

# Florence Energy News



## NATURAL GAS PRICES

*BE PREPARED!*

*DON'T BE CAUGHT IN THE COLD*

**A WEAKENING U.S. DOLLAR...HIGH CRUDE PRICES...GLOBAL DEMAND FOR ENERGY...AN INCREASING DEMAND FOR NATURAL GAS FOR ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION. ALL OF THESE ARE FACTORS THAT AFFECT INCREASING NATURAL GAS PRICES.**

Gasoline prices are increasing daily, but it is not the only energy source that is on the increase. Our suppliers are warning us that natural gas market prices are **35% to 40%** higher than last year for this summer, and the NYMEX prices for next winter are higher than last winter as well. Like gasoline, no one knows how high natural gas prices may go.

The Florence Gas Department will continue to utilize means to keep our rates as low as possible, by continuing the use of our Risk Management Purchasing Plan, by purchasing gas through a natural gas cooperative, and by maintaining our expenses as low as possible. This strategy provided you, our customer, with some of the lowest rates in North Alabama this past winter.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Call the Budget Billing Administrator (718-3210) and inquire about Budget Billing.
- Clean and/or replace your furnace filter regularly.
- If you have a fireplace, keep the damper doors closed when not in use.
- Consider replacement windows - double pane and/or storm windows reduce your energy usage by **25% to 50%**.
- Use a programmable thermostat. Each degree your thermostat is reduced can potentially save you **3%** on your heating bill.
- Consider insulating your attic. This could reduce your heat and cooling usage by **30%**.
- Change the rotation of your ceiling fan to clockwise. This will push warm air at the ceiling down into the living area.
- Perform annual maintenance on heating equipment for proper operation.
- Replace older equipment with more efficient natural gas equipment.

Hopefully this information will help you prepare for the rising energy costs we are facing to heat our homes and businesses. If you have any questions, please call our office at **760-6490**.

## METER READING

### *SAFE AND CLEAR METER ACCESS*

Please help your meter reader by maintaining the areas around your meters. Meter readers need to be able to safely access your meters. This means grass must be cut and bushes and shrubs should be trimmed away from meters. Please take the following into consideration:

- Keep the areas around your meters free and clear of clutter.
- Cut grass and trim bushes and shrubs around meters to provide safe access for meter readers.
- Please keep dogs and other animals secured and away from our meter readers and service areas.
- Gates must be unlocked.



Thank you from Florence Utilities!

## ATTENTION

**FLORENCE UTILITIES WILL BE CLOSED THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAY**

**SEPTEMBER 1**

**LABOR DAY**



## HEAT PUMPS

**CALL FLORENCE  
UTILITIES TO APPLY  
FOR LOW INTEREST  
FINANCING 740-6055**

An electric heat pump is the most comfortable and efficient way to heat and cool your home. In warm weather it keeps you pleasantly cool and in cold weather it circulates warm air evenly through every room.

### HEAT PUMP PROGRAM BENEFITS

Buying a new heating and cooling system can be confusing. That is why Florence Utilities and TVA created the *energy right* Heat Pump Program, to make it easier for you to find the best system for your home.

Look what the program offers you!

- Low-Interest, Fixed Rate Financing (6% Interest Rate Available through September 30th)
- Access to the Quality Contractor Network (QCN) - The Best Installation Contractors, Meeting the Highest Standards
- Easy and Affordable Financing (Existing Residential Installations Only)

If you are thinking about purchasing a new residential heating and cooling system, now is the perfect time.

Call Florence Utilities at 740-6055. The *energy right* Heat Pump Program can make a new electric heat pump more affordable than ever. You can even have your low monthly payments added to your electric bill and take up to 10 years to pay for your system!

**For a List of Program Contractors,  
Call Florence Utilities at 740-6056**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The amount of the convenience fee charged for utility bill paying with a credit or debit card will change soon. The new amount will be \$4.95 per payment.

Used cooking oil that residents or businesses want to get rid of will be collected with your weekly recycling. Please place your used oil in empty milk jugs or 2-liter soda bottles. Replacement bottles are available.

Pay your Florence Utilities bill online. Go to [www.florenceutilities.com](http://www.florenceutilities.com) for more information about this convenient payment method.

# Florence ENERGY

NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM FLORENCE UTILITIES

Buying a new heating and cooling system can be confusing. That is why Florence Utilities and TVA created the *energy right* Heat Pump Program, to make it easier for you to find the best system for your home. More information is include in this issue, and you may call 740-6056 for additional details.

Gasoline prices are increasing daily, as well as natural gas. Our suppliers are warning us that natural gas market prices are 35% to 40% higher than last year for this summer. The manager of the Florence Utilities Gas Department has prepared an important natural gas rate announcement, which is included in this issue for your review.

Help us accurately read your utility meters by ensuring that the meter readers are able to access your meter. Please trim back any bushes around your meter, and do not pile anything in front of or on top of your meter. More ways to help provide safe access to your meters are listed inside.

[www.florenceutilities.com](http://www.florenceutilities.com)