



The
Gas
Company

A  Sempra Energy utility™

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2006

GasCompanyNews

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The Gas Company offers money-saving programs, services and tips that can help you manage this winter's higher gas bills.

Managing WINTER GAS BILLS

Many of our customers have asked us why their gas bills are so high. Actually, natural gas prices across the nation have risen dramatically over the past few years as domestic supplies have decreased and more people and businesses have chosen to use natural gas. As a result, even if you use the same amount of gas as last winter, your gas bill may be around 30% to 40% higher this winter.

Home heating represents the largest portion of your monthly bill, with a typical gas furnace costing about \$1.25 an hour to run.

To save on home heating, lower your furnace thermostat by 3 to 5 degrees, bundle up in extra clothing and blankets, and clean or replace your furnace filter monthly, per the manufacturer's recommendation. These changes alone can help

save up to 20% of heating costs. In addition, you can caulk and weatherstrip drafty doors and windows to keep warm air indoors.

You can also take advantage of helpful programs and services from The Gas Company®, such as:

- **Rebates** for qualifying energy-efficient home improvements (see inside).
- **Special payment arrangements** if you're having trouble paying your bill.
- **Level Pay Plan** to help smooth out the ups and downs of your gas bills.
- **Assistance programs** such as a rate discount and free home energy-saving services for qualifying customers with limited income.

For more information, visit www.socalgas.com or call **1-800-427-2200**.

REBATES HELP YOU find new ways to save energy and money

Investing in energy-efficient home improvements can help you save energy and money – and benefit the environment – for years to come. Such home improvements are more affordable, too, when you take advantage of rebates* from The Gas Company, including:

- \$200 for ENERGY STAR®-qualified central gas furnaces.
- \$30 for qualified gas water heaters.
- \$0.15 per square foot for attic and wall insulation.

Offering money-saving rebates is just one of the ways we are encouraging everyone to participate in programs that can save energy. When you use less energy, you not only save money, you also help preserve natural resources and reliable energy supplies for future generations. For the latest information on rebates and other energy-efficiency programs and services, visit www.socalgas.com.

*Certain restrictions apply. This program is funded by California utility customers and administered under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. Rebate programs may be modified or terminated without prior notice, and are provided to qualified customers on a first-come, first-served basis until program funds are no longer available. The Gas Company is not responsible for any goods or services selected by the customer.



Rebates now available for energy-efficient home improvements include \$200 for qualifying central gas furnaces. Such upgrades can help you save energy and money for years to come.



“Keep your family safe and comfortable by using your natural gas water heater – and other appliances – with care. Our safety tips can help.”

– John K.,
Customer Service

Water heater *safety warm-up*

Warm showers, fresh laundry and clean dishes are among the comforts of home supplied by your natural gas water heater. These simple steps will help you use it safely.

- Keep the area around your water heater clean and well ventilated.
- Never use or store flammable products, such as gasoline or paint thinner, near your water heater or other natural gas appliances. Unseen vapors from these products can ignite when exposed to a flame or spark.
- Make sure the main burner and pilot light of your water heater are at least 18 inches above the floor, to help prevent accidentally spilled flammables from igniting.
- Anchor your water heater to the wall studs in two spots for safety during earthquakes. Use metal straps and heavy bolts at the top and bottom thirds of the tank, at least four inches above the thermostat controls, or buy a strapping kit from your local hardware store.

The Gas Company is committed to providing safe, reliable energy and exceptional customer service. For more gas safety tips, visit www.socalgas.com/safety.

MORE CUSTOMERS QUALIFY *for money-saving assistance*

More customers now qualify for energy-saving home improvements at no charge and a 20% gas rate discount, thanks to new income guidelines for assistance programs offered by The Gas Company. Check the chart below to see if you or someone you know may qualify for one of the following programs.

Direct Assistance Program (DAP): Qualified, limited-income customers who rent or own a home may receive home energy-saving services or upgrades at no charge. Energy-efficiency improvements include ceiling insulation, door weatherstripping, caulking, low-flow showerheads, water heater blankets and more. Homeowners may also receive furnace repair or replacement services at no charge. For details, call the DAP hotline at **1-800-331-7593**.

California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE): Income-qualified customers may receive a 20% rate discount. Annual gas bill savings averaged \$75 for each CARE customer in 2005. For details and an application, visit www.socalgas.com/residential/assistance/care or call **1-800-427-2200** and have your account number ready.

New income guidelines for DAP and CARE

(effective Nov. 1, 2005 to May 31, 2006)

Number of persons in household	Maximum annual household income
1 or 2	\$27,700
3	\$32,500
4	\$39,200
5	\$45,900
Each additional person	Add \$6,700

Additional natural gas at lowest rate for those with *medical needs*

Certain major medical needs may qualify you – or a full-time member of your household – for additional natural gas at our lowest (baseline) rate. This Medical Baseline Allowance is 0.822 therms of natural gas per day in addition to the standard baseline allowance. It's available for those who need additional space heating due to paraplegia, quadriplegia, hemiplegia, multiple sclerosis, scleroderma, a compromised immune system or a life-threatening illness.

To qualify, a doctor must certify the medical condition. To receive an application for the Medical Baseline Allowance, call us at **1-800-427-2200** or get one online at www.socalgas.com/medical.



People who have serious medical needs may be eligible for our Medical Baseline Allowance - extra natural gas at our lowest rate.



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Glad to be of service.™

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1-800-427-2200

TDD/1-800-252-0259

Gas Company News

is published bimonthly by
The Gas Company for
its customers.

This information and more
is available online at
www.socalgas.com.

5-0602 5.61M

Noticias de The Gas Company

Valiosa información de sus amigos de The Gas Company®

Cómo controlar FACTURAS DE GAS EN INVIERNO

Los precios del gas natural han aumentado dramáticamente a lo largo de todo el país durante los últimos años a medida que los suministros nacionales han disminuido y más personas y negocios han optado usar gas natural. Como resultado, aún si usa la misma cantidad de gas que el invierno pasado, su factura de gas quizá sea aproximadamente de un 30% to 40% más elevada este invierno. La calefacción del hogar representa la mayor porción de su factura mensual. Cuesta aproximadamente \$1.25 la hora operar un calefactor de gas típico.

Para ahorrar en la calefacción del hogar, disminuya el termostato del calefactor de 3 a 5 grados, cúbrase con más ropa y cobijas, y limpie o reemplace mensualmente el filtro de su calefactor, de acuerdo a las recomendaciones del fabricante. Tan sólo estos cambios pueden ayudar a ahorrar hasta el 20% en costos de calefacción. También puede colocar burletes y enmasillar puertas y ventanas con corriente de aire para mantener adentro el aire caliente. También puede aprovechar útiles programas y servicios que ofrece The Gas Company®, tales como:

- **Arreglos especiales de pago** si tiene problemas como pagar su factura.
- **Plan de Pagos Nivelados** para ayudar a suavizar los altibajos de sus facturas de gas.
- **Programas de asistencia** tales como una tarifa de descuento y servicios gratuitos para el ahorro de energía en el hogar para clientes con ingresos limitados que reúnan los requisitos.

Para información visite www.socalgas.com/sp/ o llame al **1-800-342-4545**.



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1-800-342-4545

The Gas Company publica *Gas Company News* cada dos meses para su clientela.

Esta información, y más, está disponible en www.socalgas.com/sp.

A su servicio... y con gusto.

Seguridad con el calentador de agua

Duchas calientitas, ropa limpia y platos limpios se encuentran entre las comodidades del hogar que su calentador de agua de gas natural hace posible. Estos pasos sencillos le ayudarán a usarlo con seguridad:

- Mantenga el área alrededor de su calentador de agua limpia y ventilada.
- Nunca use o almacene productos flamables, tales como gasolina o diluyente de pintura, cerca de sus aparatos domésticos de gas. Vapores no visibles de estos productos pueden encenderse al exponerse a una llama o chispa.
- Asegúrese de que el quemador principal y el piloto de su calentador de agua estén cuando menos a 18 pulgadas sobre el nivel del piso, para ayudar a prevenir que se enciendan flamables derramados accidentalmente.
- Sujete su calentador de agua a los pies derechos de la pared en dos diferentes lugares para mayor seguridad durante terremotos. Use sujetadores de metal y tornillos reforzados en la tercera parte superior e inferior del tanque, a cuando menos cuatro pulgadas por encima de los controles del termostato.

Para más sugerencias de seguridad con el gas, visite www.socalgas.com/sp/safety.

MÁS CLIENTES TIENEN DERECHO a asistencia para ahorrar dinero

Más clientes tienen ahora derecho a mejoras para el hogar que ahorran energía, sin costo alguno, y a un 20% de descuento en la tarifa del gas, gracias a los nuevos lineamientos de los programas de asistencia ofrecidos por The Gas Company. Revise la tabla que aparece a continuación para ver si usted o alguien que usted conoce reúne los requisitos para uno de los siguientes programas.

Programa de Asistencia Directa (DAP): Los clientes que reúnan los requisitos, con ingresos limitados que renten o sean propietarios de un hogar podrían recibir servicios o mejoras para el ahorro de energía en el hogar sin costo alguno. Las mejoras eficientes en energía incluyen aislamiento térmico para el techo, colocación de burletes en puertas, enmasillado, cabezales de bajo flujo, cobertores para calentadores de agua y más. Los propietarios de casas también podrían recibir servicios de reparación o reemplazo de calefactores sin costo alguno. Para detalles, llame a la línea directa DAP al 1-800-331-7593.

Tarifas Alternas de Energía para California (CARE): Clientes que reúnan los requisitos de ingreso podrían recibir un 20% de descuento en la tarifa. Los ahorros anuales en facturas de gas promediaron \$75 por cada cliente CARE en 2005. Para detalles y un formulario de solicitud, visite www.socalgas.com/sp/residential/assistance/care o llame al 1-800-342-4545 y tenga su número de cuenta a la mano.

Nuevos lineamientos de ingreso para DAP y CARE

(Vigentes del 1 de nov. de 2005 al 31 de mayo de 2006)

Número de personas en el hogar	Ingreso Máximo anual en el hogar
1 ó 2	\$27,700
3	\$32,500
4	\$39,200
5	\$45,900
Cada persona adicional	Añada \$6,700