efficiency.
- Set the home's water heater temperature to 120 degrees to save energy and prevent burns.

For more tips, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/saveenergy.

Save energy and money with CenterPoint Energy rebates and more

Customers can improve the energy efficiency of their home and reduce their impact on the environment with natural gas equipment. CenterPoint Energy offers customers a host of energy-saving programs and money-saving rebates with the installation of qualifying equipment. 2010 offerings include:

Home Energy Audits: CenterPoint Energy's affordable Home Energy Audits start at just \$25. Customers can improve their home's energy efficiency and tap into money-saving rebates when they implement their certified auditor's recommendations. For details, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/energyaudit.

Heating System Rebates: Rebates of up to \$500 are available for qualifying natural gas forced-air furnaces and boilers. In addition, customers can receive up to \$1,500 in federal tax credits when they purchase forced-air furnaces with an AFUE rating of 95% or greater, or natural gas boilers with 90% AFUE or greater. Don't delay! Federal tax credits end December 31, 2010.

Water Heater Rebates: Customers can replace their inefficient natural gas storage tank water heater and receive a rebate of up to \$100.

Natural Gas Fireplace Rebates: Customers can save energy and receive a \$75 rebate when they install a free-standing stove, gas fireplace or insert with electronic ignition and direct vent.

Hurry! CenterPoint Energy Rebate applications for 2010 installations must be post-marked by December 31, 2010. For more information, customers should contact their local heating dealer, plumber or retailer, or visit CenterPointEnergy.com/rebates.



Prepare for heating bills with Budget Plan

Budget Plan customers enjoy the predictability of knowing the amount due on their natural gas bill ahead of time. This free service balances payments so that customers pay less in the winter than their actual bills and more in the summer. Budget Plan payment amounts are recalculated every six months and customers only pay for the amount of natural gas they use.

Enroll today! Call **612-372-4727 (800-245-2377)** or visit CenterPointEnergy.com/myaccountonline (Enroll in or log into *My Account Online*, then select *Budget Plan*.)

Visit CenterPointEnergy.com

