

EnergyLines

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Test your Energy IQ

We've devoted this issue of *EnergyLines* to informing you about your energy costs and giving you tips to use energy wisely. Use this quiz to analyze the energy use in your home.

WHAT IS YOUR THERMOSTAT SETTING?

1. In winter during the day if your setting is:

- 68° or less, score 6 points
- 69°, score 5 points
- 70°, score 4 points
- 71°, score 3 points
- 72°, score 2 points
- 73°, score 1 point
- 74° or more, score 0 points

SCORE _____

2. On winter nights if your setting is:

- 60° or less, score 10 points
- 61°, score 9 points
- 62°, score 8 points
- 63°, score 7 points
- 64°, score 6 points
- 65°, score 5 points
- No setback or more, score 0 points

SCORE _____

IS YOUR HOUSE DRAFTY?

To check drafts, hold a tissue where windows and doors meet their frames.

3. If the tissue doesn't move, there is no draft around your windows. Score 10 points.

SCORE _____

4. If there is no draft around your doors, score 5 points.

SCORE _____

5. If you keep your fireplace or woodstove damper closed to block the air flow when it's not in use, score 6 points. (Score 6 points if you have no fireplace.)

SCORE _____

6. If you have storm windows or high-efficiency, insulating windows, score 10 points.

SCORE _____

7. If you have storm doors or a vestibule, score 5 points.

SCORE _____

IS YOUR HOUSE INSULATED?

8. If you have 6 inches or more in your attic,

score 20 points. If you have 2 to 4 inches, score 10 points.

SCORE _____

9. If all exterior walls are insulated,

score 10 points.

SCORE _____

IS YOUR FLOOR INSULATED?

10. If there is an unheated space under your

house and your floor is insulated, score 10 points.

If you have a heated basement and the basement walls are insulated, score 10.

SCORE _____

SPACE AND WATER HEATING

11. Depending on your heating system, score 6 points

if your heating system was serviced since last winter or you regularly change filters on your forced air system or you clean baseboard units on your baseboard heating system.

SCORE _____

12. If the water heater is adjusted to 120° or lower, score 6 points. If above 120°, score 0.

SCORE _____

► NOW ADD LINES 1 – 12

TO GET YOUR QUICK QUIZ TOTAL SCORE: _____

What Your Score Means

84 or above: Congratulations! You're already making energy-wise decisions. To further control your energy costs, look at the age and ENERGY STAR® rating of your appliances.

70 to 83 points: Review the areas where your score was lower and check out the tips in this issue of *EnergyLines* and at nyseg.com There are some simple things you can do use energy wisely.

69 or under: There's much room for improvement. Look at the quiz again. The areas where you scored the fewest points may also be the best places to start.



Click on this symbol at nyseg.com for helpful energy information.

It pays to *use energy wisely*



Your natural gas bill includes **delivery** and **supply** charges. The **delivery** charge is what you pay NYSEG for transporting natural gas to your home or business. The **supply** charge is what you pay for the natural gas you use – the commodity that is purchased for you by NYSEG or another supplier.

In summary...

- While NYSEG's natural gas **delivery** prices are frozen, ups and downs in the market price of the natural gas you use (**supply**) can have a considerable effect on your bill.
- **Supply** accounts for more than half of your natural gas bill.
- Weather can have a major impact on how much natural gas you use. The more you use, the more you can expect to pay.
- NYSEG makes no profit on natural gas supply.

Keep informed: What's happening with natural gas prices?

Winter means an increasing reliance on energy to keep us warm and comfortable.

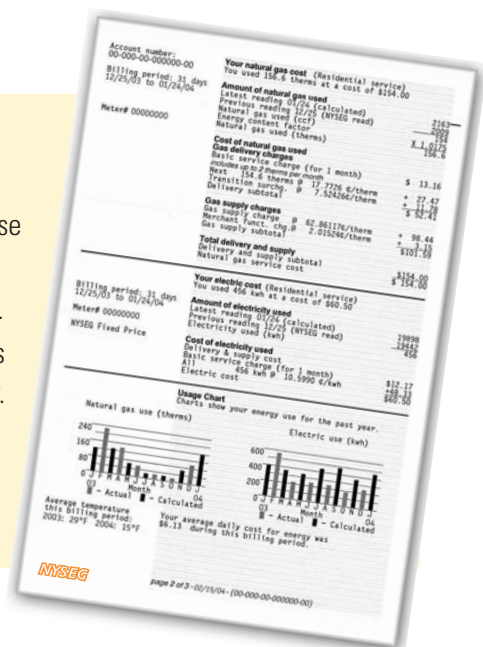
You're probably wondering how continuing news of tight natural gas supplies and higher prices will affect you.

First regarding the availability of natural gas: Rest assured that NYSEG will obtain and deliver all the natural gas you need this winter.

NYSEG's natural gas delivery prices are frozen, and they've been essentially flat for 10 years. By contrast, market-based natural gas supply prices – what you pay for the natural gas you use – are higher than they have been in recent years. These market-based prices are determined by supply and demand; **NYSEG has no control over these prices and NYSEG does not make any profit on natural gas supply.**

If you receive your natural gas supply from a company other than NYSEG, the price of the natural gas you use will depend on your arrangements with your supplier.

Weather also has a major effect on your natural gas bills. The colder it is, the more natural gas you're likely to use. And, the more natural gas you use, the more you can expect to pay, just as is true with any product.



Look at your energy use patterns

Take a look at the energy use graph on your bill to see the months when you use more or less energy. You may wish to consider adopting new household strategies to reduce energy use during the months your consumption is higher.

Consider what you use

Appliances help make our lives more comfortable, but comfort does have a cost. To keep cozy while saving money, choose ENERGY STAR® appliances which use less energy than other appliances.

When you look at your energy costs, consider the extra appliances you've added over time. While newer appliances – particularly those with the ENERGY STAR® rating – are more energy efficient, you probably have more energy-dependent appliances in your home than five, 10 or 20 years ago. Think about it: Do you have a second refrigerator or freezer? A computer – or more than one? How many CD players, televisions, VCRs or DVD players are in your home?

It all adds up. Home entertainment has become a focus in our daily lives – whether it is a new natural gas fireplace, pool heater, outdoor kitchen barbeque, or patio heater – we have to factor in the costs of these modern comforts when comparing current energy bills to those in the past.

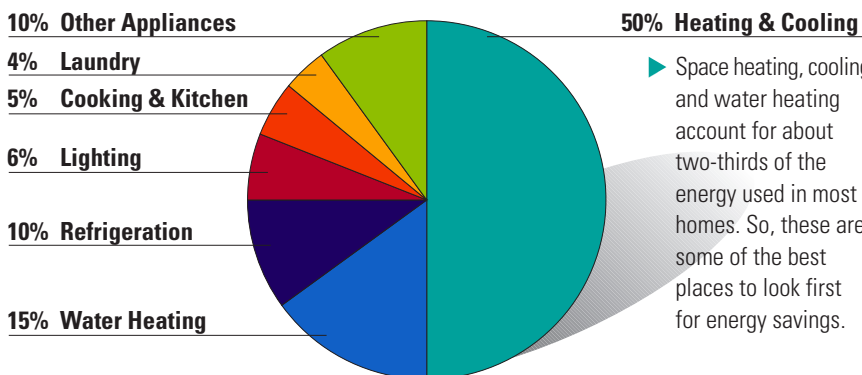


Even out your energy costs with Balanced Billing!

Tired of higher seasonal bills? NYSEG's Balanced Billing service is a great way to plan and budget for your energy usage. Balanced Billing enables you to spread your annual energy costs evenly over 12 months. For more information or to sign up for Balanced Billing, visit nyseg.com or call us at 1.800.572.1111.

If you are having trouble paying your NYSEG bills, call us. The sooner we hear from you, the sooner we can work together on a solution.

Energy Use in the Typical Household





Tips for *using energy wisely*

Heating wisely:

- Have your heating system checked every year to ensure it's safe and working properly.
- Clean or replace furnace filters when they get dirty or once a month.
- Keep heating supply and return registers clean and unobstructed by furniture or draperies.
- Set your thermostat at 65° during the day, and lower it to 60° at night. (This may not be advisable if you have frail, ill or young persons in your home.)
- Consider installing automatic set-back thermostats.
- Open draperies on south-facing windows during the day to let in heat from the sun. Close them at night and on cloudy days to keep heat in.

Using electricity wisely:

- Turn off electrical appliances and equipment when not in use.
- Use fluorescent, not incandescent, light fixtures and bulbs. Fluorescent lights are three-to-four times more energy efficient.
- Clean your refrigerator's condenser coils frequently to ensure peak efficiency.
- Run your dishwasher only when it's full, and let the dishes air dry.

Making your home energy efficient:

- If your home isn't adequately insulated, you may be wasting energy dollars. It may pay for you or a reputable contractor to insulate.
- Replace worn weather stripping and caulking around windows, doors and baseboards to reduce air leaks.
- Use plastic insulation kits on single-pane windows.
- If you have an older water heater, you can wrap the sides of it with a specially-made insulation blanket to save energy.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions to set your water heater temperature at 120 degrees.
- Wrap your hot water pipes with foam pipe insulation.
- Install flow restrictors in showers and on faucets.
- Insert foam insulation behind switch plates and outlets on exterior walls.
- Consider an exterior storm door.
- Keep doors closed in unused rooms.
- Install a tight-fitting damper in your fireplace.
- Check the setting on your ceiling fans – warm air rises so you want to circulate the warmed air back into your room.
- Use a humidifier to add moisture to dry air. It will make your room feel warmer and is better for your health and furnishings.
- After each clothes dryer load, clean the lint filter for maximum efficiency.

To learn more,
visit nyseg.com
and click on



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