

Montana Home Energy Guide

Did you know a typical new home can save about \$1,400 a year in energy costs by using all natural gas instead of electricity.



efficient
safe
reliable
clean
affordable
abundant
convenient
friendly
environmentally

Natural gas is the
right choice for your
home's energy needs.

 **MONTANA-DAKOTA**
UTILITIES CO.

A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

In the Community to Serve®

Natural Gas: Clean. Safe. Efficient.

Natural gas is the best energy choice for your home's heating needs. Choosing natural gas for your home offers valuable benefits for your budget, your comfort and the environment.

1

Lower energy costs: Natural gas remains one of the best values in today's energy market. Choosing natural gas for your home's heating needs can save you money.

2

Comfort: Natural gas heating equipment makes for a more comfortable home. Natural gas furnaces deliver warmer air and heat your home quickly. Natural gas water heaters can heat twice as much hot water as electric water heaters, at a lower cost.

3

Convenience and reliability: With natural gas, you'll never run out of fuel. Underground pipelines deliver natural gas right to your home, so it is always there when you need it.

4

Safe: Natural gas is one of the world's safest sources of energy, used by millions of Americans to heat their homes and businesses. Natural gas is colorless, odorless, tasteless and non-toxic. A special odorant is added to help identify gas leaks.

5

Abundant: Natural gas is found in abundance throughout North America. Most of the natural gas consumed in the United States is produced in the United States.

6

Environmentally friendly: Natural gas is today's environmental energy choice. Compared to other fossil fuels, natural gas is the cleanest, producing fewer harmful emissions. Choosing natural gas is an easy way to reduce your carbon footprint without sacrificing comfort.

Home Heating



- Warmer heat
- Best economic value

Space Heating	Natural Gas dk	Electric Ground Source kWh	Electric Air Source kWh	Electric Resistance kWh	Propane Gallons
AFUE	95%	350%	160%	100%	95%
Energy Usage	61.5	4,892	10,702	17,123	673
Operating Cost	\$446	\$440	\$963	\$1,541	\$1,145

Ground Source incremental first cost over natural gas is \$3,500.

Simple payback of Ground Source versus natural gas is 12.1 years.

Notes:

- All annual costs do not include any taxes, meter charges, and/or tank leases that would be added to fuel cost for the annual total bill.
- Fuel costs are based on average fuel costs in the area as of February 2015.
- Average System installed costs for all types will vary based of various factors such as equipment brand, size of home, etc.
- Air Source Heat Pump fuel cost does not include cost of any backup fuel for design conditions and assumes seasonal efficiency based on 2.5 COP-rated unit for Montana average weather.
- Ground Source Heat Pump fuel cost not include cost of any backup fuel for design conditions and assumes a 3.5 COP -ated unit.
- Ground Source Heat Pump payback on investment assumes homeowner can achieve the full federal and, if available, state tax credit limits.

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Water Heating



- Faster heat recovery
- Lower operating costs



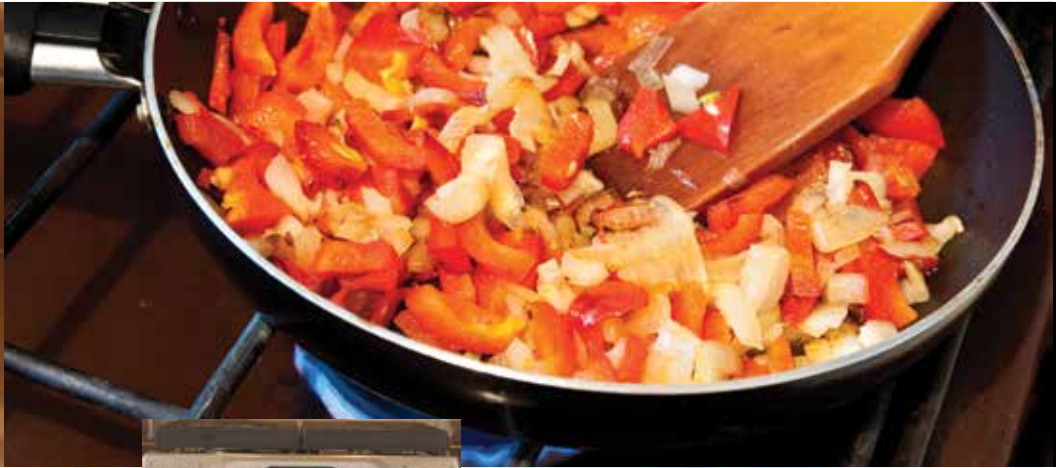
Water Heating	Natural Gas dk	Electric kWh
Energy Factor	0.59	0.90
Energy Usage	19.7	3,785
Operating Cost	\$142.83	\$340.65

Natural gas at \$7.25 per decatherm and electric costs at 9.0 cents per kWh.



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Cooking



- Instant on/off
- Precise temperature control

Cooking	Natural Gas dk	Electric kWh
Energy Usage	4.0	1,200
Operating Cost	\$29.00	\$108.00

Natural gas at \$7.25 per decatherm and electric costs at 9.0 cents per kWh.



Clothes Drying



- Dry four loads of laundry for the price of one compared to electric
- Fewer wrinkles with no static cling



<u>Clothes Drying</u>	Natural Gas dk	Electric kWh
Energy Usage	2.6	684
Operating Cost	\$18.49	\$61.56

Natural gas at \$7.25 per decatherm and electric costs at 9.0 cents per kWh.



Grilling



**Grill with natural gas;
it's always ready when you are.**

There's no need to add more charcoal or refill the propane tank. You can enjoy uninterrupted grilling with natural gas. And much like cooking on a natural gas stove, a natural gas grill provides even, efficient heat. Just think ... no more heavy tanks to refill or carry, and no dealing with messy charcoal.



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Garage Heater



Whether you like working on your vehicle or just tinkering in the garage, enjoy the comfort of a natural gas garage heater and leave your coat and gloves in the house. Your vehicles will thank you, too, during those cold winter nights.



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Fireplace



The convenience of a natural gas fireplace. Why settle for less?

The heat is instant and clean and the fuel supply is constant. Why chop wood, haul logs, clean ashes and worry about sparks burning holes in your carpet? A natural gas fireplace not only provides warmth, it enhances the appearance and marketability of any home. It's clean, convenient, cost-effective and easy-to-use.



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Outdoor Living



Just because there's a chill in the air doesn't mean you have to retreat indoors. Extend your outdoor living season with a natural gas-powered patio heater or fireplace. You can warm up your outdoor space quickly and easily.



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Home Heating Backup



When bad weather strikes and the electricity goes out, be prepared with a natural gas-powered backup generator. An underground natural gas pipe will provide continuous fuel to your generator and typically won't be affected by high winds, heavy snow or other acts of nature. It will provide you and your family peace of mind.



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