



Questions About 'Budget Billing'

A Publication Of The Missouri Public Service Commission

What Is Budget Billing?

Budget billing is an optional payment program that allows you to pay the same amount each month for your electricity or natural gas use. This monthly amount is typically based upon your use the last 12 months. **Contact your local utility provider for more information as plans and guidelines vary by company.**



What Is An Advantage Of Budget Billing?

Budget billing gives you more certainty about what your electric or natural gas bill will be each month.



How Is The Budget Bill Amount Calculated?

Your energy company estimates your payment based on your previous year's consumption.



What Factors Can Cause A Change In My Payment?

Weather. Warmer or colder than normal temperatures will impact the amount of electricity or natural gas you use.



If you improve the energy efficiency of your home, your use will be lower than expected. For example, you can improve home energy efficiency when you replace an old air conditioner, insulate your attic or seal air leaks.



Can My Budget Billing Amount Be Adjusted During The Year?

Yes. Your account is reviewed periodically. A change in the cost of electricity or natural gas or your monthly use can also affect your payment. Your actual use may cause your budget plan payment to go up or down for the next budget billing period.



How Do I Sign Up For Budget Billing?

Contact your utility provider to see what type of plans it offers. In most cases, the only requirement is that you pay your bill on time. Customers may choose to leave "budget billing" at any time.

Need Help Paying Your Utility Bills?

Programs like the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) can assist low-income Missourians with heating bills during the months of December, January, February and March. ECIP assists low-income customers who have their gas or electric service discontinued for non-payment or have received a disconnect notice.

Contact your local Community Action Agency about LIHEAP and ECIP or your local electric or natural gas company for a list of other organizations that provide energy assistance.

For more information

Created in 1913, the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) regulates investor-owned telecommunications, water and sewer, natural gas, electric and steam utilities. The PSC works to ensure that Missouri citizens receive safe, reliable and reasonably priced utility services. If you have an inquiry, billing question or service-related problem that your utility provider cannot answer, please call the PSC at 1-800-392-4211 or visit our website at www.psc.mo.gov