



## Improve your home and take advantage of tax credits!

# ENERGY SPOTLIGHT®

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As fall sets in, the invigorating cool breezes inspire many homeowners to repair and weatherize their homes in anticipation of the frigid winter ahead. For a limited time, certain home improvements qualify for a 30% tax credit.

## Take (tax) credit where credit is due

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 includes tax credits for making your home more energy efficient. The tax credits directly reduce the amount of tax you owe. While each improvement must meet specific requirements, the following products qualify for a 30% tax credit, up to \$1,500 if placed in service by December 31, 2010:

- Insulation\*
- Windows (storm, exterior and skylights)\*
- Doors (storm and exterior)\*
- Roofing (metal or asphalt)\*
- Central air conditioning
- Air source heat pumps
- Furnaces (natural gas, propane and oil)
- Hot water boiler (natural gas, propane and oil)
- Water heater (natural gas, propane and oil)
- Natural gas tankless water heater (electric does not qualify)
- Biomass stove

The following products qualify for a 30% tax credit, with no upper limit amount (including installation costs), if placed in service by December 31, 2016:

- Geo-Thermal heat pumps
- Water heater (solar)
- Photovoltaic systems
- Residential small wind turbines
- Residential fuel cell and microturbine systems

To claim your tax credit, you will need to file IRS form 5695 and submit it with your taxes. The form will be available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) by the end of 2009 or early 2010. For additional information on energy efficiency tax credits, visit [www.energystar.gov/taxcredits](http://www.energystar.gov/taxcredits).

*\*Installation costs on these products do not qualify for the tax credit.*

## Financial Assistance is available through LIHEAP

Depending on several factors, including income, household size and location, you may be eligible for the **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**. LIHEAP is administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and helps low income households pay for energy services. Qualifying households can receive grants to pay their energy bills. For more information or to apply, call 1 877 411-9276 or visit the "Financial Assistance" section of [nicorgas.com](http://nicorgas.com).

### PLEASE NOTE:

LIHEAP funds are limited. The disabled and those over 60 years of age can apply now. Enrollment for the general public begins November 2.



# Help someone in need by giving "\$5 for 5"

Today's economic instability has resulted in more and more families experiencing financial difficulties. Some families find themselves having to choose between buying groceries or paying household bills. You can help the less fortunate by participating in the **Sharing Program "\$5 for 5" campaign.**

Administered by The Salvation Army, the Sharing Program provides one-time annual grants of up to \$450 to qualified residential customers which is used to assist them with paying their natural gas bill. In addition to the donations received, Nicor Gas contributes \$175,000 to the program.

In order to sustain the program throughout the heating season, we are asking that you commit to giving \$5 (or more) per month to the program for

the next five months. **By giving "\$5 for 5," you'll ensure that your neighbors will be able to heat their homes, have hot water and cook hot meals throughout the winter.** To participate, simply check the \$5 (or greater) option on your bill stub and add the amount to your total bill **for the next five months.**

Can't make a donation right now? Another simple way to help is through our annual Shop & Share Days (see story below).



## Shop & Share Days

If you shop at Jewel-Osco on qualified days in November, they will **donate five percent of your purchases to the Sharing Program.** This is a great way to help others without tapping into your personal budget ... and participation is easy. Cut out the coupon below and hand it to the cashier when you make a purchase at Jewel-Osco on any of the following dates:

- November 2-4, 9-11 and 16-18

Please help those in need by shopping on our designated Shop & Share Days. It will warm their homes while warming your heart. If you plan to shop on more than one day, please make photocopies of the coupon or print additional copies from our Web site at [nicorgas.com](http://nicorgas.com). **Thank you for helping those in need this winter!**



## SHOP & SHARE IDENTIFICATION SLIP

Shop & Share

10207693     

Group Number      Store Number

Group: **Salvation Army - Sharing**

Your Shop & Share Days: **November 2-4, 9-11 & 16-18, 2009**

Amount of Purchase

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Dollars			Cents		

### Signature

Please sign this slip and turn it in to your checker when you shop. Participants can make purchases at any Jewel-Osco on the dates above. **Identification slips are not to be distributed in front of any Jewel-Osco.**



## October 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) for energy efficiency tips, historical natural gas price information and home energy audit tools that will help you manage your natural gas usage and keep your costs down.

*\*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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