

Why Natural Gas?

Top ten reasons to switch from heating oil to natural gas

1. Heating a home with oil is twice as expensive as heating with natural gas
2. Emissions of CO₂, a greenhouse gas, are 41 percent lower for natural gas than heating oil
3. Contamination of water and soil from leaking underground oil storage tanks
4. Clean-up cost liability with water or soil contamination by heating oil
5. Natural gas is reliable – your home is connected to the energy supply system; there is less chance of running out, having to wait for delivery or losing home heating due to inclement weather events
6. Using natural gas is a more efficient use of an energy resource than either heating oil or electricity from fossil fuels
7. Natural gas furnaces generally have higher efficiencies than heating oil furnaces, producing long-term savings
8. Increasing costs for annual servicing of heating oil furnaces
9. Home buyers prefer a home heated with natural gas, increasing property value
10. Natural gas can be used for more than just home heating such as cooking, water heating, clothes drying, stand-by generators, barbecues, etc.

Natural gas vs. other heating fuel costs

If you have a forced-air furnace, energy costs vary depending on the fuel and equipment efficiency. Compare \$100 of natural gas to the same amount of energy from other fuel sources*:

PSE—Natural Gas (at 90 percent Efficiency)

\$100

Seattle City Light—Electric (Suburban Rate)

\$120

Tacoma Power—Electric

\$122

Snohomish County PUD—Electric

\$147

PSE—Electric

\$160

Heating Oil (Avg.)

\$214

Propane (Avg.)

\$244

Equipment costs and maintenance are important also. For more information, visit PSE.com or call a PSE Energy Advisor at 1.800.562.1482

*Heating oil and propane prices are Puget Sound area averages (heating oil \$3.38/gal., propane \$2.88/gal. including tax) based on November 2008 fuel cost survey. PSE natural gas and electric costs are averages (natural gas \$1.44/therm at 68 therms/month including tax and customer charge, electric \$0.095/kWh at 1,000 kWh/month) based on PSE rates and taxes in effect November 2008. Electric costs from other utilities calculated using same method based on per kWh average for 1,000 kWh/month use at the time of the fuel cost survey (Seattle City Light-suburban \$0.072/kWh, Snohomish PUD \$0.079/kWh, and Tacoma Power \$0.067/kWh). Study is available upon request. Heating equipment efficiencies are heating oil 70 percent, propane 80 percent, natural gas 90 percent, and electricity 100 percent.



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