

Midwest Energy, Inc. Current Comments

January 2024

Making energy work for YOU

Natural Gas Prices Drop Going Into Winter

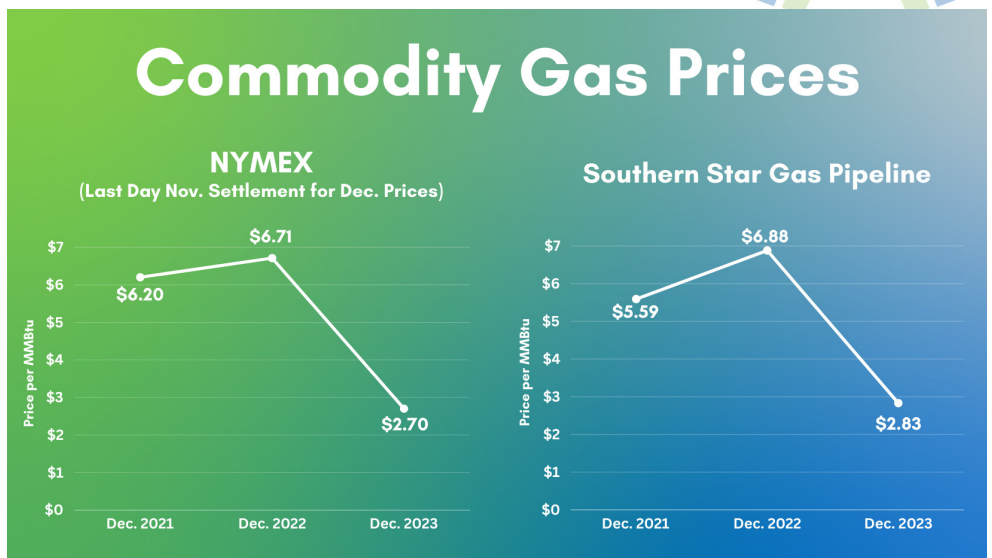
Mild weather through Fall 2023, combined with strong domestic gas production has resulted in historically low prices for natural gas in the United States.

"This is unusual," said Aaron Rome, Midwest Energy's Director of Energy Supply. "Today's prices represent a significant drop from the last couple of years. In 2022, we were looking at gas in the \$9 to \$10 range; today, it's possible we could get through this winter with gas in the \$2-\$3 range."

As a result, natural gas commodity charges for Midwest Energy customers are forecast to be some of the lowest prices ever through the winter months. In more good news, the long-term forecast remains very favorable, as production is expected to keep pace with demand.

Additionally, the latest Energy Information Agency data shows that in late November, gas stockpiles were up 9.8% over November 2022, and up 8.6% over the last five-year average.

Rome cautioned that although the national supply of natural gas is plentiful, weather and unforeseen events can temporarily stress the natural gas transportation system causing regional shortages and price volatility.



"Market volatility is always a concern," Rome added. "Severe weather events and world events

can change in a moment, and have significant impacts on natural gas commodity prices."

Youth Tour Applications Due 31st

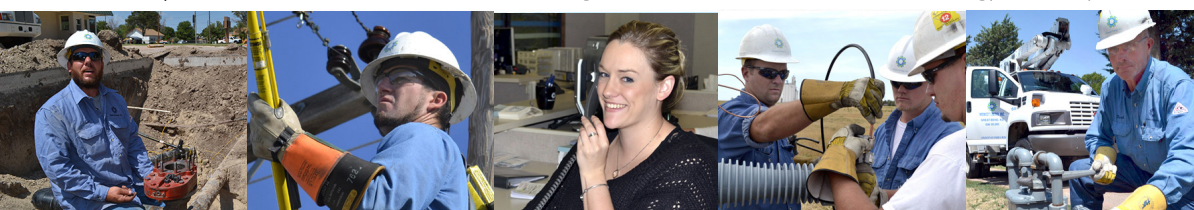
Applications for the Midwest Energy 2024 Youth Tour Trip and Scholarships are due by January 31, and they can be found at www.mwenergy.com under the community tab.

Two high school juniors will be sent to the week-long Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington D.C. from June 14-20, 2024. Applicants for the trip must be juniors in high school, live in or attend school in a Midwest Energy service area, and their parents/guardians must receive electric and/or natural gas service from Midwest Energy.

Children of Midwest employees are ineligible.

Midwest Energy will also be awarding 10 high school seniors with \$1,000 scholarships to the post-secondary education program of their choice. These awards will be paid directly to the student. The eligibility criteria is the same as the trip, but the scholarships are only available to students who are high school seniors when they apply.

For more information, or to apply for either program, visit <https://www.mwenergy.com/community/youth-tour>.



MIDWEST
ENERGY, INC.

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Residential Demand Rates Now in Effect

Starting January 1, Midwest Energy residential customers are now being billed for the demand charge. This is a variable charge that is based on the "peak demand." Peak demand is established by identifying the highest demand in a 15-minute increment that month, and it will reset at the start of each billing cycle. Demand is measured in kilowatts (kW).

From June through September, peak demand is only measured between the hours of 3 to 7 p.m. CST. By placing your higher demand usage outside of this window, you can save money. During the non-summer months of October through May, peak demand is calculated any time of day. However, during the non-summer months it is half the price per kW compared to summer months.

As demand charges phase in through 2026, the energy charge (per kWh) will reduce from 7.5¢ per kWh in 2023 to 6.4¢ in 2024, down to 5.3¢ in 2025 and 4.2¢ in 2026.

To lower your demand, there are few different practices to keep in mind. First of all, larger appliances like clothes dryers, washing machines, electric water heaters and electric

ovens or stoves generate demand in the 4 to 5 kW range. In 2024, this could cost you \$2 per kW in the summer months of June through September between 3 to 7 p.m., and \$1 per kW in the non-summer months any time of day.

By smoothing out the use of these larger appliances throughout the day, instead of stacking them on top of each other, you can help spread out your demand. When in doubt, spread it out.

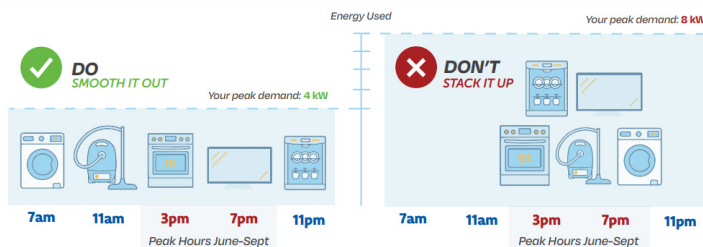
Another way customers can save on demand is by installing an electric water heater timer. If you have an electric water heater, you want to ensure it does not kick on during the hours of 3-7 p.m. The timer is around \$60 at your local Home

Depot or Ace Hardware, and is simple to install. Contact a local electrician to install the device.

If you have any questions about demand rates, or would like a custom bill analysis forecasting what your bill could look like over the next 3 years, give us a call at 1-800-222-3121 and ask for a bill estimate, or use our online Demand Calculator, at <https://demand-rates.mwenergy.com>.

WHEN IN DOUBT, SMOOTH IT OUT.

Spreading out the use of appliances lowers your demand and your bill.



Payment Assistance and Energy Efficiency Savings Events Coming

Midwest Energy, in collaboration with the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF), will be hosting events in Hays and Colby focused on energy savings.

Midwest Energy will have information on the How\$mart program that provides money for energy efficiency improvements as well as tips for saving money with demand rates.

Applications for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) through DCF are available December 18, 2023 through March 29, 2024. A representative from DCF will be on site to help eligible individuals apply.

These events are come-and-go and do not require an RSVP. A sandwich lunch will be provided. Schedule below:

Hays: Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hays Public Library Gallery Room

Colby: Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Colby Events Center.

We hope to see you there!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During winter months, ensure your home is well sealed to reduce the need for excessive heating. Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills.

Install weather stripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows. Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is required.

Source: energystar.gov

Atwood, KS • Colby, KS • Great Bend, KS • Hays, KS

Phillipsburg, KS • Scott City, KS • WaKeeney, KS

1-800-222-3121
www.mwenergy.com



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