

ENERGY SOLUTIONS@ WORK

nicor
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Nicorgas.com/ commercial: a new way of doing business

The business resources you need are now just a mouse-click away! The new commercial section of nicorgas.com is more than just a Web page – it is a powerful tool you can use to manage your business. This section offers detailed information on natural gas products and services as well as examples of how Nicor Gas can respond to your energy needs.

The screenshot shows the 'Understanding Your Bill' page. The main heading is 'Making dollars and sense out of your gas bill.' Below this, there is a sub-heading 'Questions about your bill?' and a note: 'If you have questions about your bill and need immediate attention, we're here to help 24 hours a day.' The page includes a sidebar with navigation links like 'My Account', 'Products and Services', 'Gas Rates', and 'Customer News'.

All your account information... and so much more

Visit nicorgas.com/commercial and you'll have instant access to your Nicor Gas account information. Pay your bill, sign up for the Budget Plan, or research other payment options... we want to help make bill payment easier.

The screenshot shows the 'Gas Rates' page. The main heading is 'Factors that Impact Gas Prices'. Below this, there is a sub-heading 'The national factors impacting supply are:' followed by two sections: 'Production' and 'Storage'. The 'Production' section states: 'Natural gas production has not kept pace with rising demand, so the national market price of natural gas has increased, sometimes dramatically.' The 'Storage' section states: 'Recent summer injections have eased concerns over adequate storage inventory heading into winter. However, colder than normal U.S. weather could cause storage levels to be drawn down at an accelerated pace this winter, impacting prices.'

The latest on natural gas prices

Visit the gas costs section of nicorgas.com for the latest information on natural gas prices, including updates on market conditions and tips for making the most efficient use of your energy resources. You'll also find Nicor Gas' monthly gas charge filings, as well as the fuel cost comparison charts previously found in this newsletter.

The screenshot shows the 'Products and Services' page. The main heading is 'Getting the most value for your business.' Below this, there is a sub-heading 'The energy experts' and a paragraph: 'At Nicor, we're dedicated to helping our business customers receive the most value from their energy resources. We offer a number of energy options to help you increase your efficiencies and cost savings. We can help you define your options, select the appropriate solutions, explore financing methods and install your system. If you'd like to contact a Nicor representative, please call 1 800 983-8678 ext. 2596. Or email us at energyinformation@nicor.com'.

Products and services you can use

While many businesses rely on natural gas for heat, you might be surprised to learn just how many different uses for natural gas exist. Visit the comprehensive Products and Services section of nicorgas.com/commercial for details on how natural gas could improve operations at your facility.

**There's so much to see and do at nicorgas.com/commercial –
check it out today!**

Looking for answers to your energy questions? Ask an expert!

Check out Positive Energy, Nicor's on-line database of



energy topics and solutions for our business customers. Positive Energy includes an "Ask the Expert" feature, where you can ask our panel of industry experts your specific questions regarding (but not limited to):

- Energy efficiency and savings information
- Power quality and power analysis
- Business development
- Industry/market profiles

- Equipment suppliers/material searches
- OSHA/EPA regulations
- Scrap/waste disposal
- Lighting options

All questions are answered within 24 to 48 hours and are held in strict confidence.

Positive Energy is available through the Customer News section of nicorgas.com/commercial.

Log on today and put our experts to work for you!



Higher gas prices: what Nicor Gas is doing to help

Last month's issue of this newsletter included an update on natural gas prices and discussed the potential impact that weather could have on winter gas bills. While experts predict bills will be approximately nine percent higher than last year, weather remains an unknown factor that could dramatically impact the price you pay.

Though Nicor Gas cannot control the market price of natural gas, we do work to mitigate the impact of higher prices in the following ways:

- We leverage our gas storage capabilities. Nicor Gas has the geographic advantage of owning seven underground storage fields, which enables us to purchase gas in the off-peak summer months (when prices are typically lower) and store it for use in the peak winter months (when prices are typically higher).

This summer, though, Nicor Gas paid a much higher price to refill storage. Nicor Gas

purchased 100 billion cubic feet of natural gas this summer at a cost of \$500 million. That same amount of natural gas last summer cost \$350 million. This increase in price will impact customer bills this winter, when gas from storage is used.

- Throughout the year, we put certain protections in place, such as fixed price agreements and other instruments, to help mitigate customers' exposure to price swings.

Remember, Nicor Gas is regulated by the Illinois Commerce Commission and does not profit from higher gas prices. The market price we pay for gas is passed on to our customers with no mark up.

To learn more

Visit our Web site at nicorgas.com. Here you'll find more information on natural gas market conditions, Nicor Gas' monthly gas charge filings and tips on how to manage your gas bills. And, watch for further updates on your bill and in this newsletter each month.



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