



## Good news: Natural gas prices decline

Natural gas prices have been declining since last summer's record highs and we expect these lower prices to result in lower natural gas bills. Because we purchase and store this lower-priced natural gas for your use next heating season, you will likely enjoy these savings next winter as well.

Natural gas is a cost-effective fuel that adds comfort and convenience to any home. We recognize that economic

times have been difficult during the past year and that natural gas prices have been volatile over the past several years. CenterPoint Energy truly appreciates your patronage and choice of natural gas, a clean-burning and plentiful domestic fuel.

CenterPoint Energy works hard to minimize natural gas costs and price variability for customers by negotiating with a variety of suppliers using a competitive bidding process. The cost for natural gas makes up 70 to 80 percent of your typical bill, which we pass on to you with no price mark-up.

To learn more about the benefits of natural gas and ways to reduce your bill or manage it with our convenient account services, visit [CenterPointEnergy.com](http://CenterPointEnergy.com).

## Spring gardening plans? Call 811 before you dig



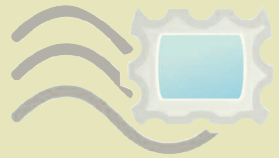
For your safety, state law requires homeowners and contractors to call 811 at least two working days before digging or excavating. At no cost to you, utility companies will visit the property and mark the locations of underground utility lines. You are responsible for marking private lines such as invisible pet fences, sprinkler systems, yard lights and gas grill lines. When digging, be sure to respect the markers and dig carefully. For more information about natural gas safety, visit [CenterPointEnergy.com/safety](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/safety).

## Join CenterPoint Energy and give the gift of life

Every minute of every day, someone needs blood. That's why CenterPoint Energy employees gave 4,479 units of blood in 2008. To join CenterPoint Energy in serving this critical need, visit [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org) or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543). To learn more about what CenterPoint Energy is doing to be a good neighbor, visit [CenterPointEnergy.com/community](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/community).



Scott Doyle, CenterPoint Energy division vice president, is one of CenterPoint Energy's hundreds of blood donors.



## Automatic Bank Draft saves time and stamps

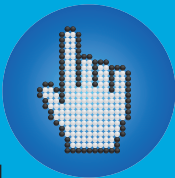
With postage costs increasing, it's a great time to enroll in Automatic Bank Draft. This free and secure payment service offered by CenterPoint Energy can save you time and money by automatically withdrawing your natural gas payment from your selected bank account on your due date. Visit [CenterPointEnergy.com/myaccountonline](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/myaccountonline) to create your online profile and enroll.



Click to the free and easy way to pay

Pay your next natural gas bill online with Online Billing, a free service offered by CenterPoint Energy.

You'll save stamps, money and paper. To learn more, view an online demo or enroll, visit [CenterPointEnergy.com/enroll](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/enroll). You'll need a copy of your most recent bill.



## Tax credits offer a new way to save with high-efficiency

With CenterPoint Energy's Heating System Rebate Program, you could save up to \$200 in rebates when you upgrade your natural gas furnace or boiler to higher efficiency equipment. And now, as part of the economic stimulus package, you could save even more. Qualifying natural gas furnaces that have an annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) of 95 percent or greater and boilers that are 90 percent AFUE or greater are eligible for tax credits for up to 30 percent of the cost, up to \$1,500. Equipment must be installed between January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010. Other restrictions apply. To learn more, consult your tax adviser.

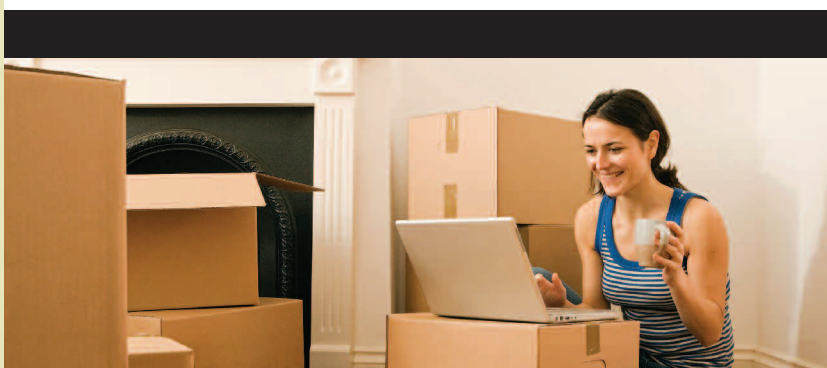
Uncover more ways to save energy and earn tax credits, by requesting a CenterPoint Energy Home Energy Audit. And learn more about our high-efficiency heating and water heating rebates. Visit [CenterPointEnergy.com/rebates](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/rebates).

## Be energy-wise and save

Are you getting the most from the money you spend on energy? Using appliances wisely is a great way to trim costs. And there are many other simple things you can do as well. Here are a few tips to get you started:

- Turn down the temperature setting on your water heater.
- Have your air conditioning system checked annually by a qualified professional.
- Install water-flow restrictors in showerheads and faucets.
- Repair leaky faucets.
- Run washing machines, clothes dryers and dish-washers with full loads only.
- A leaky home can cost up to 40 percent more to cool. Seal cracks and gaps around your doors and windows to keep the cool air in and humid air out.
- When possible, use the range top rather than the oven.

For more tips, download or order our FREE guide, *More Comfort, Less Energy*, at [CenterPointEnergy.com/saveenergy](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/saveenergy)



## Moving? Building? Remodeling?

If you're making a living transition, CenterPoint Energy has a wealth of online resource to help you make it smooth. To access from the [CenterPointEnergy.com](http://CenterPointEnergy.com) home page, select the blue natural gas tab and choose your region from the residential section in the middle of the screen. Then, from the left-hand menu, choose *Save Energy & Money* and then *Building, Moving & Remodeling*. You'll find these handy tools and more:

- Links to start, stop and transfer natural gas service
- Information about how natural gas appliances can add comfort and savings to your home
- Building and remodeling checklists
- Links to account services, where you can view your gas use history, recent bill and account history, enroll in Online Billing, Automatic Bank Draft and more.
- Free publications packed with energy-saving advice.

Visit us online today!

[CenterPointEnergy.com](http://CenterPointEnergy.com)



Always There.®