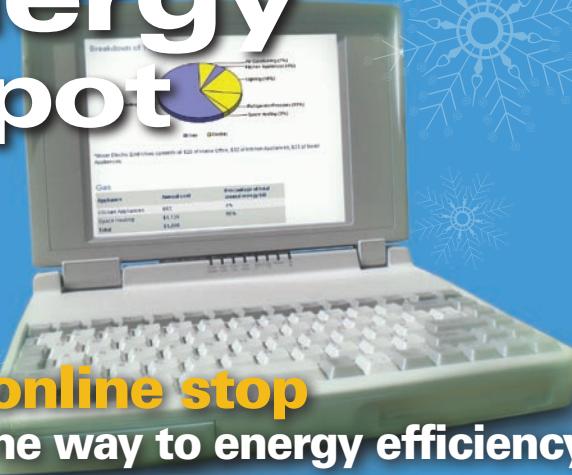


# Energy Depot



## Your online stop along the way to energy efficiency

As winter begins to take hold, with freezing temperatures and minimal daylight, your gas and electric use may increase significantly. A **home energy audit** is a simple, yet extremely effective way to determine if you are using energy wisely.

## Receive a free, personalized home energy efficiency report with Energy Depot

Our free **Energy Depot** suite of online home energy audit tools can help ensure your home is as energy efficient as possible.

You can use the **Energy Profile** to receive a comprehensive analysis of your home's energy use and identify cost saving opportunities.

The detailed report you'll receive will include:

- a breakdown of your gas and electricity consumption
- an overview of your appliance, heating, cooling and lighting costs
- advice on cost-saving measures you can implement now

To perform a complete audit, you will need to know your gas and electric use from the last 12 months. Gas use information is available via our **My Account** feature at [nicor.com](http://nicor.com).

You can also get specific energy consumption information for your individual gas and electric appliances using the **Home Energy Calculator**. This application does not require your energy use history in order to be utilized.

Finally, the **Energy Library** is a comprehensive online resource designed to provide you with home energy information using easy-to-understand terms and illustrations. In addition, the Energy Library has an extensive set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that is sure to help answer even the most confusing home energy questions.

To access **Energy Depot**, visit the **Residential section** of [nicor.com](http://nicor.com) and then click on the "Home Energy Audit" link on the left side of the page.

## Want more energy efficiency information?

Download our energy conservation guide, "**Keeping the Warmth In and the Cold Out**," that is filled with more than 60 low-cost practical solutions for making energy efficiency improvements in your home. You'll find this brochure under the **Residential section** of [nicor.com](http://nicor.com), on the "**Energy Efficiency Tips**" page.

You can also visit the U.S. Department of Energy site, [energysavers.gov](http://energysavers.gov), where you'll find even

more tips and additional energy audit solutions, as well as **tax credit and financing options** for larger home energy efficiency improvement projects.



## Need assistance paying your heating bill? Help is available.

Depending on several factors, including income, household size and geographic location, you may qualify for a federal **Low Income Home Energy**

**Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** grant to be used to help pay your utility bill. To qualify, household monthly income cannot exceed 150 percent of

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# ENERGY SPOTLIGHT

December 2008

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- Nicor Gas Sharing Program
- Winter Safety Reminder
- December Gas Cost



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the federally established poverty level. The State of Illinois has received \$265 million from the federal government to fund LIHEAP, which is an additional \$116 million in funds compared to last year.

For more information or to apply for assistance, call 1 877 411-9276 or visit [www.keepwarm.illinois.gov](http://www.keepwarm.illinois.gov) or [nicor.com](http://nicor.com) and click on "Financial Assistance" in the Residential section.

Households that do not qualify for a LIHEAP grant may still have an energy assistance option through the **Sharing Program**.

The Sharing Program is **administered by The Salvation Army** and is funded by contributions from Nicor Gas employees, customers and the

general public that are matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$175,000 annually by Nicor Gas.

The program provides households **one-time annual grants of up to \$450** to help pay their natural gas bills. To qualify, household monthly income may not exceed 200 percent of the federally established poverty level.

Sharing grant applicants must apply in person at a Salvation Army office. For a list of Salvation Army offices, visit our Web site at [nicor.com](http://nicor.com) and click on "Financial Assistance" in the Residential section. You can also do a location search by zip code at The Salvation Army's Web site, [salvationarmyusa.org](http://salvationarmyusa.org).

## You Can Help Someone Stay Warm this Winter

As you may imagine, our difficult economic times have resulted in a record number of requests for Sharing grants – more than we can fulfill at this time. Please consider helping those in need with a continuous giver or one-time donation. **Enclosed with this month's bill is a special insert explaining how you can make a contribution.**

*Thank you for caring with your donation to Sharing.*



## Winter Safety Reminder – Use Space Heaters Carefully

A space heater can be an economical way to supplement your heat on a cold winter's day, but they should always be used with caution. Make sure the space heater includes a tipover switch that shuts it off automatically if it accidentally turns over. Keep space heaters off carpeting and at least three feet from draperies, blankets or sofas. **Never leave a space heater unattended.** If you use a natural gas or kerosene space heater, be sure it's vented to the outside.



## December Natural Gas Cost



Every month, Nicor Gas files a gas supply charge with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). It is the price customers pay for gas purchased from Nicor Gas during that month. As a regulated utility, Nicor Gas does not profit from the sale of natural gas. The price we pay for gas is passed on to our customers without markup. Visit [nicorgas.com/gascost](http://nicorgas.com/gascost) to use our "Bill Planning Guide" to get an idea of what your next month's bill might be.

\*At press time, this was the price Nicor Gas filed with the ICC. Under ICC rules, the price may be changed up until the first of the month in which it is effective.



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### Corporate Communications

P.O. Box 190  
Aurora, IL 60507-0190  
[nicor.com](http://nicor.com)

### Questions about your account?

[nicor.com/myaccount](http://nicor.com/myaccount)  
1 888 Nicor4u  
[customercare@nicor.com](mailto:customercare@nicor.com)