



COMMITTED TO OUR CUSTOMERS



## Understanding Energy Bill Increases

As prices for many everyday goods and services rise, natural gas commodity prices are also increasing, leading to higher electric and natural gas bills across the nation. Xcel Energy works hard to [keep costs low](#) for customers and is committed to providing ways to help manage bills and save money. Please reach out if you are having difficulty paying your bill, because [help is available](#).

Xcel Energy does not make a profit on the natural gas it delivers to customers or uses to generate electricity – that wholesale fuel cost is passed on to customers without markup. Like the effect higher oil prices are having at the gas pump, natural gas commodity prices are also increasing due to the same worldwide supply-and-demand impacts. In particular, an unseasonably cold winter and spring lowered natural gas storage supplies across the country, and there has been an overall increase in demand both nationally and internationally.

### Ways to save

With higher natural gas costs, here are several ways to save energy and money:

- *Upgrade your thermostat:* A programmable thermostat lets you set the temperature in your home to use less energy when you're away. A smart thermostat allows you to control the temperature from a mobile device while you're out.
- *Use your blinds or curtains to regulate the temperature in your home:* Close them on hot days to keep the heat out, or if your home is cold, open blinds to take advantage of the sun's warmth.
- *Use ceiling fans to your advantage:* Ceiling fans use less energy than air conditioning and can help cool a room during warmer days. And during colder months, running ceiling fans clockwise forces the warm air near the ceiling down.

Find more energy savings tips for all seasons at [xcelenergy.com/tips](http://xcelenergy.com/tips).

## Working to keep costs low

Xcel Energy is always working to keep costs low as the company focuses on the safety and reliability of the electric and natural gas systems that serve our customers, while transitioning to cleaner energy.

Some of the ways we keep costs down include:

- Adding more [clean energy](#) to the grid because wind and solar generate electricity without fuel costs.
- Purchasing and storing natural gas ahead of the winter heating season when prices are lower.
- Contracting for wholesale natural gas purchases before winter to lock in lower prices.
- Having a [diverse mix](#) of electricity sources that can be used to minimize the effect of natural gas price increases on electric bills.
- Optimizing purchasing and using [technology](#) to make the company's operations more efficient.

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