



Adding large gas appliances?

Check with us first to be sure your meter is properly sized

If you’re planning to add a new natural gas whole-house generator or on-demand water heater, it’s time to call Jo-Carroll Energy so we can make sure your meter is properly sized. Those two appliances can put you over the BTU limit of your meter.

A typical residential gas meter is rated to allow 250 cubic feet/hour of gas through at 7” w.c. (1/4 lb). Most residential homes can be easily served by these meters. Adding a new gas appliance or upgrading gas appliances (such as a kitchen remodel with a new commercial-style range) can upset the balance. Simply switching to a modern tankless water heater can increase demand by 160,000 Btu/h or more.

Most gas appliances have a BTU rating stamped on the appliance. By adding the loads of all gas appliances in your home, you can see if you have exceeded the capacity of your meter. The chart at right lists some typical natural gas appliance load ratings.

When gas appliances are starved for gas, they will not function at maximum capacity and will be prone to soot buildup. This could lead to appliance malfunctions or damage, which may mean appliance repair or possibly replacement.

Please call Jo-Carroll Energy if you think you have exceeded your gas meter’s capacity. If you are planning on adding an appliance that could put you beyond the capacity, please call us at 800-858-5522 to make arrangements to have a technician make adjustments to your meter set before installing the appliance.

TYPICAL GAS APPLIANCE LOAD RATINGS

- Boilers: 100,000 - 200,000 BTUs/hr
- Boilers (High Efficiency): 80,000 - 160,000 BTUs/hr
- Dryer: 22,000 BTUs/hr
- Furnace: 100,000 - 150,000 BTUs/hr
- Furnace (High Efficiency): 75,000 - 100,000 BTUs/hr
- Garage Unit Heaters: 30,000 - 100,000 BTUs/hr
- Gas Fireplace (standard) 25,000 - 35,000 BTUs/hr
- Generator (standby): 200,000 - 300,000 BTUs/hr
- Outdoor Grill: 25,000 - 40,000 BTUs/hr
- Pool Heater: 199,000 - 400,000 BTUs/hr
- Range: 60,000 BTUs/hr
- Range (Commercial): 120,000 - 225,000 BTUs/hr
- Spa Tub: 100,000 - 200,000 BTUs/hr
- Tank Water Heater: 35,000 - 60,000 BTUs/hr
- Tankless Water Heater: 140,000 - 200,000 BTUs/hr
- Kitchen Range – surface unit: 9,000 BTUs/hr
- Kitchen Oven – bake unit: 25,000 BTUs/hr
- Kitchen Range – broiler unit: 20,000

Energy costs impact on natural gas

a message from Mike Casper, JCE president & CEO

I suspect you have read at least one article forecasting higher energy costs. Why is this happening and what can you expect as a Jo-Carroll Energy member-consumer?

The energy industry was in a decade-long stretch of low wholesale power market

and natural gas prices until approximately June 2021. Since then, energy prices have increased at percentages in the U.S. and around the world not seen since the 1980s. The U.S. consumer-price index for electricity in August climbed 15.8% over the same month a year ago, the biggest such 12-month increase since 1981, according to a report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The index for natural gas increased 33% over the last 12 months.

Several factors explain why wholesale power and natural gas (NG) prices are higher than in the past:

- Demand for electricity consumption is increasing, specifically in the commercial

and industrial sectors as demand for products and services continue to ramp up. Much of the U.S. demand for natural gas has been for power generation with the phase out of coal-powered plants

- Natural gas prices have increased due to higher demand in the U.S. and Internationally.
- Overall inflation, which continues to not only impact energy prices, but the cost of almost everything we consume.

What you can expect. When the wholesale cost fluctuates, you may see this reflected in the Purchased Energy Cost on your bills.

continued

WINTER IS COMING!

The days are getting shorter and the weather is turning colder. With the changing seasons, here are some tips to keep your family safe and home comfortable this winter - and you might save energy, too!



The days are getting shorter and the weather is turning colder. How much you save on your energy bills this winter will depend largely on what you do now. Here are steps you can take to help make your home more warm and cozy and energy efficient when winter weather comes.

Heating system

- Have your heating system checked by a qualified professional before cold weather arrives.
- Clean vents and other heating system components.
- Replace your furnace filter and continue to replace it regularly throughout the heating season.
- Install a programmable thermostat; it will save energy by automatically lowering temperatures at night and when you are away from home.
- If your heating system is older, upgrade to an ENERGY STAR® certified high-efficiency furnace or heat pump.

Doors and windows

- Replace worn weather stripping around all doors
- Caulk around gaps in windows.
- Install storm doors if you have them.
- Consider replacing older windows with newer, more efficient models.

Chimney and fireplace

- Have the chimney and fireplace checked and cleaned by a professional.
- Repair or replace loose-fitting fireplace dampers; they will allow warm air to escape.
- Keep the damper closed whenever the fireplace is not in use.
- Install fireplace inserts, covers, glass doors or flue sealers to prevent heat loss through your chimney.

Outside your home

- Be sure to trim and clean around your gas meter and never pile anything on the meter. Remember to keep it clear of ice and snow, too!
- Replace any missing or damaged roof shingles.
- Clean gutters and make sure that downspouts point away from the house.
- Make sure that flashing around chimney and vent pipes is sealed tight.
- Trim tree limbs that are touching or overhanging the house.

Take steps now to prepare your home for cold weather and you'll save energy and stay safe and comfortable all winter.

What is JCE doing to mitigate the cost of rising natural gas prices?

Continued

For the coming winter, 87 percent of our normal winter usage is locked in through advanced purchases and use of storage.

Jo-Carroll utilizes a purchasing strategy to keep rates stable and as affordable as possible. We work year-round to advance purchase natural gas during buying opportunities to reduce the overall cost that we directly pass on to you.

Besides working closely with the American Public Gas Association (APGA) and the Illinois Public Energy Agency (IPEA), we continue to work closely with our wholesale natural gas provider to enhance reporting, which may mitigate impacts from future price spikes by being able to communicate with members sooner, so that you can safely curtail use if possible.

We are here to help.

We encourage members who have questions or may find themselves in need of assistance to contact the cooperative at 800-858-5522.

JCE offers a variety of programs to assist members:

- ✓ Help may be available through the LIHEAP program or JCE's own Neighbor-to-Neighbor fund.
- ✓ We offer budget and levelized billing to smooth out large fluctuations in your bill.
- ✓ Our energy advisor can help you use energy efficiently. A home energy assessment is free.



Jo-Carroll Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

STAY IN TOUCH



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