

New Study Touts Impact of Energy Efficiency

This past December, three organizations unveiled a study looking at the ways in which efficiency has transformed our lives and can help us build our future. The [Energy Efficiency Impact Report](#), sponsored by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), Alliance to Save Energy (ASE) and the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE), explored 54 indicators to incentivize and explain energy efficiency.

To many, this may not come as a surprise. In the natural gas utility sector alone, companies budgeted \$1.49 Billion in 2017 for natural gas efficiency programs. Survey results from the AGA [Utility Energy Efficiency Survey in 2018](#) show that every day in the U.S., utilities spend \$4 million on efficiency programs. This has helped customers save 237 trillion Btu of energy and offset 12.5 million metric tons of CO₂ in 2017 equivalent to 2.6 million cars off the road for 1 year.

Estimates from the *Energy Efficiency Impact Report* show that energy efficiency could deliver more than 40 percent of the carbon reductions targets outlined in the Paris Agreement using existing technologies. No carbon tax, no policy-driven electrification – our goals can be achieved today by using the technologies we have access to today.

Those technologies are already working and are a key tool as we focus on achieving our energy goals. Although residential natural gas accounts for only four percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, American homes are using gas more efficiently and producing fewer emissions. A majority of states have already implemented energy efficiency resource standards and this report shows they have seen a 4x increase in savings.

Over the past 30 years, the natural gas system has added 21.2 million residential customers, yet consumption has remained stable due to energy efficiency improvements. A [recent report](#) from the American Gas Foundation demon-

strates how widespread adoption of emerging natural gas direct use technologies could contribute significantly to achieving deep reductions in GHG emissions in the U.S. residential sector at much lower costs than other options under consideration. It estimates that natural gas residential



emissions could be reduced by approximately 40 percent at a very competitive cost of \$66 per metric ton of CO₂ emissions.

Since 2011, new investments in both electric and natural gas energy efficiency programs have increased by more than 25 percent, leading to a 98 percent increase in incremental savings in natural gas. When compared to 2006, energy efficiency programs today are generating more than triple the incremental savings in electricity.

The *Energy Efficiency Impact Report*, as well as the data provided by AGA members in the Utility Energy Efficiency Survey, shows the enormous remaining potential and momentum for existing and new energy efficiency technologies. With this new year upon us, the industry needs to keep taking advantage of the evolving opportunities in energy efficiency through policy, program development, efficiency champions and data analytics.

Posted on January 17, 2020 by Adam Cloch | American Gas Association. <http://www.truebluenaturalgas.org/>

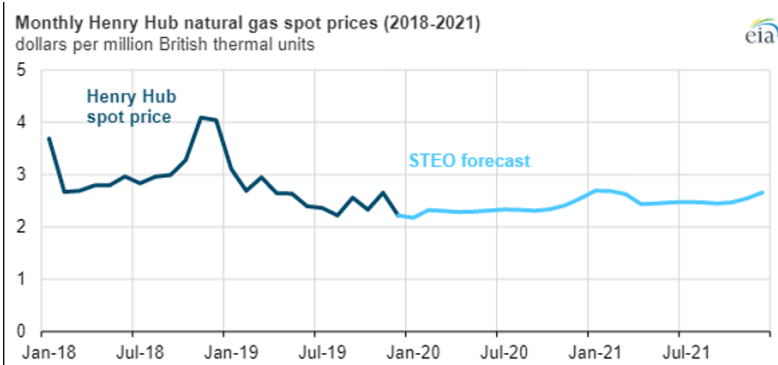
EIA expects lower natural gas prices in 2020 as production outpaces demand

In its January 2020 [Short-Term Energy Outlook](#) (STEO), the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) forecasts that average U.S. natural gas prices will be 9% lower in 2020 than in 2019. EIA expects lower natural gas prices will be the result of continued production growth primarily in response to the following factors:

- Improved drilling efficiency and cost reductions
- Higher associated gas production from oil-directed rigs
- Increased takeaway pipeline capacity from the Appalachian and Permian production regions

EIA expects the natural gas spot price for the U.S. benchmark Henry Hub will average \$2.33 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) in 2020, about 24 cents lower than the 2019 average of \$2.57/MMBtu.

Following a year of decline, EIA expects 2021 natural gas prices to rise by 9% because of upward pricing pressure from declining growth.



Gathering of Gas Utilities to “Talk CIP”

On February 12 the Blue Flame Conservation Committee is meeting to talk about what each utility is doing for CIP. The meeting also gives them a chance to ask their CIP colleagues from other utilities what initiatives they are pursuing.

The meeting is being held in CenterPoint Energy’s Foodservice Learning Center in Minneapolis and is expected to run 3-4 hours including lunch. A conference call option will also be available.

The committee will also discuss if there is interest in organizing additional informational meetings/events for Trade Allies and/or utility customers about various CIP programs and emerging technology.

If you are a Blue Flame Utility Member and are interested in attending the meeting, contact Carter Dedolph (carter.dedolph@centerpointenergy.com) or Annette Henkel (ahenkel@blueflame.org).

Preparing for the Great Minnesota Get Together – Shaking Things up at “The Lodge”

The Blue Flame State Fair Committee is working to create a more dynamic, informative State Fair experience for visitors of the Lodge and a successful event for Exhibitors in 2020. Some of the things the Committee is exploring:

- Developing new marketing tools including advertising in the Star Tribune State Fair Guide (including digital ads).
- A more aggressive social media plan (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook) for the Lodge as well as work with exhibitors to become more engaged in social media promotions.
- Replacing/fixing the air conditioning units and the window frames on the Lodge roof as well as some cosmetic updates.
- Organizing a contest to paint a mural on the side of the building.
- To encourage more traffic, we are considering placing an inflatable Blue Flame near the front of the building; creating a large billboard pointing into the building to get the Gopher State One Call color yardsticks; and creating a more inviting front entrance.
- Purchasing a game/activity that people can do as they move through the building. This could provide an avenue to educate visitors about natural gas as well as win a prize.
- In our efforts to find more exhibitors the Committee would like to structure the Lodge around topic areas, with each exhibitor being the chosen representative for their topic/segment of the natural gas industry.

If you are interested in learning more about exhibiting at the Lodge or joining the Committee, contact Annette Henkel at 763-424-1841. Thank you to the committee for all their work including Co-Chairs Rose Shannon, Franklin Energy & Joe Mozeika, Mulcahy Inc.

The ballots have been counted and the results are in!

The results of the Blue Flame Gas Association Board of Directors elections have been tallied. **Elected to serve a 3-year term:**

Rob Gleason, Austin Utilities

Joe Mozeika, Mulcahy Co.

Greg Olson, Xcel Energy

Continuing their service on the Board of Directors:

Todd Berreman, CenterPoint Energy

Paul Bertucci, Franklin Energy

Jeremy Fischer, Great Plains Natural Gas Co.

Brian Hammarsten, BDH Consulting

Jim Hoch, Standby Systems

Shawn Walls, MN Energy Resources Corp.

Mark Your Calendars

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Blue Flame Fishing Event — Mille Lacs Lake

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Blue Flame Golf Event — Cannon Falls Golf Club

Thursday, Aug. 27-Labor Day, Monday Sept. 7

Blue Flame Lodge at the MN State Fair

Blue Flame Contact Info —

Address: **413 Wacouta Street, Suite 230,**
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Email: ahenkel@blueflame.org

Phone: **763.424.1841**

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE ASSOCIATION?

Associate members are \$200 per year.
Join the team now!

Benefits to Joining:

- Networking Opportunities
- Industry Contacts
- Advertising Opportunities
- Member rates for Association events
- Opportunity to exhibit at the State Fair

[JOIN HERE](#)

Blue Flame Golf Event

With near record attendance last year, here is your chance this year to get additional exposure to colleagues at the **2020 Blue Flame Golf Event.**

There are numerous **sponsorship opportunities** for your company to -- signage on the popular beverage cart roaming the course; your logo on drink or lunch tickets; signage with your name and logo at a Hole or the Putting Green, and many more.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Quote of the Quarter

“When it snows,
you have two choices:
shovel or make
snow angels.”

Blue Flame is on Facebook

Search for MN Blue Flame Gas Association and “LIKE” us. Check regularly for up-to-date information and event pictures.



Have something to submit? E-mail change?

If you would like to submit information to be considered for the next member newsletter or have an email change, contact Annette at ahenkel@blueflame.org



Chris Forkenbrock

Senior Business Development Manager

8253 131st Street West
Apple Valley, MN 55124

952 431 4994 Office
651 356 9981 Mobile
www.constellation.com

christopher.forkenbrock@constellation.com

TOM DANLEY
GENERAL MANAGER, SERVICE



909 MONTREAL CIRCLE | ST. PAUL, MN 55102

C: 651.602.6663

O: 612.363.3200

EMERGENCY SERVICE: 651.602.6606

E: tdanley@harriscompany.com

John J. Morgan Co.
Manufacturer's Representative

Thomas G. Morgan

Office: (651) 698-0089
Cell: (651) 303-6027
Fax: (651) 698-6967
Email: tom@jjmorgan.com
1413 Thompson Avenue, Suite 1
South Saint Paul, MN 55075



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RYAN COMPANY, INC.

3361 Republic Avenue • Saint Louis Park, Minnesota 55426
Bus.: (952) 915-6475 • 1 (800) 966-9058 • Fax: (952) 915-6480
Mobile: (612) 803-1660 • Direct: (952) 767-7063
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