



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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## **MORE THAN 1,000 NIPSCO CUSTOMERS ATTEND LAKE COUNTY ENERGY FAIR**

**MERRILLVILLE, Ind.** – The Genesis Center in Gary, Ind., played host this past weekend to the Lake County Energy Fair, which attracted more than 1,000 people who learned how to manage their winter heating bills, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) announced today.

“This was a great event that empowered our customers to learn how to manage their winter heating bills,” said NIPSCO Public Affairs Manager Michael Suggs, who worked hand-in-hand with members of the Lake County Energy Task Force to host the event. “We’re committed to working with reputable community groups to help our customers stay warm and be safe in their homes during the winter heating season.”

The fair featured interactive demonstrations – led by Menards and Lowe’s home improvement stores – on how to properly weatherize a home. Other exhibitors – including the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor, Metro Corps of Gary, and the Gary Fire Dept., among others – showed attendees how to utilize energy assistance programs, read utility bills, as well as the importance of installing smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

“This was a true example of the community working together to develop real solutions and address concerns regarding winter heating bills,” said Suggs. “Even though gas costs are projected to decline this winter, it’s important for customers to understand that if we have an extremely cold winter, heating bills most likely will be high.”

Among the companies and organizations that exhibited were: NIPSCO; Indiana chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy; Menards; Lowe’s; Home Depot; Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor; Urban League of Northwest Indiana; Calumet Township Trustee Mary Elgin; Northwest Indiana Community Action Corp.; Gary Neighborhood Services; Metro Corps of Gary, Inc.; Healthy East Chicago; South Lake County Community Services; and the Gary Fire Dept.

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**LAKE COUNTY ENERGY FAIR ATTRACTS 1,000**  
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**Editor's Note:** Select photographs of the Energy Fair are attached to this news release with the following captions:

- **Photograph #1:** Interactive demonstrations were the main feature of the Lake County Energy Fair. These sessions provided NIPSCO customers with information on how to properly apply weather-stripping and caulking to windows, which helps to keep heat in and cold air out.
- **Photograph #2:** NIPSCO distributed more than 1,200 compact fluorescent light bulbs, which use 60 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer.
- **Photograph #3:** NIPSCO employee Charline Johnson distributes NIPSCO's "99 Ways to Conserve Energy" brochure to a customer.

NIPSCO, with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With over 712,000 natural gas customers and 445,000 electric customers across the northern third of Indiana, NIPSCO is the largest natural gas distribution company, and the second largest electric distribution company, in the state. NiSource distribution companies serve 3.8 million natural gas and electric customers primarily in nine states. More information about NIPSCO is available at [www.nipsco.com](http://www.nipsco.com).

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