

Natural Gas Today



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NATURAL GAS BENEFITS THE NATION

One hundred and seventy million Americans enjoy the comfort and affordability of natural gas. Sixty-three thousand homes and businesses in the Middle Tennessee Natural Gas Utility District service area use natural gas for heating, cooking, water heating, clothes drying, and other applications. Citizens throughout the twenty-two county service area value the benefits provided by natural gas. Neighborhoods without natural gas service continually petition for service.

Since 2015, natural gas prices have gradually declined and are forecast to hold steady for years to come. This stability is the result of improvements in drilling technology, increased appliance efficiency, and abundant natural gas resources in this country.

Despite overwhelming acceptance by the American public, there are forces at work to limit the availability of natural gas in this country. The State of California and certain cities have proposed moratoriums on new natural gas connections for certain classes of customers. Other states have put in place regulations and laws erecting hurdles to pipeline extension and development. National boards and building codes are setting standards which favor electric appliances and discourage the direct use of natural gas. The motivation for these mandates can be sourced to business and environmental groups which desire to increase the utilization of electricity in place of natural gas.

These misplaced efforts come despite declining greenhouse gas emissions aided in large part by natural gas replacing coal plants in the electric generation process. It is ironic that the fuel, which has assisted the electric industry the most in cleaning up its problems, is now targeted for restriction.

America has benefited from diverse domestic fuel and energy sources. On a large scale, the direct use of natural gas in home and businesses is the best and most dependable method to efficiently address heating, cooking, water heating, and clothes drying available. America will be a stronger country with a better economy if direct natural gas use is encouraged rather than hindered by ill-conceived laws and policies. Natural gas has benefited this region daily since its first introduction more than sixty years ago. Proven reserves are readily available to take us beyond this new century. The continued use and public demand for this God-given resource will help ensure its availability for future generations.

By: W. Michael Corley

FUEL COST COMPARISON

FUEL	MIDDLE TENNESSEE AREA AVERAGE PRICE <i>as of May 1, 2018</i>	PRICE PER MILLION BTUs
Natural Gas	\$0.795 / therm Plus a \$7/month Customer Charge	\$ 7.95
Electricity	\$0.093 / kwh Plus a monthly Customer Charge	\$ 27.11
Propane	\$2.090 / gallon	\$ 22.77
Kerosene	\$4.339 / gallon	\$ 32.14
Gasoline	\$2.699 / gallon	\$ 21.59

FOR YOUR SAFETY:

Natural gas is colorless, naturally odorless, & lighter than air. In the right mixture with air, it is flammable and can be explosive. Therefore, it is important to recognize the signs of a possible gas leak and know how to react to them.

RECOGNIZE: THE SIGNS OF A LEAK



LOOK for...

Blowing dirt, bubbling water, dry spots in moist areas, dead vegetation, sink holes, or exposed pipe.



SMELL for...

The odorant added by MTNG so that you can detect a leak. It smells like rotten eggs or sulfur.



LISTEN for...

A hissing sound near a natural gas pipeline, appliance, or meter.

PREVENTION:



- ◆ Call 811 before **any** digging project, no matter how small!
- ◆ Allow 3 business days (fewer for emergencies) for a professional to come mark all underground utility lines so that you can avoid them when digging.
- ◆ It's smart, it's free, and **it's the law.**

React: IF YOU SUSPECT A GAS LEAK

Leave Immediately:

- ◆ Do **not** try to fix or locate the leak.
- ◆ Do **not** touch any valves or exposed pipe.
- ◆ Move upwind to avoid eye, skin, or respiratory irritation.

Minimize Sources of Ignition:

- ◆ Do **not** touch anything electrical.
- ◆ Do **not** smoke.
- ◆ Do **not** operate any electronics, vehicles, phones, appliances, or flames in the vicinity.

Call:

- ◆ From a safe distance, call your local MTNG office.
- ◆ If leak is severe or lives are in immediate danger, call 911.

RESOURCES: For additional information

www.mtng.com - Safety information, contact info for your local gas office, & more

www.tn811.com - Info regarding 811 and the Underground Damage Prevention Law