



SEMCOENERGY  
GAS COMPANY

# Connectivity

May / June 2019 | [www.semcoenergygas.com](http://www.semcoenergygas.com)

## BUDGET PLAN 2019 ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN

*Enroll in SEMCO ENERGY Gas Company's budget program and help manage the seasonal variances in your energy bills. The budget program averages your gas usage over the last year and allows you to pay the same amount each month. Enrollment is FREE and open to eligible residential customers during May, June, and July of each year. To be eligible, your account must be up to date.*

### PROGRAM DETAILS

- **Your budget payment is based** on the previous 12 months of consumption at your address, current gas rates, and then is adjusted for weather variances.
- **Your monthly bill** will show your budget payment amount, along with your actual usage and the current cost of gas. Any other charges billed to your account, such as a HomeServe Plan, must be paid in addition to your budget payment.
- **Your consumption** is monitored and your budget may be adjusted to help ensure that you do not face any unexpected high energy bills in the future.
- **You will remain enrolled** in the program unless you request to be removed or make a late payment. If you are removed from the program, the entire balance on your account will become due. To re-enroll, you must meet all the enrollment requirements.

**Reconciliation month:** In the 12th month of the budget, your actual gas usage is compared with the amount you paid. If you paid for more gas than the actual usage, the overpayment will appear on your bill as a credit. Any credit balance will be applied to future payments or refunded at your request. If you paid for less gas than the actual usage, your bill will show a balance due. The entire amount must be paid, in addition to your current charges, for continued participation in the budget program.

**The commercial budget** program is open to eligible commercial customers during May and June. For eligibility requirements, please contact Customer Service at 1-800-624-2019.

**The budget program also works great with the Direct Payment Plan.** The **Direct Payment Plan** is a **FREE** service where your monthly payments are automatically withdrawn from your designated checking or savings account on your bill due date each month.

Contact Customer Service at 1-800-624-2019 or [customer.service@semcoenergy.com](mailto:customer.service@semcoenergy.com).  
You also may visit [www.semcoenergygas.com](http://www.semcoenergygas.com).

### TAKE OUR GAS PIPELINE SAFETY SURVEY

SEMCO ENERGY Gas Company is currently surveying customers on their basic knowledge of gas pipeline safety programs, including MISS DIG. The survey is quick, easy, and conducted over an automated telephone system that can be contacted at your convenience.

Your responses will help SEMCO create a more effective and far-reaching safety message for all our customers.

If you are willing to give about five minutes to help with this survey, please call 1-866-409-4488, anytime.

We appreciate your help and look forward to hearing from you.

### DOG SAFETY



Your family pet could be an on-the-job safety issue for SEMCO ENERGY Gas Company employees. While SEMCO appreciates your family pets and encounters them every day, it is difficult to determine which pets are friendly and which ones are unfriendly. Our workers experience several dog attacks every year. Please keep all dogs indoors when SEMCO crews are working on your property.



## ENERGY TIP

Using electricity for clothes drying is shrinking your wallet and in these tough times, every penny counts. On average, consumers can dry two loads of laundry with natural gas for the same cost as drying one load with electricity. By switching your dryer to natural gas, you could save up to \$150 per year.\*

\* Based on EIA data for average residential electric rates in Michigan.

## SEMCO ENERGY GAS COMPANY HAS LOW GAS COST

*You may not know that SEMCO ENERGY Gas Company has among the lowest gas cost available.*

It is also important to remember that SEMCO does not mark up or include a profit on the cost of natural gas or require a long-term contract. If you consider purchasing natural gas from an alternative gas supplier, make sure you read and understand the contract you will sign. Visit the State's website at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mpsc/makinginformedchoice\\_188250\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mpsc/makinginformedchoice_188250_7.pdf) for more information on alternative gas suppliers and how to be an informed consumer.

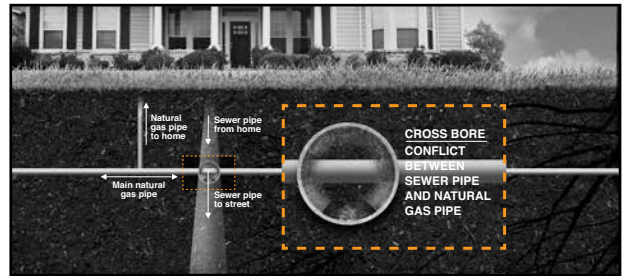
If you buy gas from an alternative supplier, make sure you periodically compare their price with other suppliers, including SEMCO. Unlike SEMCO, some alternative suppliers may increase their rates after an introductory period, so your rate may not be the best available price. Visit <https://w2.lara.state.mi.us/GasChoice/>.

In addition to natural gas being one of the least expensive ways to heat your home, heat your water, dry your clothes, and cook your dinner, did you also know that natural gas is cleaner burning than fuel oil, propane, and the coal used to generate electricity? You can save money and promote clean air by switching to natural gas.

Gas prices do fluctuate, but you should know that SEMCO works hard to keep your energy cost low.

Natural gas works for Michigan and SEMCO works for you. For more information about services provided by SEMCO, visit [www.semcoenergygas.com](http://www.semcoenergygas.com) or call 1-800-624-2019.

## SEWER CLOGS AND UTILITY LINES



*That Clog Just Might Be a Utility Line*

A blocked sewer line may be the result of another utility line (gas, electric, cable TV, or communications) having been accidentally drilled through the sewer line.

Attempting to clear this type of blockage can result in a serious accident involving loss of life, injuries, and significant property damage. Please follow the precautionary measures detailed on SEMCO's website [www.semcoenergygas.com](http://www.semcoenergygas.com) in the Safety section under Sewer and Cross Bore Safety to help prevent such accidents.

## CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG – IT'S FREE

It's easy to contact MISS DIG 811 before you dig. All Michigan residents must dial 811 before beginning any digging and excavating project to have utility lines located. 811 is the toll-free nationwide "Call Before You Dig" number. Just dial 811 and your call will be routed to the MISS DIG Call Center in Michigan. MISS DIG 811 will notify affected member utility companies to send crews to mark underground lines for **FREE**.



## HOW TO REACH SEMCO ENERGY

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

1-800-624-2019 or

[customer.service@semcoenergy.com](mailto:customer.service@semcoenergy.com)

### GAS LEAKS AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

1-888-GAS-1-GAS (1-888-427-1427)

[www.semcoenergygas.com](http://www.semcoenergygas.com)

