

the citizens pipeline

November 2008

Citizens Projects Bills May be Higher

Citizens Gas projects that the typical bill of residential customers could rise more than 15 percent over the November through March heating season, assuming normal winter temperatures. Bills would likely not increase if winter temperatures are warmer than normal as they have been during most recent winters.

Citizens Gas projects the typical residential customer in Marion County may use 736 therms of natural gas from November through March for a total bill of about \$939. This compares to about \$781 the typical customer would have spent last year for 736 therms.

The company projects the typical Citizens residential customer in the Westfield area may use 730 therms of natural gas from November through March for a total bill of about \$968. This compares to about \$839 the typical Westfield customer would have spent last year for 730 therms.

The increases are due to sharply higher wholesale prices for the natural gas the utility purchases for customers from national producers and marketers. Citizens Gas passes on the cost of natural gas to customers on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Gas costs will account for about three-fourths of a customer's winter heating bill, with the remaining fourth being delivery and service charges.

Natural gas prices are not set by local utilities like Citizens Gas, but rather by the forces of supply and demand. Natural gas prices rose sharply between January and July of this year because of increased demand for this clean-burning, high performing fuel and flat natural gas production levels impacted by

federal restrictions on energy development. Natural gas prices also increased for most of this year because of increasing prices for many other commodities, such as oil, as investors sought hedges against the falling value of the U.S. dollar.



“We urge customers to take steps now to weatherize their homes and to sign up for Budget Billing, which spreads winter heating costs into 12 equal monthly payments. We also want to remind all customers to ensure their homes are safe for the coming winter by installing smoke alarms on each level of their home and to be very careful using any kind of space heater,” said Carey Lykins, President & CEO of Citizens Energy Group.

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October 25 to
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Five Ways to Save Energy

- **Dial it down** – For each degree you turn down your thermostat you save 1 percent on your heating bill.
- **Check your furnace filter** – Change your furnace filter monthly to help your furnace do its job more efficiently and effectively.
- **Turn down your water heater thermostat** - At 120° F your water heater will be more energy efficient than at higher temperatures and still produce enough hot water for daily needs.
- **Have furnace serviced** – Having your furnace serviced by a licensed technician will ensure it is operating safely and efficiently.
- **Use the sun** – Open window blinds during the day to warm your home with the sun.

Helping You Manage Your Bill



Citizens is taking a number of steps to help customers manage their energy costs including:

- **Energy Assistance** – Citizens expects to fund about \$3 million in energy assistance for more than 24,000 low-income

customers. Those who think they may need help with their energy bills should call Community Action Agency of Greater Indianapolis at: **1-866-565-0197**.

- **Budget Billing** – The Budget Plan spreads out the cost of winter heating into 12 equal monthly payments. Customers only need to be current on their bill to be eligible to enroll in the Budget Plan. Customers can enroll by paying the budget amount on their bill or by calling 924-3311.
- **Gas Purchasing Strategy** -- Citizens minimizes spikes in wholesale gas prices by purchasing gas during periods of low demand when prices are typically lower. Citizens also stores gas during the summer for use during the winter. While these strategies can only minimize price spikes, Citizens Gas' rates are in the bottom third of gas companies operating in Indiana, according to figures compiled by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission.

Tortellini Enbrodo Milano Inn - Chef John White

Ingredients:

- 5 oz. prosciutto ham (cubed)
- 4 oz. green peas
- 12 oz cheese tortellini
- 2 cloves fresh garlic
- 3 oz. white wine
- 8 oz. heavy cream
- 6 oz. Romano cheese
- 1 oz. olive oil
- Salt, Pepper to taste
- Fresh parsley to garnish

Directions:

Boil tortellini in 1 qt of water for 3 mins. Drain and set aside.

In 10" skillet heat olive oil over med-high heat, add prosciutto ham and sauté for 1 min. Add garlic, peas, salt, pepper and white wine. Sauté for 2 mins then add cream, bring to a boil and add Romano cheese to thicken the sauce. Add tortellini to sauce and toss until well coated. Put on a plate and garnish with Romano cheese and fresh parsley.

