

PilotLight

Fall/Winter | 2026

Taking the chill out of gas prices this season



JCE Co-op President & CEO Mike Casper

As we prepare for the winter heating season, I want to share how JCE Co-op is working to protect you from volatile natural gas prices. We use a combination of gas storage and forward purchasing, securing supplies ahead of time rather than relying entirely on daily market prices. **We have approximately 80% of our typical natural gas usage secured at favorable prices**, helping limit our exposure to sudden price increases.

The U.S. supply outlook is encouraging. The U.S. Energy Information Administration projects natural gas production will average about 4% higher in 2026 than in 2025. Its latest storage report, released

October 8, shows national inventories approximately 2% above the five-year average for this time of year, providing a buffer as winter approaches.

Even with healthy supplies, cold weather and supply disruptions can cause prices to rise. Our purchasing strategy helps reduce that risk, though it cannot eliminate every market fluctuation or changes in bills caused by higher usage.

Our focus remains on dependable service and responsible management of your cooperative's gas costs. Thank you for trusting JCE Co-op to serve your home or business.

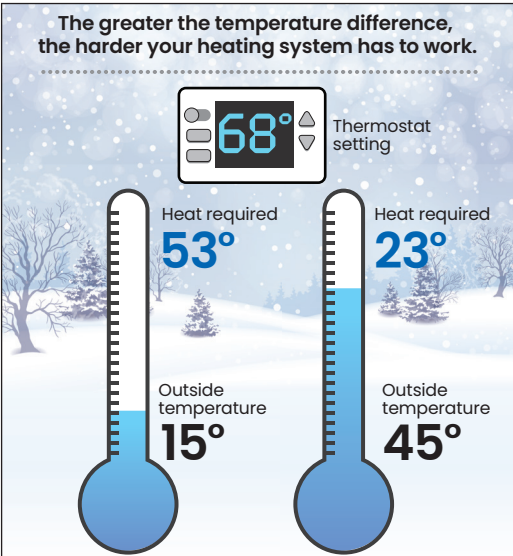
Why your natural gas bill changes in winter

Three things that can turn up your usage:

- **Colder weather:** When temperatures drop, your furnace works harder and runs longer to keep your home comfortable.
- **Thermostat settings:** Even a small increase in your thermostat setting can mean more heating time and greater natural gas use.
- **Billing period length:** Some billing periods have more days than others. More days can mean more therms used, even if your daily habits stay the same.

Look at therms, not just dollars.

A therm measures the amount of natural gas energy you use. Comparing therms from one billing period to another can help you understand how your usage changes with the weather, thermostat setting and billing-period length.



Here's a simple example using hypothetical household usage:



Fall (milder weather)
30-day billing period
Thermostat: 68°F
40 therms



Winter (colder weather)
30-day billing period
Thermostat: 68°F
90 therms



Winter (colder, higher setting & longer period)
33-day billing period
Thermostat: 72°F
130 therms

Look beyond the dollar sign. Your bill tells you what you paid. Your therm usage helps tell you why. Compare both total therms and average daily therms to get a clearer picture of your winter natural gas consumption.



The people behind the pipeline.

Local crews. Everyday safety. Year-round commitment.

Behind every reliable natural gas connection is a dedicated team working to keep our members and communities safe. From routine inspections to seasonal preparations, JCE Co-op’s natural gas employees work year-round to help ensure safe, dependable service.

Safety never takes a season off.

What happens behind the scenes?

JCE Co-op’s natural gas team takes a proactive approach to maintaining the system through regular inspections and preventative maintenance.

Leak detection	Crews routinely survey natural gas lines to identify potential leaks before they become larger concerns.
Equipment inspections	Valves, regulators and other critical components are checked to help ensure safe operation.
Corrosion monitoring	Crews inspect and monitor pipelines and equipment to help protect the integrity of the natural gas system.
Preventative maintenance	Regular system checks help identify potential issues and support long-term reliability.

Winter preparation starts before winter arrives. As temperatures drop and heating demand increases, JCE Co-op’s natural gas team continues inspecting and maintaining the system to help ensure it’s ready for the season ahead.

What can you do as a member to help this winter season?

