

## ENERGY CONSERVATION NATURAL GAS

The Public Utilities Commission has some tips to lower your usage of natural gas. These tips were compiled from regulations that the Commission adopted in 1984 and from an energy conservation booklet published by the U.S. Department of Energy. Utilizing these tips will help you to keep your utility bills as low as possible and benefit the environment.

- Set your thermostat to 68° or lower during the cold months. Set the thermostat to 55° when no one is home for more than four hours.
- Every month, replace the air filters for your heating and cooling system.
- Seal duct joints with mastic or high-quality duct tape. Insulate ducts in unconditioned areas of your home.
- Make sure your fireplace damper is closed when not in use.
- If you have a gas fireplace, turn the pilot off during the warm and hot months.
- Caulk any small gaps around the fixed joints of windows and doorframes.
- Weather-strip all moveable joints on windows and doors.
- During the cold months, remove solar screens. Allow sunlight to enter your home during the day by raising blinds or opening curtains. Cover windows during nighttime hours to prevent heat loss.
- Promptly turn-off kitchen, bath, or other ventilating fans off when not in use.
- Install an insulating wrap for your water heater.
- Drain a quart of water from your water heater every 3 months to remove sediment that lowers the efficiency of your water heater.
- Take 5-minute showers instead of baths or longer showers.
- Make sure you only use your washer and dryer with full loads.
- When purchasing new appliances, buy the most energy-efficient model possible.

The tips offered above are just a few of the many ways to conserve energy. If you would like additional tips on energy conservation, you can obtain a copy of the *Energy Savers* booklet from the Department of Energy by calling 1-800-363-3732 or online at [www.eren.doe.gov/consumerinfo/energy\\_savers](http://www.eren.doe.gov/consumerinfo/energy_savers). If you would additional information on making your home more energy efficient, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has created an Internet-based tool at <http://homeenergysaver.lbl.gov>. Based upon information provided by you about your house, this website calculates an estimate of your annual energy bill and compares that estimate to one of an energy efficient home. It offers tips on efficiency and calculates the savings from making your home energy efficient. The information presented below from that website is for an average house in Las Vegas, Reno, and Elko.

**LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY  
COMPARISON OF ANNUAL ENERGY BILL  
AND THERMS CONSUMED\*  
FOR AN AVERAGE HOUSE  
&  
ENERGY EFFICIENT HOUSE  
IN NEVADA**

| <b>CITY</b> | <b>AVERAGE HOUSE</b> | <b>ENERGY EFFICIENT HOUSE</b> |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Las Vegas   | \$1128               | \$695                         |
| Reno        | \$ 959 / 526 Therms  | \$612 / 232 Therms            |
| Elko        | \$ 959 / 526 Therms  | \$612 / 232 Therms            |

(\*No therms listed for Las Vegas because model assumes an all electric home. Reno and Elko annual amounts are only for the natural gas energy portion of a home's consumption.)

The above estimate for the natural gas consumption of an average house in the three Nevada cities was calculated on a model developed by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The two natural gas utilities that provide service to the large majority of Nevada residents have different estimates for natural gas consumption for the average residential customer in their service territories. The charts below provide a guide for the monthly and annual bills for customers of Southwest Gas Corporation and Sierra Pacific Power Company based upon the utility's calculation of the average residential customer's consumption and the utility's current rates. The monthly total shows the monthly payment for the average residential customer who takes advantage of the utility's equal payment plan.

**ANNUAL AND MONTHLY BILL  
FOR THE AVERAGE SOUTHERN NEVADA RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER  
OF SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION**

|         | <b>Average Therms</b> | <b>Rate per Therms (11/02) /<br/>Amount</b> | <b>Customer Charge</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|---------|-----------------------|---|------------------------|--------------|
| Monthly | 44                    | \$0.57936 /<br>\$25.49                      | \$8.00                 | \$33.49      |
| Annual  | 528                   | \$305.88                                    | \$96.00                | \$401.88     |

**ANNUAL AND MONTHLY BILL  
FOR THE AVERAGE NORTHERN NEVADA RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER  
OF SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION**

|         | <b>Average Therms</b> | <b>Rate per Therms (11/02) /<br/>Amount</b> | <b>Customer Charge</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|---------|-----------------------|---|------------------------|--------------|
| Monthly | 61                    | \$0.91704 /<br>\$55.94                      | \$8.00                 | \$63.94      |
| Annual  | 732                   | \$671.28                                    | \$96.00                | \$767.28     |

**ANNUAL AND MONTHLY BILL  
FOR THE AVERAGE NEVADA RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER  
OF SIERRA PACIFIC POWER COMPANY**

|         | <b>Average Therms</b> | <b>Rate per Therms (11/01) /<br/>Amount</b> | <b>Customer Charge</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|---------|-----------------------|---|------------------------|--------------|
| Monthly | 60                    | \$0.98157 /<br>\$58.89                      | \$3.25                 | \$62.14      |
| Annual  | 720                   | \$706.68                                    | \$39.00                | \$745.68     |