



ENERGY-SAVING TIPS FOR WINTER

- **Install a programmable thermostat** to lower heat when you're away or sleeping.
- **Check and replace** furnace filters regularly for efficiency.
- **Use a humidifier** to make air feel warmer and reduce heating needs.
- **Adjust registers**—partially close upstairs ones since heat rises.
- **Use window coverings** to retain heat; open them on sunny days for warmth.
- **Rearrange furniture** away from windows and avoid blocking vents.
- **Limit use of exhaust fans**—they can remove warm air quickly.
- **Seal ceiling fan mounts** with caulk to prevent heat loss.
- **Install insulation gaskets** behind outlet and switch plates.
- **Keep closet and cabinet doors closed** if they're on exterior walls.

PREPARE FOR COLD WEATHER

Don't wait until cold weather is here before making sure your home's heating system is working properly. Stay warm, cozy and safe this winter by preparing now. Follow these tips:

- **Have a licensed heating contractor perform a pre-winter furnace tune-up.** A clean, well-maintained furnace will help your heating system run at maximum efficiency. Refer to a local directory or search online for licensed heating contractors.
- **Change the furnace filter monthly.** A dirty filter restricts the flow of heated air from the furnace, causing it to work harder and deliver less heat.
- **Make sure vents in the house are not obstructed.** A furnace works less when heated air is not blocked and cooler air can circulate back freely.

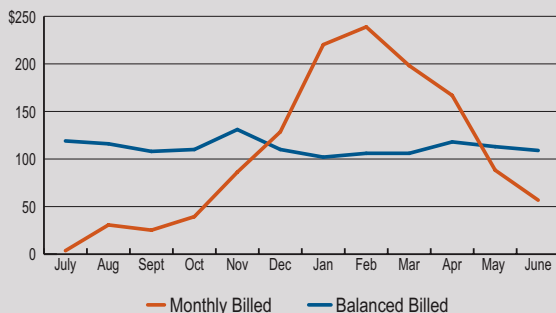
Keeping the furnace running efficiently will help keep you warm all winter long.

AVOID BIG SURPRISES WITH BALANCED BILLING

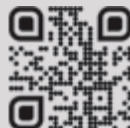
Take the guesswork out of budgeting: Balanced Billing provides customers a way to avoid the highs and lows associated with normal monthly billing. This plan helps take the guesswork out of budgeting for utility bills.

How Balanced Billing works: A customer's monthly bill is computed by taking an average of their 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 a customer's usage over the year can reduce large cost fluctuations from extreme weather conditions.

Natural Gas bill comparison example: The graph shows the fluctuation of a customer's normal monthly bill compared to a Balanced Billing average.



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MINNESOTA GAS AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM

DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE TO MANAGE YOUR MONTHLY GAS BILLS AND PAY PAST DUE BALANCES?

Great Plains Natural Gas Co. offers its customers the Gas Affordability Program (GAP) that helps qualified customers manage their monthly gas heating bills and pay past due balances.

A residential customer is eligible for enrollment in the Gas Affordability Program as soon as the customer applying for GAP is approved for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) assistance towards their Great Plains account. To apply for LIHEAP, contact the agency serving your community, listed below.

GAP offers qualifying customers two types of credit:

1. Monthly Affordability Credit for current natural gas charges: A customer's monthly natural gas charges will be averaged for the year. Qualifying customers will receive a monthly credit so their annual gas bill will not be more than 4% of their household income.
2. Matching GAP installment credit for past-due natural gas

charges: Great Plains will set up a GAP installment plan to help a customer pay off past-due bills over a period of up to 24 months. Each month paid towards the customer's GAP installment amount, a matching GAP credit will be applied to their account. If monthly payments are made, the customer will be paying for only one-half of the past-due balance.

GAP applications and more information are available from any of the energy assistance agencies serving Great Plains' customers and through the Salvation Army.

To apply online for the program, visit our website at www.gpng.com.

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

Great Plains is committed to assisting its customers. Funds are available for those who need help with heating bills this winter season. Please contact the energy assistance office in your area to receive an application for heating assistance, or for any questions about applying.

For assistance, contact Great Plains Natural Gas Co at 877-267-476 or The Salvation Army at 888-733-8033.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE WEATHERIZATION & CONSERVATION PROVIDERS

West Central MN Communities Action, Inc.

c/o Energy Assistance
Serving Breckenridge
411 Industrial Park Blvd.
Elbow Lake, MN 56531
800-492-4805 (option 1) or
218-685-4486 (option 1)
www.wcmca.org

Prairie Five Community Action Council

c/o Energy Assistance
Serving Boyd, Clarkfield, Dawson, Echo,
Granite Falls, Montevideo, Wood Lake
719 N. Seventh Ave., Suite 302
P.O. Box 159, Montevideo, MN 56265
800-292-5437 or 320-269-6578
www.prairiefive.org

United Community Action Partnership, Inc.

c/o Energy Assistance
Serving Belview, Marshall, Redwood,
Danube, Renville, Sacred Heart
1400 S. Saratoga St., Marshall, MN 56258
800-658-2448 or 507-537-1416
www.unitedcapmn.org

Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership, Inc.

Serving Fergus Falls, Pelican Rapids,
Vergas
128 W. Cavour Ave.
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
888-458-1385
www.mahube.org

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

c/o Energy Assistance
Serving Crookston
102 N. Broadway
P.O. Box 607, Crookston, MN 56716
800-584-7020 or 218-281-5832
www.tvoc.org

www.gpng.com/customer-services/assistance-programs/



Scan the QR code
with your mobile
device to visit
the webpage.



KEEP THE COLD OUT!

Have your heating system ready for winter

Great Plains residential customers are eligible for a **\$50 REBATE** on a furnace or boiler tune-up performed by a qualified heating contractor.

\$50

Furnace / Boiler
Tune-up Rebate

Don't wait until cold weather is here before making sure your heating system is working properly. Preparing your heating system before winter will help you stay warm, cozy and safe this heating season.

Furnace/boiler tune-ups performed by a licensed heating contractor may help your heating system run at maximum efficiency and help keep you warm when the weather turns cold.

For more information, visit
[www.gpng.com/energy-efficiency/
residential-incentive-programs](http://www.gpng.com/energy-efficiency/residential-incentive-programs).

*Participation is further subject to any additional eligibility requirements and compliance with all applicable terms and conditions. Great Plains reserves the right to cancel or modify its programs at any time. This program is available to Great Plains customers who have not received a furnace/boiler tune-up rebate from Great Plains in the past two years.

GREAT PLAINS
NATURAL GAS CO.

A Division of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

In the Community to Serve®

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Phone: **877-267-4764**

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