

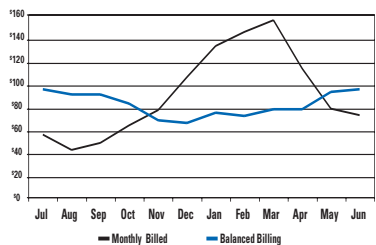
Balanced Billing

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.

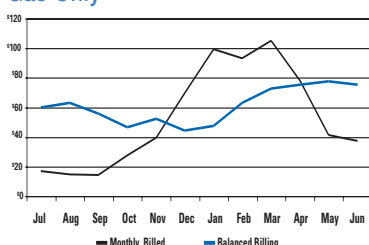
Example: The following graph is an illustration of how an actual MDU natural gas and electric customer's bill looks on Balanced Billing, and what it would look like without Balanced Billing.

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



To sign up for Balanced Billing, call 1-800-638-3278 or visit montana-dakota.com.

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.



HEADS UP!

Be safe around power lines.

MONTANA-DAKOTA
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In the Community to Serve®

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.
- ▶ 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.

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1-800-638-3278 • montana-dakota.com



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Tips to Save Money and Energy Today

- ▶ Install a programmable thermostat to lower utility bills and manage your heating and cooling systems efficiently.
- ▶ Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.
- ▶ Turn things off when you are not in the room, such as lights, TVs, entertainment systems, and your computer and monitor.
- ▶ Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players, into power strips; turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use – TVs and DVDs in standby mode still use several watts of power.
- ▶ Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120°F.
- ▶ Take short showers instead of baths and use low-flow showerheads for additional energy savings.
- ▶ Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.
- ▶ Air dry clothes.
- ▶ Check to see that windows and doors are closed when heating or cooling your home.
- ▶ Look for the ENERGY STAR® label on 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 energysaver.gov for more energy-saving ideas.

Source: US Dept. of Energy - Energy Saver Guide
<http://energy.gov/energysaver/downloads/energy-saver-guide>