



## Natural gas is simply greener

Earth Day is April 22 and CenterPoint Energy customers help the planet every time they choose natural gas. Natural gas is a cleaner burning fuel that has less impact on the environment and it leaves about half the carbon footprint of electricity. As a primary fuel that can be used in its natural state, natural gas does not require the pollution producing, energy-wasting conversion process that is necessary to generate electricity at a power plant. For example, compared to an electric water heater, a natural gas water heater releases:

- Less than half the amount of carbon dioxide (a major greenhouse gas)
- Almost no sulfur dioxide (a major cause of acid rain and haze)
- Less than one-third the amount of nitrogen oxides (the primary cause of smog)
- No mercury emissions (makes some fish unsafe to eat)

Choosing natural gas is one of the most responsible choices you can make today. Use it directly whenever possible for heating, water heating, cooking, drying and other energy applications.

Learn more at [CenterPointEnergy.com/gasisbetter](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/gasisbetter).

## Always There: Serving Our Community

CenterPoint Energy is enriched by thousands of employees who are committed to improving the lives of others. April 18-24 is National Volunteer Week and we celebrate all who have helped our community and its citizens.

In 2009, CenterPoint Energy employees and retiree volunteers donated 190,608 hours of time toward such efforts as community development, health and human services and education. Major volunteer projects included:

- **United Way**
- **National Night Out**
- **Blood drives**
- **Holiday programs**
- **Regional activities such as Habitat for Humanity, Junior Achievement and safety fairs**

Catch the spirit of volunteerism and join our next effort: the March of Dimes' March for Babies. Together we can help prevent birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. Learn more at [marchofdimes.com](http://marchofdimes.com).

## Clean up with energy savings

This spring, save money with CenterPoint Energy's new and improved rebate programs.

- **Keep your home running with a Home Energy Audit.** Our affordable Home Energy Audits begin at just \$25. They're a great way to learn how you can save energy and improve the comfort in your home.
- **Seal in the dollars with insulation rebates.** Receive rebates for 50% of the cost (up to \$400) for air sealing and wall and attic insulation installed by a licensed contractor. (Energy audit by a state-certified auditor is required.)
- **Warm up to savings with fireplace equipment.** Receive \$75 in rebates for natural gas fireplaces, inserts and free-standing stoves with electronic ignition.
- **Enjoy peace of mind and cash back with water heater rebates.** Upgrade that old water heater before it leaks and receive up to \$100 in rebates when an ENERGY STAR® qualified natural gas storage tank water heater is installed.

Learn more at

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

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

## Bill payment convenience is here

Customers can customize their bill payment experience for optimal convenience and simplicity. Enrollment is free and easy. Discover the possibilities:

**Enjoy 24-hour natural gas account access with My Account Online.** Track account billing, see payments, review natural gas usage and more. [CenterPointEnergy.com/myaccountonline](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/myaccountonline)

**Make life easier with Online Billing.** Manage your account securely and celebrate Earth Day by going paperless! [CenterPointEnergy.com/enroll](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/enroll)

**Pay the natural gas bill without lifting a finger with Automatic Bank Draft.** Automatically deduct monthly natural gas payments from your bank account. [CenterPointEnergy.com/autodraft](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/autodraft)

**Even out natural gas payments with Budget Plan.** Avoid payment peaks by spreading heating costs throughout the year. [CenterPointEnergy.com/budgetplan](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/budgetplan)

Enroll today at [CenterPointEnergy.com/myaccountonline](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/myaccountonline).



## Fight hunger with FoodShare

CenterPoint Energy employees are raising funds for Minnesota FoodShare's annual

March Campaign to restock more than 260 food shelves.

To join our efforts and help more than 900,000 Minnesotans, visit [www.gmcc.org/foodshare/marchcampaign](http://www.gmcc.org/foodshare/marchcampaign). Select *Donate*, then click *Minnesota FoodShare*.



Always There.®