



Florida Public Service Commission

Consumer Bulletin

Braulio Baez, Chairman



Natural Gas Conservation: The Time Is Now

As a consumer, you may have noticed that the price of natural gas has been on the rise during recent times. With this in mind, the PSC urges Florida's consumers to conserve energy in anticipation of potentially higher natural gas prices during the next few months.





Two of the main factors that contribute to higher natural gas prices include colder-than-normal weather and an increasing use of natural gas to produce electricity. Generally speaking, colder-than-normal weather may not only lead to higher natural gas prices than in prior years, but it can also lead to higher consumer demand for fuel. Ultimately, this additional consumer demand contributes to potential increases in the fuel portion of customer bills.

In addition, when more electric power plants around the nation depend on natural gas as their primary fuel, consumers may end up paying more money for the electricity they consume because natural gas is relatively more expensive than fuels such as coal, another commonly used fuel for electric generation. When utilities become more dependent on natural gas, they often have to pay more to purchase the fuel from the marketplace in order to meet customer needs. Therefore, a combination of colder-than-normal weather and an increasing use of natural gas to produce electricity can have a significant impact on how much you pay for the fuel used to generate the electricity that is delivered to your home or business.

Braulio L. Baez is the Chairman of the Florida Public Service Commission. The PSC sets the rates regulated utility companies charge for natural gas, electric and telephone service within the state. In 36 counties, it sets the price you pay for the water you drink, if your water company is privately owned.

How To Conserve Energy and Save Money on Your Energy Bill

The following tips may assist you to conserve energy and save money, especially during times when the price of natural gas is on the rise:

-  Make sure that your home is well-insulated by sealing any gaps around your doors and windows.
-  Have your heating and air conditioning units inspected.
-  Insulate your water heater.
-  Lower your thermostat. For every degree you lower your thermostat, you will save 1-3% on your home heating costs.

If you require additional information about the natural gas industry or are interested in learning how to conserve energy safely and efficiently, please contact the PSC's Division of Consumer Affairs toll-free at **1-800-342-3552**, or by e-mail at contact@psc.state.fl.us. The PSC's Web site is located at www.floridapsc.com and offers information on a range of energy topics. Please feel free to visit this Web site to review our many brochures and reports about electric safety and conservation education.