



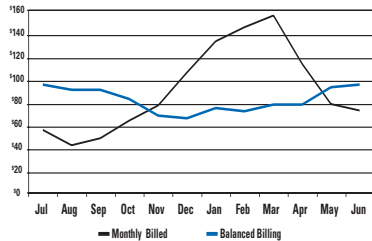
Balanced Billing

Take the guesswork out of budgeting: Balanced Billing provides customers a way to avoid the highs and lows associated with normal monthly billing. This plan helps take the guesswork out of budgeting for your utility bills.

How Balanced Billing works: Your monthly bill is computed by taking an average of your natural gas and/or electric usage during the previous 11 months and the current month's usage. Current energy rates are then applied to this average monthly usage to calculate the current payment due. Averaging your usage over the year can reduce large cost fluctuations from extreme weather conditions.

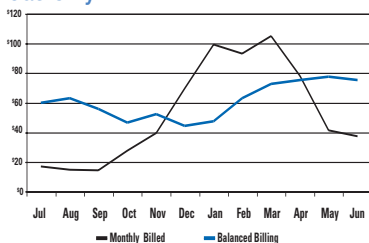
Example: The following graph is an illustration of how an actual MDU natural gas and electric customer's bill looks on Balanced Billing, and what it would look like without Balanced Billing.

Gas and Electric



Example: The following graph is an illustration of how an actual MDU natural gas customer's bill looks on Balanced Billing, and what it would look like without Balanced Billing.

Gas Only



The natural gas advantage

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. Get the natural gas advantage:

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.

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.

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.

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 and detect leaks.

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.

To sign up for Balanced Billing, call 800-MDU-FAST (800-638-3278) or visit www.montana-dakota.com.

Heads Up!

Be Safe Around Powerlines



Electricity – Respect the Power

Outdoor electric safety tips:

- ▶ Look up to locate all power lines near your home, work or play areas.
- ▶ Always keep yourself and any tool or equipment you may be using at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- ▶ Don't trim trees with power lines nearby.
- ▶ Always carry ladders or poles horizontally, never upright.
- ▶ To avoid contact with an overhead powerline, never place a trampoline, pool or playhouse near power lines.
- ▶ Teach your children to fly kites or toys in fields away from overhead power lines.
- ▶ Don't attempt to remove anything that has become tangled with an overhead power line.
- ▶ Always assume an overhead power line is energized and dangerous.



MONTANA-DAKOTA

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Home Energy Saving Tips

- **Install a programmable setback thermostat.** This can be a good investment in homes heated and cooled with central forced-air systems. Taking the time to program to match your personal habits will save money.
- **Conserve water, while saving money and energy.** Turn down your water heater to 120 degrees F to reduce your heating bills, install low-flow showerheads and replace faucet washers, and take quick showers instead of baths.
- **Save money in the laundry room.** Use cold water in your wash and rinse cycles. And, always run full loads of laundry instead of washing a few pieces of clothing at a time. Air dry your laundry when you can by hanging laundry outside or on a drying rack.
- **Check your dishwasher's setting.** Some dishwashers offer a water-saving setting or an energy-saving drying option. Check to see if your dishwasher has these options and start using yours today!
- **Use your drapes.** Close drapes on hot summer days to keep the heat outside. On winter days leave them open to absorb sunlight. Always close drapes at night to keep your home's heat inside.
- **Change your light bulbs.** Switching to high-efficient LED light bulbs is a quick and easy way to save money. The average household has about 70 light-bulbs. One ENERGY STAR® certified LED bulb uses up to 90% less energy than old incandescent bulbs.
- **Look for the ENERGY STAR label.** For an effective energy-saving investment, look for the ENERGY STAR label on LED light bulbs, home appliances, electronics and other products. ENERGY STAR products meet strict efficiency guidelines set by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Visit energy.gov/energysaver for more energy saving ideas for your home.