

NEW YORK'S ENERGY SUPPLY OUTLOOK

WINTER 2019-20

This Year's Outlook

New York's utilities have made arrangements to have enough natural gas and electric supply to satisfy expected customer demand for the upcoming 2019-20 heating season. They are prepared to meet customer demand in the event of more severe winter weather conditions.

In general, electric bills are expected to be about the same as last winter, which was slightly colder than normal, and natural gas bills are expected to be lower. For electric customers, the supply prices are expected to be about the same as last year's prices on average, but significantly less than the historical average. An average residential electric customer using 600 kWh of electricity per month is expected to pay about \$34 per month for supply. Natural gas bills are projected to be about 11% lower than last year. The average residential natural gas customer, using 740 therms of natural gas from November through March, is expected to pay about \$760 in total for gas supply.

The actual bill impact will vary by utility and with the weather: a colder than normal winter will cause usage and bills to increase.

Factors That Affect Energy Costs

Usage

The weather—especially the temperature—plays a significant role in how much electricity and natural gas we use. For heating customers, the colder the weather, the more energy is used by the average household.

Since last year's heating season temperatures were, on average, slightly colder than usual, energy usage may have been slightly higher than average. Assuming average temperatures this heating season, usage would be somewhat lower than last year.

Price

The commodity price of electricity or natural gas rises and falls based on many factors, including the weather, the balance between supply and demand, the amount and cost of natural gas in storage, and the extent and success of natural gas exploration and drilling. When there is a widespread and prolonged cold spell, overall demand for energy increases, which puts upward pressure on prices. Any change in the cost of supply can have a significant impact on your overall energy bill.

Controlling Your Heating Bills

An electricity or natural gas bill consists of two parts: delivery and supply. The *delivery* charge is the cost to transport the electricity or natural gas to you throughout the utility's system. This fee is regulated by the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC). The *supply* charge is the cost of the electricity or natural gas itself. The supply price is determined in a competitive market place based on market factors and is not controlled by the PSC or the utilities.

Your energy bill depends on how much electricity or natural gas you use and the rate you are paying. In general, the more energy you use, the higher your bill will be. You can reduce your home heating cost by making energy efficiency improvements that pay for themselves with increased comfort and energy savings. For more information, visit www.AskPSC.com, call 1-888-AskPSC1, or email web.questions@dps.ny.gov.



Assistance or Questions

If you have questions about your heating bill or need assistance with paying your utility bill, contact the NYS Department of Public Service's Helpline at 1-800-342-3377. If you are facing an electric or gas shutoff, call the Department's Hotline at 1-800-342-3355.



HELP YOUR HOME HEAT BETTER



Insulate attics, foundations, heating ducts and hot water pipes



Caulk around windows and doors



Take advantage of financial assistance or **energy efficiency programs**



Open your shades on sunny days and close them at night



Install a **programmable thermostat**

This heating season, don't let winter waste your home's energy. To learn about waste busting tips, energy efficiency programs and financial incentives, or to get help managing your heating bill, visit the New York State Public Service Commission's website, AskPSC.com or call **1 (888) Ask-PSC 1**.