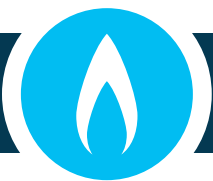


## Natural gas: A foundational fuel and vital energy choice for customers

*Continuing the use of natural gas, providing customers with clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy choice*

Natural gas and the infrastructure that transports it are foundational to Illinois' clean energy goals. Nicor Gas is committed to delivering a clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy choice—the natural gas our customers expect and deserve. We believe the best approach is an “all of the above” energy strategy that capitalizes on the unique benefits that natural gas, renewables, electricity, nuclear power and negative carbon initiatives provide and uses them in a portfolio approach.



Natural gas and its infrastructure **drive emissions reductions.**

- ⑤ Increased use of natural gas has helped reduce CO2 emissions from electricity generation over nearly 30% in Illinois since 2012.<sup>1</sup>
- ⑤ With the support of regulators, Nicor Gas has been able to make investments in pipeline and infrastructure modernization that reduced our annual operational emissions by 54% from 2009-2019.
- ⑤ Since 2011, Nicor Gas has avoided 1 million metric tons of CO2 by providing \$232 million in energy efficiency rebates and incentives to 1.1 million customers. That is equivalent to carbon sequestered by 1.1 million acres of forest in one year.<sup>2</sup>
- ⑤ A net zero future is possible, and natural gas infrastructure will play a vital role. At Nicor Gas, we're leading the way by modernizing our system and exploring next generation energy solutions like renewable natural gas (RNG) and the potential for hydrogen.



Natural gas is **reliable and resilient.**

- ⑤ 75% of the natural gas and electricity needs of our customers were met by natural gas in 2020.
- ⑤ Keeping natural gas clean, safe, reliable and affordable for more than 2.3 million customers is a priority at Nicor Gas every day. Nicor Gas purchases natural gas during the summer months when it is normally less expensive and stores it for use throughout the year.
- ⑤ Nicor Gas' natural gas storage makes it possible for millions of people to have the energy and heat they need when they need it most.
- ⑤ Natural gas is reliable and available to our customers, even during extreme weather events. During the 2019 Polar Vortex, Nicor Gas delivered more than 4.8 billion cubic feet of natural gas, and no one lost heat.
- ⑤ Without the added capacity of our underground storage, more than 700,000 customers would have been without heat during the dangerously cold temperatures.

<sup>1</sup> Global Energy Institute <https://www.globalenergyinstitute.org/natural-gas/illinois>

<sup>2</sup> Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>



## Natural gas **fuels economies.**

- ④ Natural gas is the main fuel source used by manufacturers in Illinois.<sup>3</sup>
- ④ Since 2010, natural gas use by Illinois businesses has grown by nearly 10%.
- ④ In Illinois, natural gas supports approximately 150,000 Americans with stable and good paying jobs.<sup>4</sup> This includes the more than 2,100 employees who construct, maintain and inspect our 34,000 miles of natural gas infrastructure.
- ④ Nicor Gas has spent \$1.6 billion with diverse businesses since 2018.



## Natural gas is **affordable** and **empowers low-income communities.**

- ④ Natural gas remains the most affordable energy source for winter-residential heating.<sup>5</sup>
- ④ The average household that uses natural gas for heating, cooking and clothes drying can save as much as \$1,329 per year compared to homes using other energy sources.<sup>6</sup>
- ④ The Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program provides more than \$12.5 million annually to assist income-eligible customers with energy-saving home improvements.
- ④ Nicor Gas' Smart Neighborhood™ initiative, working in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, will develop net-zero homes using a combination of natural gas, electric and renewables for a more affordable and resilient community.
- ④ In 2022, Nicor Gas applied \$61.4 million in energy assistance grants to income-eligible customers through initiatives like Nicor Gas' Energy Aide and Sharing programs and Shield of Caring in partnership with The Salvation Army.
- ④ In 2022, Nicor Gas and its foundations, the Nicor Gas Foundation and Northern Illinois Community Initiatives, made nearly \$10 million in contributions to United Way, The Salvation Army and 160+ nonprofit organizations in the Northern Illinois region, with a focus on economic impact, diversity and inclusion, basic needs and environmental conservation.

<sup>3</sup> Global Energy Institute <https://www.globalenergyinstitute.org/natural-gas/illinois>

<sup>4</sup> American Gas Association <https://www.aga.org/research-policy/state-profiles/il/>

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Energy Information Association <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=54219>

<sup>6</sup> Source: EIA, energy costs only. Estimate based on typical monthly residential usage in Nicor Gas territory. Prices stated are considered to be total prices paid by end-user consumers and does not include equipment, installation or maintenance costs. Natural gas price: Nicor Gas average monthly residential distributed price from October 2021-September 2022. Propane price: Midwest three-year average of monthly retail prices October 2019 – September 2022 - \$1.89/ gallon. Electric price: Illinois residential three-year average of monthly retail prices October 2019-September 2022 - \$0.1381/kWh. Assumed unit conversions: 1 CCF = 100 cubic feet. 1 cubic foot = 1,037 BTUs. Conversion factor of 1.037 has been used to convert CCFs to therms. 1 gallon propane = 91,452 BTU. 1 kWh of electricity = 3,412 BTU.