

The Spotlight

PIE&G
PRESQUE ISLE ELECTRIC AND GAS CO-OP



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

What's Inside

- Budget Billing
- Annual Meeting Oct. 25th
- Home Heating Credit
- Carbon Monoxide Dangers

September 2019



SIGN UP FOR OUR BUDGET PLAN!

You can't predict Michigan's weather, but you can count on PIE&G's Budget Plan to help keep your energy costs steady all year round. The Budget Plan lets you spread out your annual energy costs into equal monthly payments. It's a great way to help manage your household budget.

The Budget Plan* starts in October each year and runs through September. Your monthly budget bill is estimated for the coming year based on your previous 12 months of usage history. The annual total is averaged into 11

equal payments. For the 12th month (September), any differences from the budget are reconciled. The September bill will include catch-up charges if you used more energy than what you paid during the budget year, and if you used less energy than your budget billing and overpaid, you'll receive a credit.

If you are already enrolled in the Budget Plan and all paid up, there is no need to take any action. Your enrollment will continue. **If you are enrolled in the Auto Pay Plan, please review your September bill to ensure sufficient funds are available to cover your reconciliation balance, which may be higher than your usual budget payment.**

**Eligibility requirements apply. Members participating in assistance programs, such as the Winter Protection Plan, are not eligible for the Budget Plan.*

ANNUAL MEETING FRIDAY, OCT. 25

PIE&G will conduct its annual meeting of the membership on **Friday, October 25 at the Onaway High School.**



Members will hear various reports on the cooperative. The meeting concludes with director election results and door prizes. Lunch will be provided after the meeting.

For more information about the meeting and your director candidate ballot, please refer to your September-October issue of *Country Lines* magazine which should mail around Labor Day.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend!



Registration - 8:30 a.m.
Business Meeting - 10:00 a.m.

HOME HEATING CREDIT (HHC)

For help with winter heating costs, apply for a Home Heating Credit (HHC) if you have a low income, are receiving agency assistance, or are receiving unemployment compensation. Eligible customers must meet guidelines based on household income, exemptions, and heating costs. **The HHC may ONLY be used to pay for home heating costs (gas, propane, oil) and may not be used for your electric bill unless you use electric heat at your home.**

The Michigan Department of Treasury determines eligibility and issues the payment vouchers (energy drafts). You do not need to file a state income tax return to receive the HHC. Forms are available at most public libraries, post offices, and Secretary of State offices. The form can also be found online by searching for "2018 Michigan home heating credit claim" (MI-1040-CR7). You must file (postmark) your claim by September 30, 2019.

You may designate that your HHC is payable directly to PIE&G or to other registered heat providers. The name on the HHC must match the name on the account. Everyone named on the HHC must sign it to authorize payment.

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Owned By Those We Serve . . . Locally Controlled . . . Committed to Community . . . Not For Profit

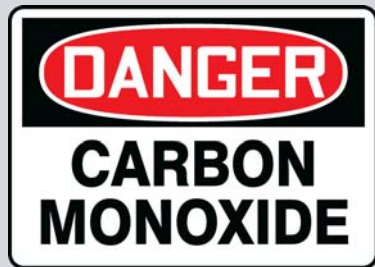
CARBON MONOXIDE CAN BE DEADLY

Protect Your Family

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, but at high levels, it can kill in a matter of minutes. Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. If appliances that burn fuel are maintained and used properly, the amounts of CO produced are usually not hazardous. However, hundreds of accidental CO poisonings are caused each year by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning appliances. Even more die from CO

produced by idling cars. Children, the elderly, and people with anemia or a history of heart or respiratory disease can be especially susceptible. Symptoms include dizziness, nausea, vomiting, headache, confusion or passing out.

Carbon monoxide detectors can alert you about high levels of CO in your home, which will give you more time to get outside for fresh air and to safety.



**IF YOU SMELL GAS OR SUSPECT A GAS LEAK,
CALL 1-800-655-8565 IMMEDIATELY**



SCHOOL'S OPEN!

Please Watch for Students!

Use caution when driving in school zones. Under Michigan law, motorists must stop at least 20 feet from a school bus whenever a bus is stopped and using its flashing red lights. The "STOP" arm is usually extended at this time. Drivers may only proceed once the bus resumes motion or the visual signals are no longer actuated. [MCL 257.682(1)]

UTILITY FLAGS IN THE GROUND

When a homeowner or company contacts the Miss Dig system, all utility companies must mark their own underground facilities with flags within 3 days of the request. These flags mark the location of underground facilities so the homeowner, contractor or other utilities can avoid digging in those marked areas. **These flags must remain in the ground for three (3) weeks.** Removing the flags before that time could result in damage to nearby property and may cause serious personal injury.

PIE&G appreciates your cooperation and help to keep everyone safe.



Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

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GAS EMERGENCY ONLY 1-800-655-8565

We will gladly accept your Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. No additional charge for using your credit card.



Most natural gas rates and charges are not regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission.