

# MINNESOTA NATURAL GAS PRICE

## Winter Outlook for 2021-22



Natural Gas prices for the upcoming winter heating season (November-March) are expected to be higher than last year. Great Plains' customers can expect their bills to increase by an average of 86%, or \$399, over last heating season if we experience average temperatures. This increase is due in large part to the slow return of natural gas production from the COVID-19 pandemic coupled with an increase in demand. Recovery of costs from the cold weather event in February 2021 has also contributed to the increase. Typically, the most influential factor affecting customer bills is if the weather varies significantly from average temperatures. Natural gas prices are a direct pass-thru and do not increase Great Plains' profits.

Natural gas continues to be the most economical fuel source for heating and water heating. Weather continues to be the main contributing factor in the amount of natural gas used in the home.

The price outlook for this year's heating season assumes no serious supply disruptions or extreme weather impacts on supply and demand. Natural gas prices are subject to monthly changes based on fluctuations in the wholesale market. Great Plains continues to be committed to providing our customers safe and reliable service. Great Plains encourages customers to use energy wisely and continue individual conservation efforts. Included in this insert are energy-saving tips for the winter heating season, as well as information regarding Great Plains' Balanced Billing program.

*For customers anticipating payment difficulties, call 877-267-4764 to make payment arrangements or to be directed to available energy assistance programs in your area.*

### WINTER ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

1. Install a programmable setback thermostat. This can be an effective way to control heating costs, allowing the thermostat to be set for a cooler temperature while you are away from home and at night while you are sleeping.
2. Check the furnace filter frequently and replace or clean it as needed.
3. A humidifier can help control heating costs because the moist air will feel warmer, allowing the thermostat to be set at a lower temperature.
4. Adjust register openings in the home. Remember that heat rises, so registers should be partially closed upstairs.
5. Use draperies, blinds, curtains or shutters on all windows to slow the loss of heat through the glass. Keep window coverings open on sunny days to let in the sun's warmth.
6. Rearrange furniture, placing it next to inside walls and away from windows. Avoid blocking registers with furniture, draperies or carpet.
7. Use kitchen, bath and other ventilating fans sparingly. In just one hour, these fans can exhaust a houseful of warm air.
8. Make sure the mountings on ceiling fans are snug and tight. Use clear caulking to seal any leaks or minor cracks around them.
9. Purchase inexpensive, pre-cut insulation gaskets and seal out cold air entering the home through electrical switches and outlet plates.
10. Closets and cabinets on outside walls can leak a great deal of cold air, so make sure the doors fit snugly and keep them tightly closed.



For more information,  
call 877-267-4764  
or visit [www.gpng.com](http://www.gpng.com)



Sometimes,  
**unexpected** things  
happen to all of us.



This includes having trouble making ends meet.

If you find yourself having trouble paying your heating bills, please call Great Plains Natural Gas at **877-267-4764** and we will direct you to available assistance in your area.

**It's OK to ask for help.**



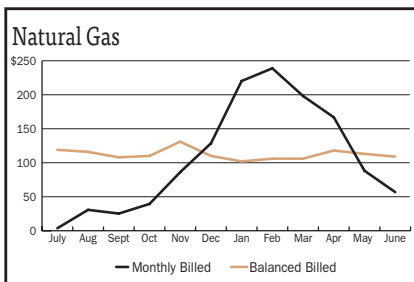
## BALANCED BILLING

### Take the guesswork out of budgeting

Balanced Billing provides customers a way to avoid the highs and lows associated with normal monthly billing. This plan helps take the guesswork out of budgeting for your utility bills.

### How Balanced Billing works

Your monthly bill is computed by taking an average of your natural gas usage during the previous 11 months and the current month's usage. Current energy rates are then applied to this average monthly usage to calculate the current payment due. Averaging your usage over the year can reduce large cost fluctuations from extreme weather conditions.



Example: The graph is an illustration of how an actual Great Plains Natural Gas customer's bill looks on Balanced Billing, and what it would look like without Balanced Billing.

To sign up for  
Balanced Billing,  
call 877-267-4764 or  
visit [www.gpng.com](http://www.gpng.com).