

Florence Energy News

FACTS

ABOUT YOUR

NATURAL GAS BILL



Natural gas bills fluctuate throughout the year. This can be due to circumstances the consumer can control and/or outside forces.

- Gas usage typically rises during colder periods, even though consumers might not change the setting on their thermostats. This is due to the furnace coming on more often to maintain the same temperature when the outside air is colder.
- Change in usage can occur due to additional appliances in the homes or inadequate weatherproofing of homes for colder weather.
- Meter reading discrepancies can happen if the meter starts running slowly or if a meter reader estimates a reading. It is the responsibility of the company, as well as the consumer's responsibility, to make sure billings are appropriate to the season. If a consumer notices a low bill during cold weather, they should contact the City of Florence Utilities Gas Department at 767-3430 to insure the meter is properly registering consumption. If a meter has slowed down, or stopped altogether (which would be indicated by zero usage on the billing statement), the consumer will still be billed on last year's usage for natural gas used at the residence.
- The wholesale cost of gas is another reason bills can fluctuate. The wholesale cost of gas has been deregulated at the federal level. Therefore, the cost of this commodity is dictated by market forces of supply and demand.

When demand is low, the price goes down. When demand is high, the price goes up. Therefore a consumer may not only be using more units of gas but also be paying more for the gas they are using.

For more information about your Florence Utilities bill, call 760-6512 or visit www.florenceutilities.com

GREEN POWER SWITCH®

What is Green Power Switch?

Green Power Switch is a renewable energy initiative that offers consumers in the Tennessee Valley a choice in the type of power they buy. TVA and local public power companies, working in cooperation with the environmental community, developed Green Power Switch as a way to bring Green Power (electricity that's generated by cleaner, renewable resources such as solar, wind, and methane gas) to Valley customers.



How much does Green Power Switch cost?

Green Power Switch is sold to residential consumers in 150-kilowatt-hour blocks (about 12 percent of a typical household's monthly energy use). Each block adds \$4 to the customer's monthly power bills. Consumers can buy as many blocks as they like. In other parts of the country, residential consumers who participate in

Green Power programs pay an extra \$2 to \$10 per month for Green Power. Green Power Switch is also marketed to commercial and industrial consumers who are asked to buy blocks based on the amount of energy they use.

How does Green Power benefit the environment?

The environmental effects of traditional energy sources like coal, natural gas, oil, and nuclear power can be significant. Although no source of energy is impact-free, renewable resources create less waste and pollution. In fact, an investment of an additional \$8 per month on your power bill buys enough Green Power Switch to equal the environmental benefits of planting an acre of trees in the Tennessee Valley.

Why does Green Power cost more?

Although renewable sources like sunlight and wind are free, the technology used to capture the energy they produce is still more expensive than traditional power generation methods. Increased demand may lead to expanded power production capacity and eventually to lower costs.

How Do I Sign Up for Green Power Switch?

To sign up, call Florence Utilities at 760-6512 or sign up at the TVA web site www.tva.gov.

Florence

ENERGY

NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM FLORENCE UTILITIES

In this issue information is included about Green Power Switch. Green Power Switch is a renewable energy initiative that offers you a choice in the type of power you buy. TVA and local public power providers, working in cooperation with the environmental community, developed Green Power Switch as a way to bring green power-electricity that's generated by cleaner, renewable resources.

Make sure you check-out the article inside that gives facts about your natural gas bill. You may be aware that natural gas bills fluctuate throughout the year. This can be due to circumstances the consumer can control and/or outside forces.

In the Calendar of Events section, there are details about the upcoming *Growing for the Future* workshop that will be held February 20 at the Marriott Florence Conference Center. In addition, please read the special notice regarding a change in curbside recycling and garbage collection.

May you continue to have a safe and prosperous new year.



Mayor Bobby Irons

www.florenceal.org

Special Announcement



The City of Florence has been recycling for a long time. We are proud to have one of Alabama's first and oldest curbside recycling programs. This makes our next change even more exciting. In the past, garbage and recycling collections have been on different days.

Beginning **January 30, 2006**, curbside recycling and garbage collection will happen on the **same day**. There won't be any changes to where you place your recyclables, just when. We hope this will remind citizens to recycle instead of throwing away. Remember, we take plastic (with a 1 or 2 on the bottom), any paper or cardboard, steel cans, any aluminum, and motor oil.

Another change you may notice: A new kind of truck may soon be roaming your neighborhood picking up your garbage carts. These automated collection trucks have a hydraulic arm on one side that picks up your cart, empties it, and places it back where it came from. These trucks have the latest safety features including a 3-camera system with color monitor to make collection faster and safer, all the while offering better protection for our employees. **Please remember to have your cart curbside by 7:00 am.** The wheels and handle should face your house and the bar faces the street. All garbage needs to be in the cart since this is the only thing these trucks can pick up. And be mindful of placement. The cart needs to be within 3 feet of the curb and at least 3 feet from any obstacle.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation as we ask you to bear with us during this transition. Please call the **Solid Waste and Recycling Department at 760-6495** if you have any questions.

February-March Calendar of Events

February 20

Growing for the Future

Make plans to attend this workshop on how to select plants and care for trees, shrubs, flowers, and lawn grasses. This will provide basic information for homeowners, educators, landscape architects, tree service contractors, master gardeners, grounds maintenance personnel, and garden center personnel.

Presented by: City of Florence Tree Commission
Florence Beautification Board
City of Florence Urban Forestry Dept.

Location: Marriott Florence Conference Center

Hours: 8 am-5 pm

Admission: \$30 advance registration
\$35 after February 13

Other: CEUs will be available for International Society of Arboriculture, Society of American Foresters, Forest Masters, Certified Pesticide Applicators, and Master Gardeners.

Contact: Urban Forestry Dept. 760-6314
Mayor's Office 760-6400

February 12

UNA Studio Jazz Band: A Special Valentine Concert

Featuring Guest Vocalist Edsel Holden

Location: Norton Auditorium

Hours: 2 pm

Admission: \$10 and \$5 student

Contact: UNA Band Room 765-4362 or 764-5019

March 8-12

Nights at the Round Table

Location: Zodiac Theatre

Hours: 8 pm Wed.-Sat. and 2 pm Sun.

Admission: \$10 adult and \$9 student

Contact: 764-1700