

NEWS



A NiSource Company

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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NIPSCO, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY ENERGY TASK FORCE TO HOST ENERGY FAIR ON NOV. 11

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) and the St. Joseph County Energy Task Force today jointly announced that they will be hosting an Energy Fair on Sat., Nov. 11, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club in South Bend.

The Energy Fair, which is being sponsored by NIPSCO and is free to the public, is being held to provide customers with the tools, resources, and information needed to prepare for the winter season. The fair will feature information on ways to manage winter heating bills, weatherization demonstrations, entertainment, giveaways and refreshments.

“NIPSCO is proud to sponsor and join the St. Joseph County Energy Task Force in hosting this Energy Fair,” said NIPSCO President Mark Maassel. “The fair will offer consumers a venue to learn how to prepare for the winter heating season, manage their heating bills by learning how to use energy wisely, benefits of weatherization, as well as how to utilize bill-payment programs.”

Over the past several years, the cost of heating a home during the winter season has become increasingly more expensive due to the high cost of natural gas on the wholesale market, which remains volatile due to a tight balance between supply and demand.

Early this month, NIPSCO announced winter heating bills could decrease by as much as 30 percent if temperatures are normal in the Midwest this winter. Even though gas costs on the wholesale market have decreased, heating bills could be high if the Midwest sees a colder-than-normal winter.

“The energy fair is a step toward empowering customers to get to the root cause of their heating issues, which often can be solved by applying some simple fixes in the home,” said NIPSCO Public Affairs Manager Mike Charbonneau. “As the price of natural gas fluctuates with the market, the price NIPSCO charges to deliver the gas to customers has not changed since the late 80s.”

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**NIPSCO ANNOUNCES ST. JOSEPH COUNTY ENERGY FAIR
PAGE 2 OF 2**

Among those organizations that will be exhibiting include: NIPSCO; United Way; Martin's Supermarkets; Habitat for Humanity; Pasou Foods, Inc.; Red Cross; Family and Children's Center; St. Joseph Regional Medical Center; Big C Lumber; Menards; and Indiana-Michigan Power. In addition, other groups such as the Indiana Underground Plant Protection Service (IUPPS) will be on-hand to show consumers how to stay safe during the winter heating season, as well as the importance of calling before digging.

“We want our customers to stay safe and warm in their homes during the winter heating season and we appreciate the collaboration with the St. Joseph County Energy Task Force to get information in the hands of customers,” said Charbonneau. “The energy fair is just one example of a cooperative commitment to reaching out to and educating our customers.”

Hands-on demonstrations showing customers how to properly caulk and seal windows and doors will be held throughout the day. In addition, door prizes will be awarded every hour to attendees who attend at least five booth presentations.

Editor's Note:

The Energy Fair will be held at the following location:

**The Boys & Girls Club
502 East Sample Street
South Bend**

About NIPSCO

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.

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