



Your natural gas bill got a makeover

Customers helped us design the enclosed new bill statement. We hope you'll agree that its ease-of-use and convenience sure look good.

- The larger paper gives room to use larger print for important information like the due date and bill amount.
- The first page summarizes your usage and includes charts and tables.
- The second page gives the details of how your bill was computed.
- Third and fourth pages feature news about safety, energy management, products, account services and available rebates.

Visit CenterPointEnergy.com/ReadingYourBill to watch a short video about the features and benefits of our new paper bill.

New names. Same great programs.

In addition to the new redesigned bill, Automatic Bank Draft will simply be known as AutoPay. For Minnesota customers, Budget Plan becomes Average Monthly Billing.

Don't hit an underground utility line, call 811 first

A call to 811 will help you avoid hitting an underground utility line while digging. Even for small home improvement jobs, hitting an underground line can cause service interruption, tremendous repair costs, property damage and severe personal injury.

More than 200,000 underground utility lines are struck each year in the United States, the Common Ground Alliance reports.

State law requires homeowners and contractors to call 811 at least two business days before digging or excavating. At no cost to the caller, utility companies will visit the property and mark locations of underground utility lines. Homeowners and contractors are responsible for marking private lines such as invisible pet fences, sprinkler systems, yard lights, sewer lines and private sewer systems and gas grill lines. When digging, homeowners and contractors should be sure to respect the markers and dig carefully.

Learn more at CenterPointEnergy.com/Safety or Call811.com.



CenterPoint Energy proudly supports March of Dimes

Thousands of CenterPoint Energy employees participate in local March of Dimes March for Babies walks and fundraisers each year. Last year, employee efforts raised nearly \$226,000 for the organization.

"I am so proud of our long tradition of supporting the efforts of March of Dimes," said Kenny Mercado, senior vice president and executive walk chairman. "Our dedicated employees have committed their time and energy to helping ensure a brighter future for premature babies."

Learn more at MarchForBabies.org.



Tip! Right pan, less money

Customers can save around \$18 per year by using the correct-sized pot for cooking on their natural gas stove. A smaller pot will require less energy to heat its contents. Also, keep those pots covered: the stove will cook more efficiently and keep the kitchen cooler.

Responsibility for the environment

CenterPoint Energy employees play a critical role in reducing the company's impact on the environment by restoring parks, planting trees and cleaning highways.

- CenterPoint Energy has partnered with Great River Greening, an organization that protects Minnesota land and water through community-based restoration, stewardship and partnerships. Volunteers support park projects in our service area.
- CenterPoint Energy volunteers have also worked with Tree Trust's Learning with Trees program in Minnesota schools for more than 11 years. The program teaches students how to plant and care for trees.
- The Minnesota Department of Transportation commended CenterPoint Energy last year for supporting Adopt-A-Highway for 21 years.

Paperless billing reduces clutter and offers other benefits

There are plenty of reasons to take advantage of paperless billing. Having too much clutter in your home can create stress, which affects productivity and your overall well-being. Paperless billing is also better for the environment and may be the better option for your financial security. Research has found that switching to online billing is safer than receiving paper bills because your financial information is more likely to be taken directly from a mailbox than a computer.

We have made it easier than ever to switch to paperless. Simply register for an online account and then click the "Go Paperless" button once you're logged in.

Go paperless today:
CenterPointEnergy.com/Register.

Prepare for severe weather with natural gas safety tips

Spring can bring severe weather to Minnesota, sometimes creating natural gas emergencies. Customers should follow these safety tips when disaster strikes:



- If a customer smells natural gas inside a residence or building, he or she should leave immediately on foot.
- If a customer is outside and suspects a gas leak, he or she should leave immediately on foot in a crosswind direction away from the leak and maintain a safe distance.
- When a customer suspects a gas leak, he or she should NOT flip a light switch, strike a match, smoke, use a car, cell phone, generator, flashlight or anything that might cause a spark.
- If a customer needs to leave a residence due to flooding, prior to leaving, the customer should turn off the natural gas to gas appliances at the appliance's gas shut-off valve. It is not advisable to shut the natural gas off at the meter.
- Once a customer is safely away from the area, he or she should report possible gas leaks and flooding by calling 911 and the CenterPoint Energy gas leak hotline at 1-800-296-9815.

Customers can learn more at CenterPointEnergy.com/BeSafe.

Keep up with construction zone updates

CenterPoint Energy has been hard at work improving and modernizing natural gas pipelines throughout several neighborhoods. The ongoing construction projects will occur on natural gas pipelines and distribution mains that supply natural gas to hundreds of thousands of CenterPoint Energy customers.

Why is construction necessary?

New pipeline segments and system upgrades are needed in order to help maintain safety and reliability. These improvements are considered standard maintenance and upkeep of our system. The new piping segments and upgrades are installed with the most current construction standards and requirements, and are designed to facilitate a cost-effective, ongoing inspection process required for all natural gas pipelines.

To keep customers and the general public informed about the status of these projects and detour routes, CenterPoint Energy established a Construction Zone website with the latest updates on projects in and around surrounding communities. The public is invited to sign up to receive construction updates and traffic alerts on specific projects by text and/or email.

To see the 2015 project sites, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/Construction.