

Natural gas prices expected to be higher this winter

Natural gas prices for the upcoming winter heating season are expected to be higher than what Montana-Dakota Utilities customers paid last winter. For a variety of reasons, prices could be about \$30 more per month compared to the 2021-22 heating season, which runs November through March.

"We understand prices have increased for many day-to-day necessities because of inflation; securing a reliable source of natural gas for our customers is facing the same higher price pressures," said Nicole Kivisto, president and CEO of Montana-Dakota. "The company goes through a robust process to secure an adequate supply, using different sources and methods to mitigate price increases as much as possible while ensuring a reliable supply during our cold

winter months."

Montana-Dakota customers typically use 70 dekatherms of natural gas over the heating season. The expected increase in natural gas costs is about \$150 over the five months for an average residential customer, or \$30 per month. The price outlook is based on a 30-year weather average. The cost of natural gas is a straight passthrough to Montana-Dakota's customers and the company does not earn a profit on those costs.

Natural gas prices are determined by numerous market factors, such as supply and demand, weather, imports and exports, underground storage levels and natural gas production. There are three main factors impacting natural gas prices this heating season: A hot summer and fall increased electric demand across the

country and a large portion of that demand was met by natural gas-fired electric generation, which hit an all-time high in production in July.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has impacted prices in Europe mainly because European countries stopped importing natural gas from Russia and turned to other sources. The United States increased liquefied natural gas exports to Europe and became the world's largest LNG exporter during the first half of 2022.

Nationally, underground storage is about 9% lower than the five-year average, mainly because supply wasn't as abundant over the summer since it was used for electric generation. Natural gas in storage is an important source to meet the winter heating season demand; however, when storage levels are lower, it can play a

role in driving up market prices.

While supply has not kept up with demand, weather will likely be the biggest factor over the five-month heating season. For example, if the winter season is 10% colder than average, the winter heating season cost would be about \$200, or \$40 per month; conversely, if it's 10% warmer than average, residential customers would pay, on average, about \$80 more for the heating season, or \$16 per month.

"While prices are higher this winter heating season, natural gas is still 30% to 50% lower when compared to heating your home with electricity or propane," Kivisto said.

The cost of natural gas accounts for about 75-80% of a customer's monthly bill, so conservation can play a big role in mitigating high prices.

Taking measures such as installing a programmable thermostat, having a furnace inspection by a certified technician, changing furnace filters regularly and caulking or weather stripping leaky windows and doors can make a difference.

The company offers other tools, such as balanced billing as a way for customers to level out their payments over the course of the year, as well as guidance for customers to agencies that provide financial assistance, such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP.

More information on energy saving tips, customer assistance and balanced billing can be found on the company website: www.montana-dakota.com.

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. distributes natural gas and generates, transmits and

distributes electricity and provides related services in the northern Great Plains. The company serves approximately 144,225 electric customers and 283,500 natural gas customers in 262 communities in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming. Montana-Dakota is a subsidiary of MDU Resources Group, Inc., a member of the S&P Mid-Cap 400 index and the S&P High-Yield Dividend Aristocrats index and is Building a Strong America® by providing essential products and services through its regulated energy delivery and construction materials and services businesses. For more information about MDU Resources, see the company's website at www.mdu.com. For more information about Montana-Dakota, visit www.montana-dakota.com.



Carrie Krause pictured with Cass County Commissioner Chad Peterson, President of the ND County Commissioners Association (left) and Aaron Birst, Executive Director of NDACo.

Krause receives Excellence in County Government award

The North Dakota Association of Counties (NDACo) honored four county officials and one state official in a ceremony Monday during the NDACo Annual Conference in Bismarck. The annual Excellence in County Government Awards honor those who have shown exceptional dedication, leadership and involvement for the good of all counties.

Wells County Recorder Carrie Krause was chosen for the award in the County Official Category. Carrie Krause has been a County

Recorder for over 20 years. During her tenure, she has worked hard not only to improve her own skills but to mentor countless other Recorders across the state. She has held every leadership position in the North Dakota County Recorders Association (NDCRA) and has represented the NDCRA on the Board of the North Dakota Association of Counties (NDACo) since 2014, and is currently NDACo president. Carrie has used her positions of leadership to advocate strongly for pro-

fessional development, encouraging her peers to take advantage of opportunities to get involved in state and national events and serve on boards and committees to help shape policy for the future. She sets a great example, having taken more than 250 courses with the Institute of Local Government. Carrie always brings energy and positivity to everything she does. Krause was nominated by the N.D. County Recorders Association.

Continued from page 1

PFAU-

42 years. I am still active on both. I have been a volunteer worker at the Rockford Theatre the past 26 years. I understand community service. Lastly, I took over and have been continuing the family business in New Rockford since 1980.

Q: Why do you think you would be a good commissioner for the residents of Eddy County?

A: I understand how local government works. I have ample experience solving problems and stretching the available funds.

Q: What is the most important issue or challenge you anticipate tackling as an Eddy County commissioner?

A: I believe Eddy County needs a dedicated grant writer. I feel the county is allowing grants and other sources to go untapped.

Q: What do you see as the most pressing needs for infrastructure or capital projects in the county?

A: The county always seems to have a road, bridge or other property that needs repair or rebuilding. Any possible new business coming into the county is also welcome and would be supported.

Q: If new resources were available, what one area of county services would you feel most needs additional support?

A: Priorities change over time depending on what the latest and greatest need is. That priority needs to be assessed if and when new resources become available.

Also in the past, some state and federal grants and funds have had restrictions on what they could be used for, which would have to be considered.

Q: Should any part of the county budget be shielded from cuts? And if so, which area?

I am not sure I like the term "shielded from cuts." All department budgets are examined by the commissioners once a year. If a reduction is reasonable it is made regardless of which department. In the past the department heads have been very good at ferreting out the unneeded items in their budgets for the commissioners to consider.

Q: What element of the county's government is most effective, and why?

A: The staff working for the county are the heart and soul of the county, whether they be hired or elected.

Q: Currently, are county taxes too high, about right or too low?

A: Everyone would like to pay lower (or no) property taxes. However all county-provided services require funding. I believe the county commission does a good job controlling the budget every year. The commission could cut repairs, maintenance and salaries to lower the taxes for a year or two. In the long run, that plan would damage the county and cost taxpayers much more.

Q: Government transparency is viewed as an urgent need by many in today's world. As a commissioner, how will you ensure the county commission is accessible to the community?

A: All meetings are open

for the public to attend. All meeting minutes are published in the Transcript. Commissioner phone numbers are posted. In my case, I answer my business number 24 hours a day. Of course, I prefer not the early a.m. hours.

CASNR-

tag of a quarter million dollars is roughly a 20% increase over its price from just six months ago.

Holzwarth said such a constant swelling of prices was essentially moving the goalposts, making recent donations and the community's support even more pivotal to finally pulling the trigger.

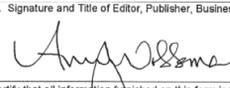
A few particular donations recently pushed them across the finish line, she added. After learning of CASNR's need for a new ambulance at Lifesavers in the Park, one local anonymous farmer donated 3,000 bushels of grain through CenDak Cooperative.

Those bushels translated into a donation of more than \$26,000. CenDak Cooperative then pitched in as well, donating an additional \$7,500 to match another donation made by Land O' Lakes in the same amount. That's more than \$40,000 in donations stemming from one conversation at Lifesavers in the Park this summer.

All totaled, generous donations accounted for roughly a third of the rig's overall cost, and CASNR couldn't be more appreciative of the community support.

"Without the continued support of the community, whether it be through volunteering their time or through financial donations, we wouldn't be here," said Holzwarth. "... it's vital."

As always, CASNR is actively encouraging commu-

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nity members to volunteer their time. EMTs and drivers are always appreciated, and those who join with a one-year commitment will have all their training paid for.

There's more to do than just emergency response, however. CASNR could always use volunteers to help with office duties, supply room inventory or serving for

special events. To volunteer, give CASNR a call at (701) 947-2355, or email newrockfordambulance@gmail.com.

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references to: North Dakota Newspaper Association, director@ndna.com.

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Public Notice

ANALYSES OF THE STATE-WIDE MEASURES APPEARING ON THE ELECTION BALLOT NOVEMBER 8, 2022

The following analyses are for the two measures appearing on the statewide general election ballot on November 8, 2022. This publication is required by section 16.1-01-07 of the North Dakota Century Code to enable voters to become familiar with the effect of proposed measures. The full text of each measure is available on the Secretary of State's website at vote.nd.gov or by requesting a copy from the Elections Division, Secretary of State's office at (800) 352-0867, ext. 328-4146, or from the office of any County Auditor. In addition, as required by section 16.1-01-17 of the North Dakota Century Code, a copy of the Legislative Council's report on the estimated fiscal impact of initiated Measures No. 1 and No. 2 is available on the Secretary of State's website at vote.nd.gov, by calling (800) 352-0867, ext. 328-4146, or by writing to Secretary of State, 600 E Boulevard Avenue Dept 108, Bismarck ND 58505-0500.

Analysis of Initiated Constitutional Measure No. 1
Initiated Constitutional Measure No. 1 was placed on the ballot by petitions circulated by a sponsoring committee. If approved, it would add a new article to the North Dakota Constitution.

Under the measure, an individual could not serve as a state legislator for a total of more than eight years in either the North Dakota House of Representatives or the North Dakota Senate, separately. It also would prohibit an individual from being elected as Governor more than twice. Service as a member of the legislature or election to the office of governor before the effective date of this measure would not count towards an individual's eight-year or two-election limit. An individual would not be allowed to serve a full or remaining term as a member of the legislature if serving the term would cause the individual to serve a total of more than eight years in that particular house. Any amendment to this article could not be proposed by the legislature, but only by citizen initiative. The article would become effective on January 1, 2023 if approved by the voters. If the measure conflicts with any other provision of the constitution, the measure states it would prevail over the other constitutional provision. The estimated fiscal impact of this measure is \$0 per biennium. Voting "YES" means you approve the measure summarized above. Voting "NO" means you reject the measure summarized above.

Analysis of Initiated Statutory Measure No. 2
Initiated Statutory Measure No. 2 was placed on the ballot by petitions circulated by a sponsoring committee. If approved, it would create a new chapter of the North Dakota Century Code. It would legalize the production, processing, and sale of cannabis and the possession and use of various forms of cannabis by individuals who are 21 years of age or older, within limitations as to location; direct a state entity to regulate and register businesses that produce or dispense cannabis for use by individuals aged 21 years or older, and the businesses' agents; permit an individual aged 21 years or older to possess a limited amount of cannabis product; provide protections, limitations, penalties, and employer rights relating to use of cannabis products; and specify that fees are to be appropriated for administration of the chapter. The estimated fiscal impact of this measure beginning in 2023 through the 2025-2027 Biennium is Revenue of \$3,145,000 and Expenses of \$4,985,000. Voting "YES" means you approve the measure summarized above. Voting "NO" means you reject the measure summarized above.

Published October 10 & 17, 2022

NOTICE FARMERS AND LANDOWNERS NOXIOUS WEED COST SHARING

The Wells County Weed Control Board will again do cost sharing. Cost sharing is done on non crop land, such as hay land pasture land, ect.

- Producers are asked to provide:
1. A map showing spots of each noxious weed sprayed along with legal land description and acres of each weed sprayed.
 2. Photocopies of chemical invoices listing amount of herbicide cost and your social security number, which is now required for any dollar amount received.
 3. Deadline to mail in your cost sharing is **October 25, 2022**.
 4. Mail your cost sharing to **Wells County Weed Control Board, P.O. Box 2, Fessenden, N.D. 58438-0002**. All cost sharing submitted must have a post mark.
- Examples of chemicals that will be cost shared on this year will be Tordon, 2,4D, Plateau, Overdrive, Milestone, Forefront, Chaparel, Escort XP, Cimmaron, Banvel, Latigo, and surfactants.
- In accordance with Chapter 4.1-47-02. Control of noxious weeds- Responsibility. Each person shall do all things necessary and proper to control the spread of noxious weeds.
- Penalties are provided for in Chapter 4.1-47-30 and Chapter 4.1-47-31. Pursuant to Chapter 4.1-47 in the North Dakota Century Code book, the following weeds have been declared noxious:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Absinth Wormwood | Canada thistle |
| Dalmation toadflax | Diffuse knapweed |
| Leafy Spurge | Musk thistle |
| Purple loosestrife | Russian knapweed |
| Saltcedar | Spotted knapweed |
| Yellow toadflax | Hounds tongue |

The Wells County Weed Board also declares the following weeds noxious:
Common Milkweed Perennial Sowthistle

Sincerely,
Wells County Weed Control Board

St. Aloisius 2022 Fall Wellness Days

6:00 to 9:30 AM

October 12th, 18th and 19th
City Hall (armory) in Harvey
120 West 8th St.

Panel of 18 lab tests including triglycerides, cholesterol & anemia screen for \$35.
Men can get a PSA test for an additional \$30.

Wells Co. District Health Unit will offer immunizations if needed.

Masks are optional.

Please do not attend if you have symptoms of possible Covid-19 including cough, fever, runny nose, chills, sore throat, loss of taste and smell, shortness of breath, vomiting or diarrhea.

Please note: No reimbursement by private insurance, Medicare or Medicaid for tests and no physician ordered tests will be done during Wellness Clinics.

Remember - only water for 12 hours before tests!!

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