

# Community and Economic Development

By reducing emissions on our system, improving energy efficiency, integrating renewable gas and enabling solar and other renewables, Nicor Gas is a part of Illinois' clean energy future.



## Who Is Nicor Gas?



**Employees** – Nicor Gas employs more than **2,000** of the **7,000** natural gas distribution employees in Illinois



**Customers** – Nicor Gas is the largest gas distributor in Illinois with **2.3 million** customers



**\$1.551B**  
total economic impact



**Infrastructure** – **8 storage fields** with the capacity to store over **150 billion cubic feet** (Bcf) of natural gas



**\$860M**  
dollars into the economy



**34,300** – miles of pipeline



**Top customer industries**

- Biofuels production
- Chemical industry
- Food production and processing
- Manufacturing



**\$691M**  
indirect and other value benefiting the economy

## Fueling a Sustainable Future



**Sustainability strategy**

- RNG – Renewable natural gas interconnection tariff
- MachH2 – Project in the DOE-awarded Midwest Alliance for Clean Hydrogen
- Total Green – Carbon offset program
- Energy Efficiency Program – **1.3M** metric tons CO2 emissions avoided since 2011



**Customer incentives** – more than **\$257 million** in energy efficiency incentives given to Nicor Gas customers since 2011



**Carbon reduction goals**

- **50%** reduction by 2030
- Low- to No-Carbon by 2050



**Services offered**

- Customized site and cost analysis
- Infrastructure verification and coordination
- Technical assistance with energy-related issues
- Site visit support and participation

## Why Choose Illinois?

Illinois is uniquely positioned to incorporate natural gas into a clean and affordable energy economy with access to eight interstate pipelines, availability of storage fields and our commitment to reduce emissions through infrastructure modernization, energy efficiency and renewable gas.

**12.8M** – Illinois population, **6.9 million people** live in the Nicor Gas service area

**6.1M** – workforce civilians in Illinois, with more than **3.6 million workforce** civilians in the Nicor Gas territory

**8%** – since 2010, natural gas use by **Illinois has grown 8%**



**\$13.8B** – natural gas saved Illinois businesses and manufacturers about **\$13.8 billion** from 2007–2017



**10th** – ranked in the top 10 of states with Lowest Commercial Natural Gas Prices



► Indicates Nicor Gas service area

# External Incentives

## Incentive Programs and Tax Credits Energy Efficiency Assessment and Studies

**Manufacturing Illinois Chips for Real Opportunity Act (MICRO):** Provides incentives for manufacturers of microchips and semiconductors as well as component part manufacturer in this high-tech sector.

### **Reimagining Electric Vehicles Program:**

Provides manufacturers of electric vehicles (EV), EV components, and power supply equipment with incentives for qualifying Illinois manufacturers. Design firms can earn bonus incentives for projects that achieve high-performance certifications/criteria.

**Data Centers Investment Program:** Provides owners and operators with exemptions from a variety of state and local taxes for qualifying IL data centers.

**Film Production Tax Credit Program:** Offers a **30% tax credit** to film in IL.

### **Illinois Angel Investment Credit Program:**

Encourages investment in innovative, early-state companies to help companies obtain working capital needed to grow in IL.

**Economic Development for a Growing Economy Tax Credit Program (EDGE):** provides annual corporate tax credits to qualifying businesses to create jobs, investment and training program in IL.

➤ DCEO posts information about EDGE incentive awards within ten business days of execution of the **EDGE agreement**

**High Impact Business Program (HIB):** Projects that invest **\$12 million** and create **500 full-time jobs** or invest **\$30 million** and retain **1,500 full-time jobs** may be eligible for tax credits to help expedite their growth.

**Illinois Apprenticeship Education Expense Tax Credit Program:** Employers are allowed a tax credit for qualified educational expenses associated with qualifying apprentices.

## Sites and Spaces Incentives

**Illinois Enterprise Zone Program:** The **Illinois Enterprise Zone Program** stimulates economic growth and neighborhood revitalization in economically depressed areas of Illinois through state and local tax incentives, regulatory relief and improved governmental services.

➤ Exemptions are available for companies that make minimum statutory investment that either create or retain a certain number of jobs. These exemptions require an application certified by the Illinois Department of Commerce

**Illinois Opportunity Zones: Illinois Opportunity Zones** provide an incentive for investors to invest in areas that need investment to help create jobs and investment.

➤ Must invest a Qualified Opportunity Fund that holds at least **90%** of its investment in Opportunity Zones

### **River Edge Redevelopment Zone Program:**

**River Edge Redevelopment Zone Program** helps revive and redevelop environmentally challenged properties adjacent to rivers in Illinois.

### **Illinois Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program:**

River Edge **Historic Tax Credit Program** provides state income-tax credit equal to **25%** of a project's qualified expenditures to owners of certified historic structures.

**Prime Sites Capital Grant Program:** The **Prime Sites Capital Grant** assists companies with large – scale capital investment projects that commit to a significant job creation for Illinois residents.

### **Illinois New Markets Development Program:**

The **Illinois New Markets Development Program** incentivizes community development and economic growth through tax credits that attract private investment to distressed communities.

# Nicor Gas Incentives

## Free Energy Efficiency Assessment and Studies

Nicor Gas offers a wide range of free assessments and studies by skilled energy advisors and certified engineers to help you determine your overall needs, natural gas usage and potential cost savings.

Learn more at [nicorgas.com/bizassessment](https://nicorgas.com/bizassessment)

- Assessments for buildings of every size and type
- Combined Heat and Power Feasibility Study
- Retro-commissioning Study

## Custom Incentives

Custom incentives are available to commercial customers who install qualifying energy efficiency projects that are not eligible for rebates through other Nicor Gas offerings. Incentives are based on therms saved from the energy efficiency project and pre-approval is required. Learn more at [nicorgas.com/custom](https://nicorgas.com/custom).

### Common Custom Projects Include:

Gas heat pumps, burner and furnace controls, process heat recovery technologies, including flue stack and condensing economizers, regenerative thermal oxidizers, condensate return system improvements, building and process insulation, combined heat and power and air-side measures.

## Strategic Energy Management (SEM)

SEM motivates customers to consider behavioral and operational changes that lead to long-lasting energy savings, without significant capital investments. The program includes a year-long series of workshops and coaching sessions focused on identifying and implementing operational and behavioral changes. Learn more at [nicorgas.com/sem](https://nicorgas.com/sem).

## Equipment and Service Rebates

High-efficiency products use less energy and can save you money. Rebates for energy efficiency upgrades are available to all active Nicor Gas commercial customers. For current rebates and requirements, visit [nicorgas.com/bizrebates](https://nicorgas.com/bizrebates).

- Agriculture
- Boiler Tune-Ups
- Commercial Food Service Equipment
- Energy Efficiency Improvements
- Space and Water Heating
- Steam Traps

## Free Products for Businesses

Start saving today with free, professionally-installed energy-saving products for your business when you schedule a free energy assessment. Free products may include: faucet aerators for kitchens and baths, water-saving showerheads, antimicrobial laminar flow restrictors for healthcare facilities, pre-rinse spray valves for commercial kitchens, weatherstripping and hot water pipe insulation (small business only).

## Construction Incentives

**New Construction:** Receive incentives for new construction, addition/expansion or major renovation of an existing space designed to exceed energy code requirements via two participation pathways:

**Performance Path:** Offers a custom, hands-on technical approach to new construction projects and targets projects that are early in the design phase to maximize opportunities to influence the incorporation of high-performance design strategies. Technical staff uses whole-building modeling to optimize the building design for energy performance. Modeling results include incentive amounts and annual energy savings estimates.

Design firms can earn bonus incentives for projects that achieve high-performance certifications/criteria.

**Best Practices Path:** Offers a prescriptive approach to new construction projects. This path is designed for fastmoving, developer-led projects. Includes a pre-determined list of measures available for specific building types along with resources and guidelines for how to best implement the measures. Provides an optimized and predictable incentive pathway with pre-defined, per-square-foot incentives for achieving energy efficiency best practices, as well as optional advanced measures.

### Available building types include:

- Multi-Family and Assisted Living
- Office
- Retail and Grocery
- Warehouse and Industrial

Design firms can earn bonus incentives for the accurate submission of design workbooks for each building type.

**Construction Cost Incentives:** Customers receive a free main allowance of **200'** for every new construction meter installed.

**Revenue Credits:** Revenue Credits are estimated on a project to project basis and are used to offset required investment costs when determining if the customer would be required to pay a deposit.

**Service Extension Allowance:** New residential and commercial customers receive **60' of free service** per meter.

**Advance Deposit Agreement Refund (Connection):** Customers may qualify to recover a portion of the Advance Deposit Agreement over a **10-year period** for each qualified customer who connects to the new gas main extension; total refunds will not exceed the deposit amount.

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