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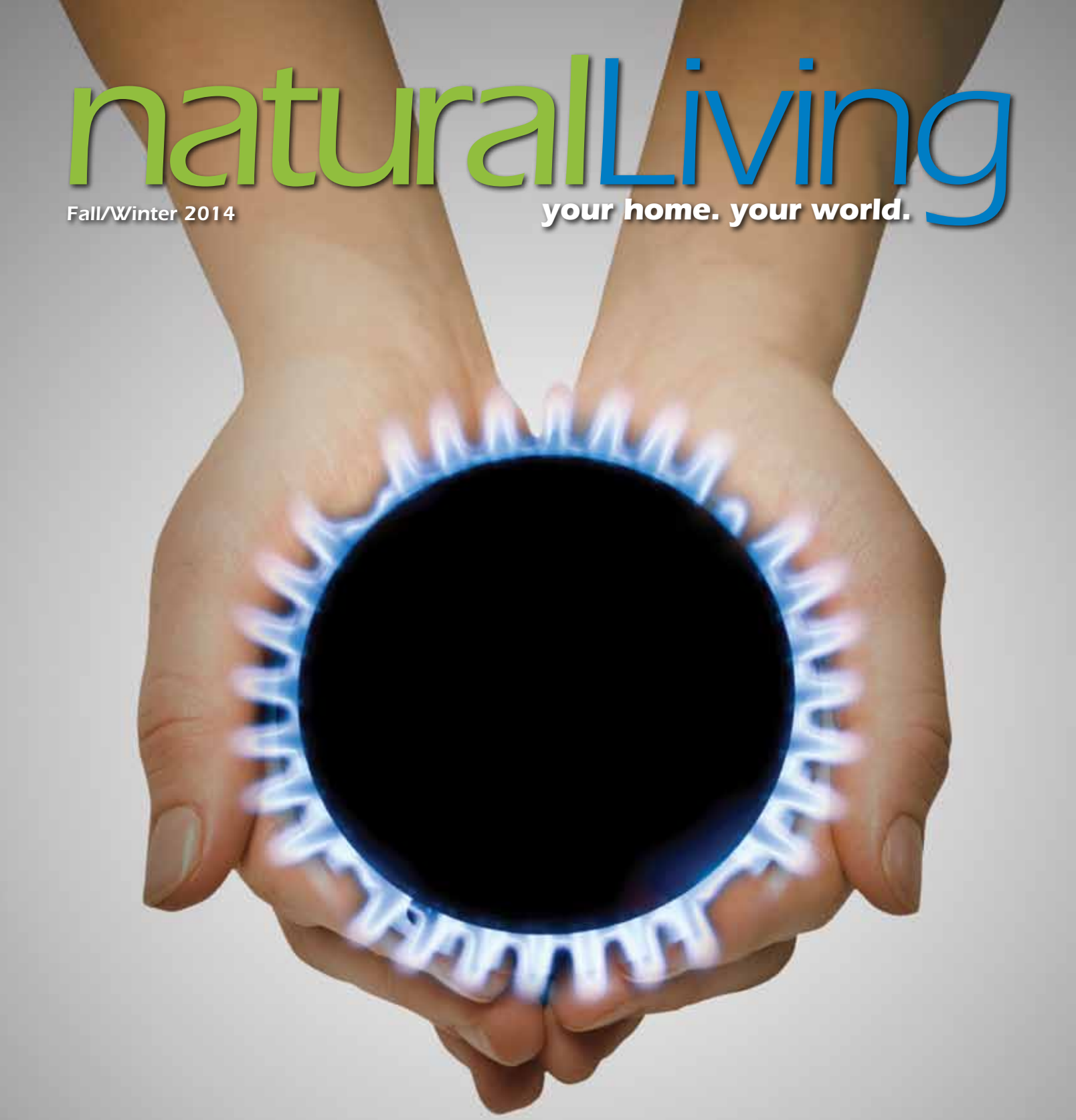
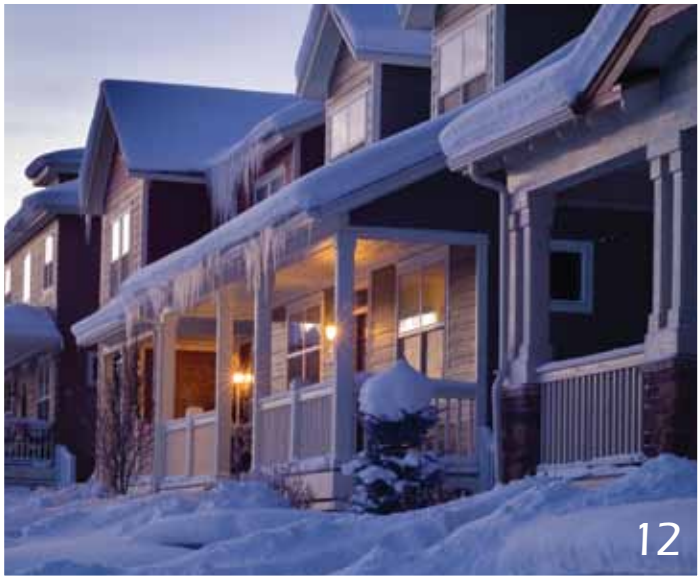


Natural Gas

There When You Need It Most

INSIDE

FEATURES



IN EVERY ISSUE

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A Long, Prosperous Future

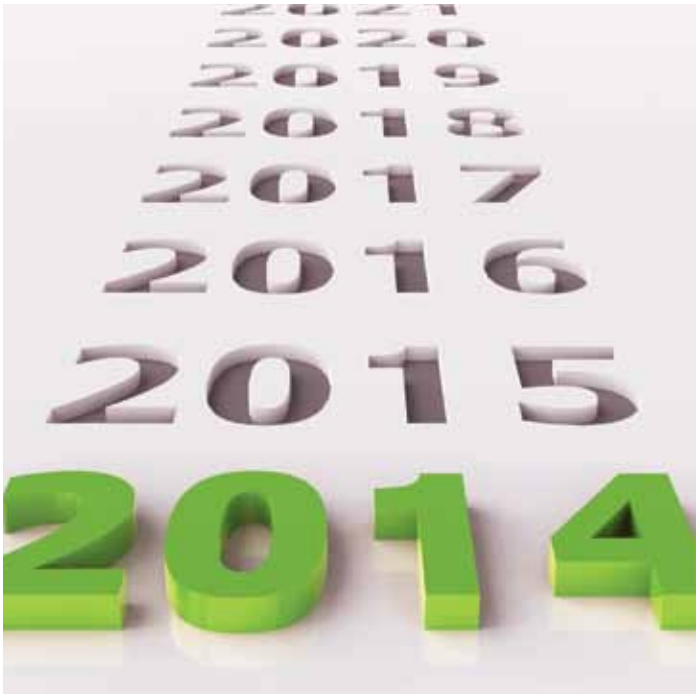
By Kristy Alpert

The best relationships in life are the ones where you can pick up right where you left off, despite distance or time spent apart. Once that level of trust has been established, there's a wonderful peace of mind that comes from knowing those truly dependable friends aren't going anywhere, no matter what the future holds.

Similar to a time-tested friendship, natural gas provides warmth, comfort and reliability, with a supply that will be with us long into the future.

Natural gas has always been a valuable, economy-supporting domestic product (almost all of the natural gas used in North America comes from North America). And, over the past decade, due to the discovery of large shale gas reserves across North America, natural gas has become even more abundant. Led by new drilling methods, shale gas reserves have begun to even outnumber conventional gas reservoirs, leading experts to predict that we can count on a lengthy supply of this natural resource for decades.

In his January 2012 State of the Union Address, President Barrack Obama stated that America's natural gas supply could last up to 100 years. Many experts agree – natural gas will be abundant in the United States well into the future. ■



Source-to-Site Energy Efficiency

By Kristy Alpert

For those of us familiar with the grind of a daily commute, it's a well-known fact that no matter your method of transportation, a lot can happen on the way between your home and work. But depending on your mode of travel, you may end up late and harried, or early and relaxed. A car, train or bike will each get you from your home to the work site in one way or another, but not all of those methods offer the same efficiency in getting there as quickly and safely as possible.

The same can be said about energy sources. Although electricity might seem like an efficient power source compared to natural gas, the opposite is actually true. Natural gas is highly efficient, uses less energy and, overall, results in less waste. In fact with natural gas, about three times more usable energy is delivered to a home as compared to the process of generating and transporting electricity. Plus, natural gas is cleaner.

Using natural gas to heat your home and water, can make a big difference in your household budget. A typical home can save about $650 per year with natural gas appliances.

According to a 2012 Accenture survey, more than a third of U.S. consumers were considering switching to natural gas appliances over electric to save on their energy bills. With the abundance of natural gas reserves discovered over the past few years, the numbers are even higher for interested consumers to make a clear switch to the more efficient energy source. ■

A Captivating Convenience

Natural gas brings comfort and ambiance to outdoor gatherings.

By Tonya McMurray

An outdoor fire is captivating, almost a little magical. From the traditional campfire to today's fire pits, outside gatherings rely on the warmth and charm of a flame.

The National Association of Home Builders notes that outdoor living spaces are one of the top five trends in new homes. Those outdoor living spaces have evolved beyond the simple grill on the patio to include kitchen set ups, fireplaces, fire pits, gas lights and tiki torches.

COZY CONVENIENCE

Many consumers are turning to natural gas to fuel their outdoor living spaces because of the comfort and convenience it provides. But also because of its affordability and environmentally friendliness. Bottled propane can cost at least 50 percent more to fuel outdoor appliances than a direct connection to natural gas. And, bottled propane emits 18 percent more carbon dioxide than natural gas when burned on a grill.

Along with cost, convenience is a key advantage of using natural gas for outdoor living needs says Kimberly Stuteville, national sales director at Napoleon Products.

"It never fails that you run out of propane when you need it most," she says. "With natural gas, it is always flowing, and the cost is nominal compared to the cost of filling a propane tank."

Hoss Budde of Burnaby Manufacturing Ltd. agrees. "There is no running down to your local distributor to fill the tank," he says. In addition, he notes, consumers don't have to worry about disposal of old tanks.

OUTDOOR COOKING

Natural gas grills are often the centerpiece of outdoor living spaces. Whether modestly sized and freestanding or large permanent structures, natural gas grills are always ready and produce consistent cooking results that take the guess work out of outdoor cooking.

> "It never fails that you run out of propane when you need it most. With natural gas, it is always flowing, and the cost is nominal compared to the cost of filling a propane tank."

SETTING THE MOOD

Just as an indoor fireplace serves as both décor and heat source, outdoor fireplaces provide warmth, add flair and set the mood for outdoor living spaces. Outdoor fireplaces can be surrounded by granite, tile, stone or other material to fit the style of your home and landscaping.

Some homeowners opt for fire pits to provide outdoor ambiance. Fire pits are the modern equivalent of the old-fashioned campfire. Offering a focal point for outdoor gatherings, fire pits are an ideal place to gather around for casual conversation, roasting marshmallows or just enjoying the outdoors. Some fire pits even feature grills for cooking.

Natural gas-fueled fire pits and fire places provide the warmth and comfort of an outdoor fire without the hassle of cutting, hauling or cleaning up wood.

LIGHTING THE WAY

Gas-fueled lights and tiki torches add the finishing touches to outdoor living spaces. Whether enclosed or with open flames, outdoor lighting fueled by natural gas offers a reliable light source, even during a power outage. And, while bugs flock to electric lighting, natural gas lighting does not tend to attract insects.

Natural gas patio heaters extend your enjoyment of outdoor spaces

beyond the typical summer season. Heaters can be portable or permanently installed and offer warmth in early spring and late fall or on cooler summer nights.

SETTING UP YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE

Consumers who rely on natural gas in their home can install a gas convenience outlet outside that is connected to the home's natural gas supply. Homeowners can then plug outdoor appliances into the home's outlet to provide a steady supply of gas to fuel grills, patio heaters, fire pits, lights and other outdoor gas appliances.

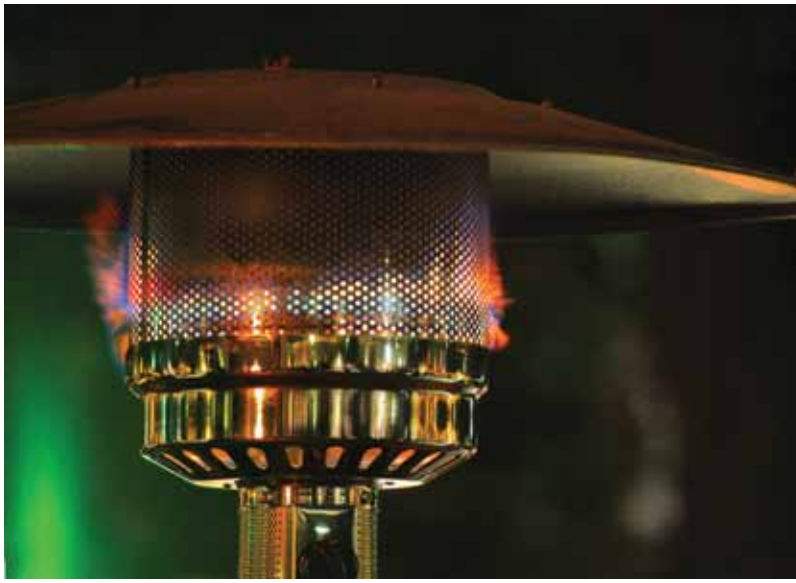
Convenience outlets come with a variety of safety features that are not common for propane-fueled appliances. Convenience outlets can automatically shut off if the temperature becomes too high, says Budde with Burnaby Manufacturing. And most require that the manual valve be shut off before the appliance is connected or disconnected.

Napoleon Products´ Stuteville advises consumers to use qualified contractors to install or convert any appliance to natural gas. Contractors can typically perform propane to natural gas conversions easily and affordably.

Stuteville advises consumers to make sure that any natural gas appliances they purchase come with an automatic shut off or a tilt shut off to disable the appliance should it become too hot or tip over. She also recommends purchasing units with push-button ignition systems so consumers can light the products without a match.

In addition, Budde recommends that buyers make sure all appliances have an approval sticker from agencies such as CSA or UL. This will ensure that appliances meet all safety standards.

Outdoor living spaces offer versatility and an inviting way to enjoy your home. Whether you have a small patio with a grill or a larger outdoor living space, you can count on natural gas to bring comfort, convenience and ambiance to all your outdoor gatherings. ■



To Tank or Not to Tank

Tank and tankless water heaters provide hot water families can depend on.

By Kristy Alpert

Consumers have options when choosing a water heater, and most homeowners in the market today are insisting upon high performance natural gas equipment. This is because natural gas water heaters cost less to operate, are durable, more energy efficient, and many may be able to supply hot water even during power outages.

Studies have found that the typical American household can save an average of about $250 or more per year on their energy bills by replacing an electric water heater with a natural gas water heater. And since household water heating accounts for about approximately 14 percent of the home's energy consumption throughout the year, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, natural gas customers are looking at significant savings no matter what their family's hot water usage looks like.

Natural gas water heaters come in both tank and tankless models. While both provide an unparalleled level of reliability, each offers their own unique benefits.

TANK WATER HEATERS

Also known as storage water heaters, tank-style water heaters are the most common water heaters used in homes today. These models include a gas burner that heats the water, which is then stored in an insulated tank until it's needed.

When the gas burner initially heats the water at the bottom of the tank, the hot water quickly rises to the top of the unit to be used throughout the home while the cooler water sinks to the bottom to be heated again. This cyclical process is pretty simple in theory, and the homeowner can select and set their desired temperature for the stored hot water.

While tank water heaters can vary by size (labeled based upon the amount of gallons they hold, typically ranging from 30 to 100 gallons) and other specifications, all tank models store hot water for long periods of time, making hot water conveniently available whenever consumers need it.

Another huge benefit of tank systems is reliability, even during a

power outage. A majority of tank-style gas water heaters do not require electricity or external power to fulfill their domestic duties. These units are able to supply a home with hot water during blackouts or other power-less situations, providing a dependable solution to an unpredictable problem. And the tank models that do require electricity to operate still have hot water in them that may be used hours after the blackout occurs, so you can still take a hot shower until you have used up the hot water in the tank.

TANKLESS WATER HEATERS

Tankless water heaters are often referred to as "on demand" hot water heaters, and rightfully so. These petite systems can fit almost anywhere in the home and heat water on an as-needed basis by circulating water through a heat exchanger that heats the water using a natural gas burner as the water passes through the exchanger on its way to be dispensed throughout the home.

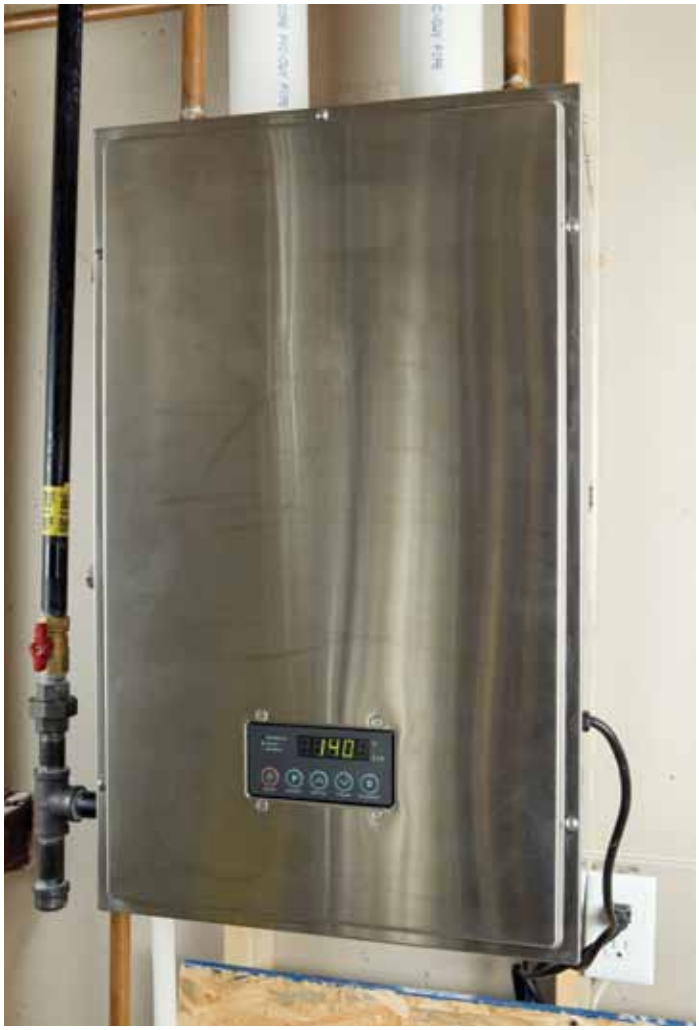
Rather than waiting for a tank water heater to recover from use, the water that comes out of these tankless units is ready to use for any hot water needs immediately, offering homeowners a continuous supply of hot water. The result is that users only pay to heat the water they use as opposed to paying to keep water hot 24 hours a day in a tank-style unit.

Once installed, tankless units can last more than 20 years (most conventional tank units generally last anywhere from 8 to 12 years), and use less energy overall since they are more efficient. For example, the average Energy Factor for a tank-style model is .62. While the lowest Energy Factor available on a tankless unit is .82.

With such innovative features, tankless units offer an un-ending supply of hot water to the home and carry a comparable level of reliability to tank units. Although these water heaters use electricity, the amount of power they draw is very small and can be run off a small battery back-up system in the event of a power outage.

NATURALLY DEPENDABLE

Despite the differences between tank and tankless water heaters, the quality, value and dependability of natural gas water heaters just can't be beat. No matter which model is selected, both provide a reliable and efficient supply of hot water. Plus, peace of mind, knowing that for some models, you can still have hot water even when the electricity is out. ■



LIVING UP TO ITS PROMISE

YOU CAN COUNT ON NATURAL GAS FOR CLEAN AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY.

By Tonya McMurray

Life can be unpredictable.

Whether it's big issues – like the economy or the job you thought was a sure bet – or small matters – like a delayed flight or the child who swore she'd take care of the dog once you bought it – life is full of things that don't quite live up to their promise.

Not so long ago, natural gas might have made that list, too.

Ten years ago, experts estimated that North America had only a 50-year supply of natural gas left, based on consumption levels at the time.

But over the past decade, there's been a transformational shift in the perception of natural gas. An energy source once viewed as finite and diminishing is now recognized as an abundant, affordable and clean fuel – an important part of North America's secure energy portfolio.

A NORTH AMERICAN RENAISSANCE

In the last year, the amount of natural gas produced for domestic use has grown significantly, and the United States is now exporting natural gas to Mexico, says Chris McGill, vice president of Policy Analysis for the American Gas Association (AGA). And, the country is developing facilities to export liquefied natural gas to the rest of the world. Natural gas production has grown 28 percent in the last eight years alone, he adds.

"North America is in a renaissance period of developing our indigenous natural gas resources," says McGill.

In 2012, the AGA predicted natural gas production would continue to grow and be able to maintain a stable price of between $4 and $6.50 per million Btus. McGill says those predictions have proven correct, with prices currently around $4 per million Btus.

He says the U.S. saw the strongest demand ever for natural gas in January 2014. That was followed by the highest consumption ever in both February and March of this year.

"That was all accomplished with our own gas supply resources," McGill says. "This past winter demonstrates the genuine resource potential. This past heating season reset the bar for what we can do, and we spring forward from here. This is not the best we can do. Production will continue to grow, and with more infrastructure added, I have a very optimistic vision for what can happen in the domestic market."

McGill isn't the only one with a positive outlook on natural gas. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimates that natural gas-fired electric generation plants will account for nearly one-half of all new power plants added through 2035.

Natural gas now serves nearly 67 million homes and 5 million businesses, according to the AGA. Natural gas makes up almost one-fourth of all primary energy used in the U.S. and supports the employment of nearly 3 million Americans across the country.

ABUNDANT SUPPLIES

Over the last decade, discoveries of large shale formations thousands of feet below the earth's surface have vastly increased the amount of natural gas available in North America. Much of the growth in gas production has occurred with a combination of hydraulic fracturing, often referred to as fracking, and horizontal drilling, both new technologies that have rekindled the industry.

Domestic gas production accounts for almost all natural gas consumed in the U.S., with shale gas production accounting for more than 40 percent of gas produced, according to the AGA. That growth means there is enough total gas resources to meet current demand for at least 100 years. And, prices and supply are expected to remain stable for more than a decade.

INCREASING ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Because North America is now producing almost all the natural gas it is using, domestic supply is not dependent on foreign markets, changes in political alliances, or other disruptions in foreign supplies.

Only a few years ago, some of the U.S. natural gas was imported. While most imports came from Canada and South America, about 20 percent came from the Persian Gulf countries of Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. This led to more pricing volatility and a less reliable fuel supply.

With gas pipelines and storage controlled domestically, consumers have the assurance that gas will be available when they need it. The stable domestic supply helps maintain stable pricing and leads to greater energy independence for the U.S. and Canada.

A JOB CREATOR

Keeping natural gas production in North America also means strong job and economic growth within the United States and Canada. A recent economic impact study estimates that the natural gas industry contributed more than $380 billion to the U.S. economy and is responsible for 2.8 million American jobs over the course of a year. And, most of those jobs are well-paying jobs.

In a January 2014 report, IHS CERA and the American Gas Foundation estimate that by 2035, natural gas exploration and development will add 3.5 million North American jobs.

The report also predicts the industry will add $475 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product and nearly $125 billion in government revenue to the U.S. economy over the next 20 years. The report estimates that international companies will invest at least $50 billion through the end of the next decade on projects that take advantage of the abundant gas supply and low prices in the United States.

A recent report from the Duke University Energy Initiative indicates that local governments in oil-rich areas are already benefiting from increased production, concluding that the net impact of recent oil and

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gas development has allowed local governments to maintain, and, in some cases, expand or improve the services they provide.

AN AFFORDABLE ENERGY SOURCE

Natural gas costs less to use than other major home energy sources. According to the AGA, homes that use natural gas appliances for heating, hot water, cooking and clothes drying spend an average of $653 less per year than homes using electric appliances.

During the past two winter heating seasons, both electricity and heating oil have been three to four times the cost of natural gas. And, the U.S. EIA predicts the same will be true next year.

The AGA, the EIA and many other experts predict natural gas prices will remain stable for at least the next decade. In a recent study, IHS CERA and the American Gas Foundation projected gas supply and pricing out for several years using a number of different demand scenarios. McGill says the study indicated demand could be met with stable pricing for all the demand scenarios examined.

McGill notes the stable pricing is a result of the abundant supplies located within North America as well as a stable infrastructure of pipelines and storage facilities. He predicts the industry will continue to add infrastructure, meaning that North America will have ample facilities to store the natural gas needed to meet consumer demand.

The U.S. has more than 2.4 million miles of pipeline that transport natural gas to more than 177 million Americans, according to the AGA. McGill ranks the country's pipelines and storage facilities as "the best in the world." The U.S. Department of Transportation rates pipelines as the safest form of energy transportation.

Natural gas utilities spend more than $19 billion each year to enhance the safety of natural gas transportation and distribution. These efforts have led to a nearly 90 percent decline in serious pipeline incidents over the last 30 years and result in reliable delivery streams to consumers.

Not only do natural gas appliances cost less than electric appliances, but they typically operate even during power outages. Because natural gas lines run underground, outages are rare, making natural gas a reliable fuel source regardless of the weather.

CLEAN ENERGY

Natural gas is a fossil fuel found in deep underground reservoirs of porous and permeable rocks. Composed largely of methane, natural gas is the cleanest burning fossil fuel and produces smaller amounts of combustion byproducts than coal or refined oil products.

Natural gas is also more efficient than other fuel sources. Only 30 percent of the energy used to generate electricity actually reaches your home; the other 70 percent is lost in generation, transmission and distribution of electricity to your home. Natural gas, on the other hand, loses only 10 percent of its energy in the distribution process, so 90 percent of natural gas that enters the pipeline reaches your home.

Technological advances in the last several years have brought greater efficiency in production, delivery and use of natural gas. Over the past 40 years, the number of natural gas residential customers in North America has grown by 70 percent; however, today's consumers use nearly 40 percent less natural gas because of increased efficiency throughout North America.

Natural gas appliances are more efficient and use less energy than electric appliances, adding to their affordability. Natural gas dryers dry clothes quicker and with less energy than electric dryers. Natural gas hot water heaters typically heat water twice as fast as electric hot water heaters. Natural gas furnaces last longer than electric heat pumps and deliver heat that is up to 25 degrees warmer.

Natural gas vehicles offer a clean energy alternative for consumers. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognizes the Honda Civic Natural Gas sedan, which has been in production since 1998, as the cleanest commercially available internal-combustion vehicle.

In the past two years, General Motors and Chrysler have expanded their natural gas vehicle offerings, and other auto manufacturers are planning commercial natural gas offerings for the U.S. market as well.

While natural gas vehicles cost more than gasoline or diesel vehicles, fuel savings can offset the additional vehicle cost, especially for higher mileage drivers. And, natural gas vehicles have lower carbon emissions than traditional vehicles.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Once viewed as an average industry, natural gas is enjoying a renaissance, offering consumers a reliable, clean fuel source. Newly discovered North American shale reserves will produce enough natural gas so consumers can count on adequate fuel supplies at affordable prices.

Because natural gas is produced domestically, the market is stable and dependable. Consumers don't have to worry about political unrest, shifting diplomatic loyalties or other international concerns disrupting the fuel supply.

Domestic production means consumers can also count on the natural gas industry to make a positive contribution to the nation's economy. New, well-paying jobs and more fuel dollars staying in North America translate into an economic boost. And, taxes and fees from natural gas production give state and local governments additional funding to provide services for citizens.

Consumers can also be assured that natural gas is an environmentally friendly fuel source. From production that generates less carbon pollutants to higher efficiency appliances that save energy, natural gas is a sound environmental choice.

In a world where so many things are unpredictable, natural gas offers a reliable fuel solution. For decades to come, consumers can count on natural gas to heat their homes, power their vehicles, fuel outdoor living spaces and generate electricity – all at an affordable and cost-effective price. ■

Natural Gas
Friendly to Your Wallet and the Earth

Natural gas is an affordable and efficient heating fuel.

By Tonya McMurray

If you're looking for a heating fuel that is friendly to both your budget and the environment, you can count on natural gas to keep you warm without burning through your cold, hard cash or adding unnecessary pollutants to the environment.

Natural gas is the cleanest of all fossil fuels, emitting fewer harmful pollutants than others, according to Environmental Protection Agency comparisons. And natural gas tends to be cheaper than electricity, heating oil or propane, making it an ideal choice for a heating fuel in new installations and remodels as well as a good source for supplementary heat.

Most homes use a hot air furnace or boiler for heating. Other small gas heaters — such as a wall furnace, gas-fired baseboard heater or floor furnace — are often used for supplemental heating.

Even homeowners who have electric heat systems can add natural gas space heaters for supplemental zone heating in highly used rooms or in areas that are harder to heat. Zone heating can also be turned on and off as needed, allowing for better control of energy consumption.

Consumers can count on natural gas heating to be more energy efficient and to have lower energy costs than their electric, oil or propane-powered counterparts.

Natural gas is expected to remain less expensive than both oil and electricity for the next several decades, according to "Fueling the Future with Natural Gas: Bringing it Home," a 2014 study by IHS CERA and the American Gas Foundation.

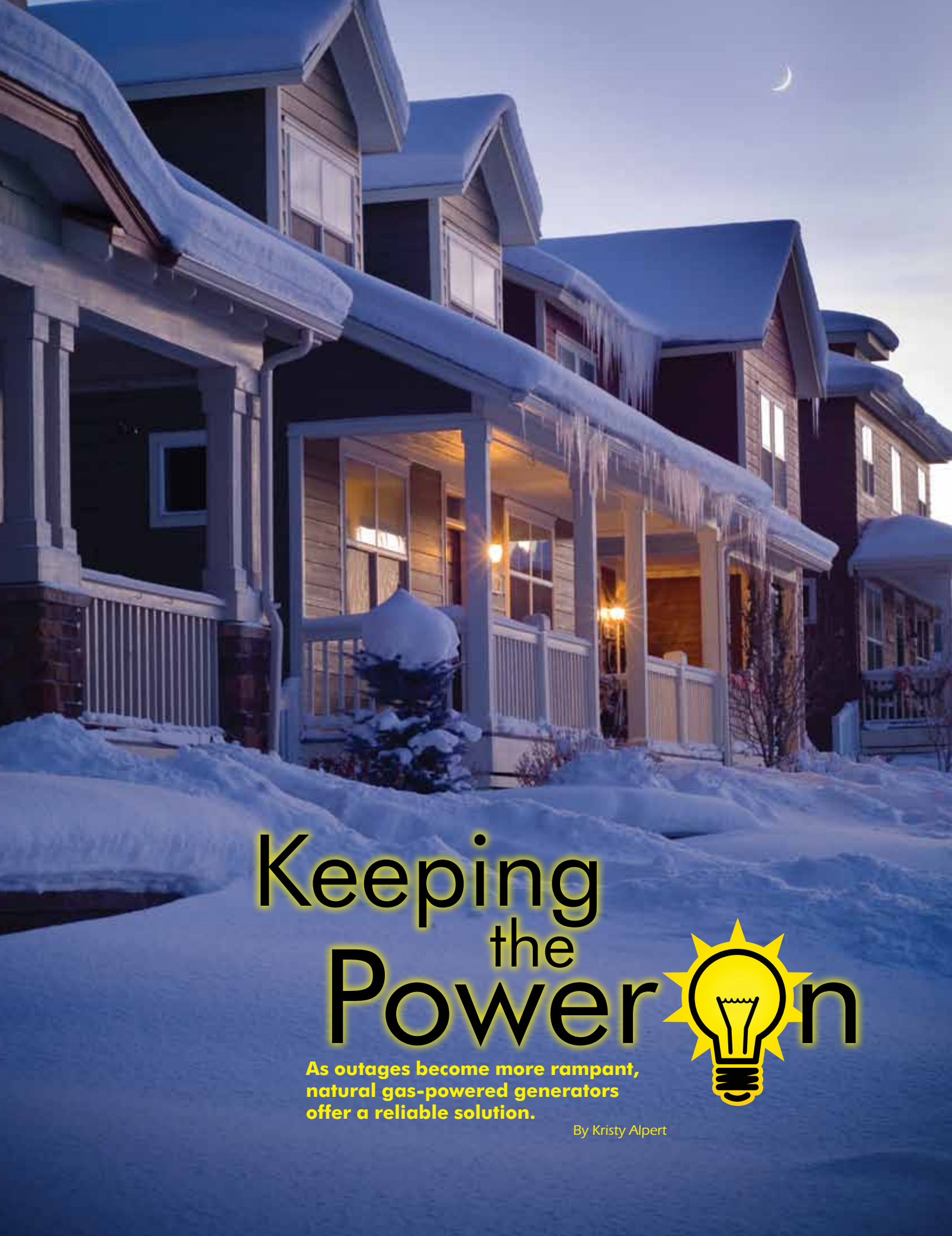
The report notes that on a national average, residential electric rates are expected to be almost four times as high as residential natural gas rates by 2030. Oil prices are expected to be three to four times more expensive than natural gas for several decades.

IHS CERA predicts that residential gas prices (including both the cost of gas as well as transmission and distribution) will remain below $11 per million British thermal units (MMBtu). (The British thermal unit is a common method of comparing costs across different fuel sources.)

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects that U.S. annual average residential electricity rates will increase 3 percent in 2014 and an additional 2.4 percent in 2015.

EIA estimates that 2015 average electricity costs will be $37.10 per MMBtu and average oil costs will be $26.90 per MMBtu. EIA estimates 2015 natural gas costs at $11.02 per MMBtu.

For clean, efficient and affordable heat, natural gas is a fuel you can count on. ■



Keeping the Power On

As outages become more rampant, natural gas-powered generators offer a reliable solution.

By Kristy Alpert

Once the clouds and debris cleared following Hurricane Sandy's destructive rampage along the eastern coast of the United States in October 2012, there wasn't much to be seen along the powerless, darkened streets of New Jersey – except for the warm light glowing through the windows of one natural gas-powered home in Moonahachie.

While more than 6 million homeowners across more than 15 states struggled in darkness during the super storm, which racked up $65 million in damages on everything from electrical lines and power centers to flooded basements and ruined roadways, Ligia Siguencia and a few of her closest friends quietly hovered over a decadent dinner spread. The beautiful sound of a humming refrigerator and soft voices serenading her husband Francisco's way into the room with Siguencia's lit-up birthday cake filled their heated home, fueled by the only source of power working in the city: a natural gas generator.

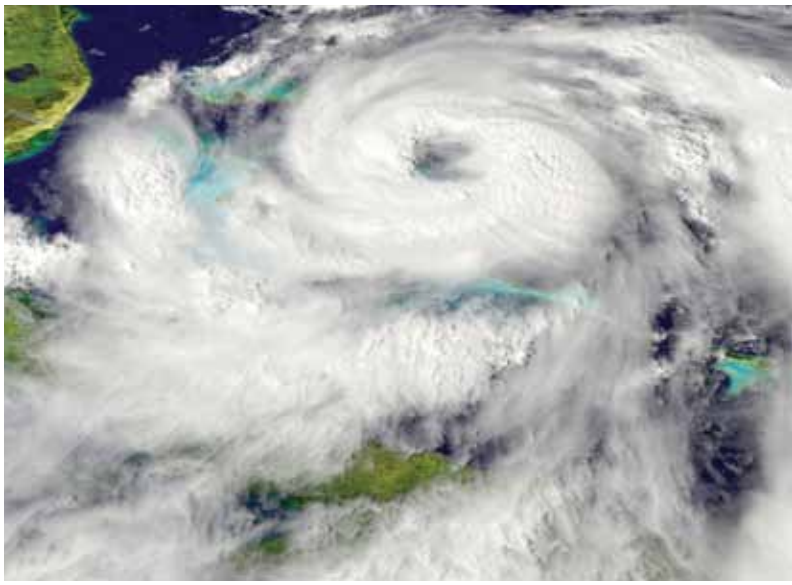
National Geographic caught the first image of Siguencia's group during Hurricane Sandy, and the article the writer penned about the 50-year-old's birthday celebration shed further light on the importance of having a backup power system in place in case of a power outage or even greater emergency. While most of the city and surrounding area was left in the dark when the electricity went out during the grid-disabling disaster, natural gas users with home generators were back up and running in less than a minute.

A POWERFUL IMPACT

Power outages have become more rampant throughout the years, as weather patterns have become increasingly turbulent. But it's not just hurricanes and natural disasters that could affect the grid. Researchers at the University of Minnesota have recorded that over the past two decades, the amount of non-disaster related blackouts (human error, equipment failure, etc.) have increased by 124 percent, leaving a distressing toll on homeowners.

When faced with the threat of going without power when needed the most, homeowners have a natural choice to make. Natural gas-powered standby generators essentially serve as a substitute for utility supplied-power when utility power is unavailable (i.e., during a blackout or other outage). These easy-to-install generators are often referred to as "standby units" and offer a dependable solution to prolonged outages in the home. Since the natural gas delivery infrastructure is mainly located underground, as opposed to electric's above ground/exposed system, natural gas is better equipped to weather the same conditions that wreak havoc with the electrical distribution system.

"With a natural gas-powered standby unit, the homeowner can do anything they could have done before the utility power went down, assuming the unit is sized properly," explains Bob Heller, director of New Business Development at Generac Power Systems Inc. "The more natural gas the customer has in their home for heating, cooking, water heating, etc., the smaller the standby generator has to be to serve the electric loads. Therefore, with a properly-sized standby generator in place, the customer gets all the benefits they would have if the utility power was present."



POSITIVE IMPACT

Heller has been working in the energy efficiency and power generation space for more than 25 years with natural gas end-use solutions. He has experienced firsthand natural gas' dependability.

"Peace of mind is huge," Heller says. "Knowing that regardless of whether you are present in the home or not when the power goes out, your generator will automatically start is very comforting.

"Once it is running, the home continues to function as it did before the power interruption," he adds. "With natural gas as a fuel source, there are none of the inconveniences of needing to journey out and get fuel [as is the case with getting gasoline for portables] and stopping the generator to refuel it. The natural gas generator continues to run as long as it is needed operating off of a safe, reliable and uninterrupted natural gas fuel supply."

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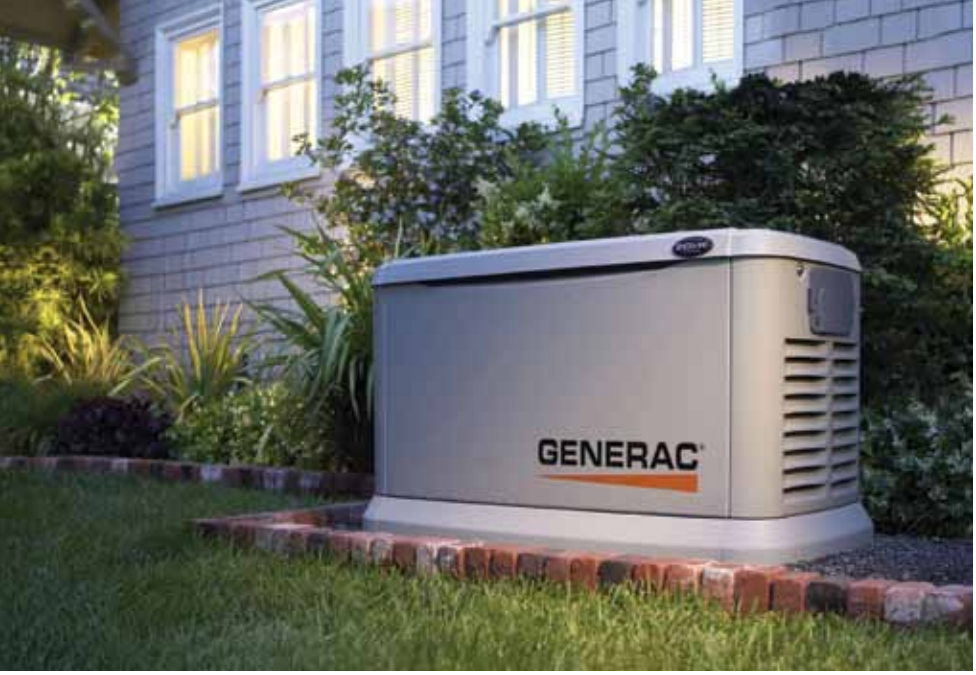

PHOTO COURTESY OF GENERAC

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Natural gas generators have an endless fuel supply that don't need refueling or conditioning like those fueled by diesel or gasoline. Heller regularly recommends natural gas to homeowners over portable gasoline units because:

1. The gas distribution system is generally robust and capable of continued operation even within the types of weather-driven events that cause major disruptions to the electrical distribution system.

2. A portable unit requires manual intervention of various sorts – i.e., get to the site, get it out of storage, fuel it, start it, run extension cords or manually transfer power through a switch, stop it occasionally to refuel it, find available fuel when possible, go get the fuel, refuel it, restart it, repeat the cycle. None of that is necessary with a natural gas automatic home standby system.

NATURAL PERKS

For some, natural gas is … well … just a natural addition to a lifestyle. Dan Giampetroni has been working in the natural gas industry for more than 15 years; he is currently the acting business manager for Kohler Co. Giampetroni has never gone without natural gas.

"It's the most reliable fuel source," Giampetroni says. "Tanks of other fuels can run dry, and diesel fuel has to be conditioned periodically, but natural gas is always there to run a generator.

"Natural gas has always been there for me and my customers," he adds. "It provides the basics of existence: light, food, heat, air and communication. When one doesn't have these things, one suffers. I believe we take it for granted. But for someone that has suffered from a power outage, they're looking for a backup. It's not a given anymore."

While the benefits may seem obvious, the main perks for homeowners who have a natural gas standby generator are that these systems are:

- Safe and hassle-free with no refueling or storage requirements
- Dependable and there when you need them
- Automatic and convenient
- Environmentally responsible and quiet
- Stable and affordably priced

"Depending on the size of the generator, the homeowner can enjoy 10 or 12 circuits of electricity in their circuit breaker panel or their entire house," says Giampetroni. "They'll enjoy the heating, air-conditioning, refrigeration, lights, computer, television, coffee maker, and some will even continue to enjoy the second or third air conditioner, pool heater, and so on."

BENEFITING THE GRID

In addition to peace of mind, natural gas backup generators also leverage our nation's abundant domestic supply of a clean-burning, economically viable fuel source that offers increased opportunities for businesses to save money on electric bills while supporting a local resource.

"Natural gas has an important role to play in our nation's energy landscape," says Jose Esparza, vice president of Energy Solutions for Southwest Gas. "It is a foundational fuel which would address many of our nation's priorities, from helping to create economic growth and increasing energy security to improving our environment."

Through technological advances and a reliable delivery infrastructure across the country, the availability of domestic natural gas has grown exponentially. According to the Energy Information Administration and the Potential Gas Committee, a nonprofit supported by the Colorado School of Mines, the estimated supply of natural gas in the United States stood at 2,718 trillion cubic feet (tcf) at the end of fiscal year 2012. Considering only one tcf of natural gas is enough to heat 15 million homes for one year, this supply seems more than sufficient to meet America's corporate and residential energy needs for more than 100 years.

According to Esparza – who often appears before federal, state and local governmental entities on behalf the natural gas industry – natural gas is certainly more dependable in the areas of:

- Stable pricing. With such abundant natural gas supply, prices will remain affordable well into the future.
- National energy security. Since natural gas supply sources are domestic, it reduces the nation's dependence on imported oil.
- Continuous availability. Natural gas is continuously delivered to homes and businesses through pipelines, one of the safest methods of delivery; there is no risk of tanks running empty, as with propane or gasoline.
- Environmental friendliness. When compared to electricity, diesel and propane, natural gas has the lowest levels of greenhouse gas emissions from a full-fuel cycle perspective.

A natural gas-fueled backup generator is an ideal energy source for homes for many reasons. But both Esparza and Heller agree the best feature of this product is users can count on the peace of mind it offers users come rain or shine. ■

Grilled Chicken Orange Dijon Marinade

SOURCE: COURTESY OF HIDDENVALLEYRANCHRECIPES.COM

INGREDIENTS

1 (4 pounds) chicken cut into 8 pieces, rinsed, pat dry
1 cup orange juice
1 packet (1 ounce) Hidden Valley® Original Ranch® Salad Dressing & Seasoning Mix
2 tsp dijon mustard

DIRECTIONS

1. In a small bowl, whisk the seasoning mix, orange juice and mustard together until smooth.
2. In a large bowl, add the chicken and marinade. Chill covered for 1 hour.
3. Preheat the grill. Discard marinade and grill the chicken for 20 to 25 minutes, turning often. Grill until an internal temperature of 165°F is reached and juices run clear.

Emeril's Sweet Potato-Marshmallow Casserole

Makes 8 to 10 servings

INGREDIENTS

3 ½ to 4 pounds fresh sweet potatoes, scrubbed well
¼ cup light brown sugar
¼ cup evaporated milk (or heavy cream)
2 Tbsp unsalted butter, at room temperature
2 Tbsp orange juice
1 tsp vanilla extract
½ tsp salt
½ tsp orange zest, finely grated
½ tsp ground cinnamon
¼ tsp freshly ground nutmeg
Pinch ground mace
Pinch ground cloves
¼ cup pecans, toasted and finely chopped
3 cups miniature marshmallows

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400˚F. Line a large baking sheet with foil.
2. Bake the sweet potatoes on the foil-lined baking sheet until a thin, pointy knife inserted in the center meets no resistance, 45 minutes to 1 hour. Set aside until cool enough to handle.
3. Once cooled, remove the skins and mash until smooth. (If you have a potato ricer, this works well in helping to remove any stringy fibers, as does a food mill.) In a large bowl, combine the potatoes (you should have about 4 cups), sugar, evaporated milk, butter, orange juice, vanilla, salt, orange zest, cinnamon, nutmeg, mace and cloves and beat until smooth. Spoon the mixture into the prepared pan and sprinkle with the chopped pecans.
4. Arrange the marshmallows in an even layer over the top and bake until the marshmallows are lightly browned, 35 to 45 minutes. This can be made a day ahead, covered, and refrigerated, then returned to room temperature and baked 35 to 45 minutes before serving.

SOURCE: EMERIL LAGASSE, COURTESY MARTHA STEWART OMNIMEDIA INC.

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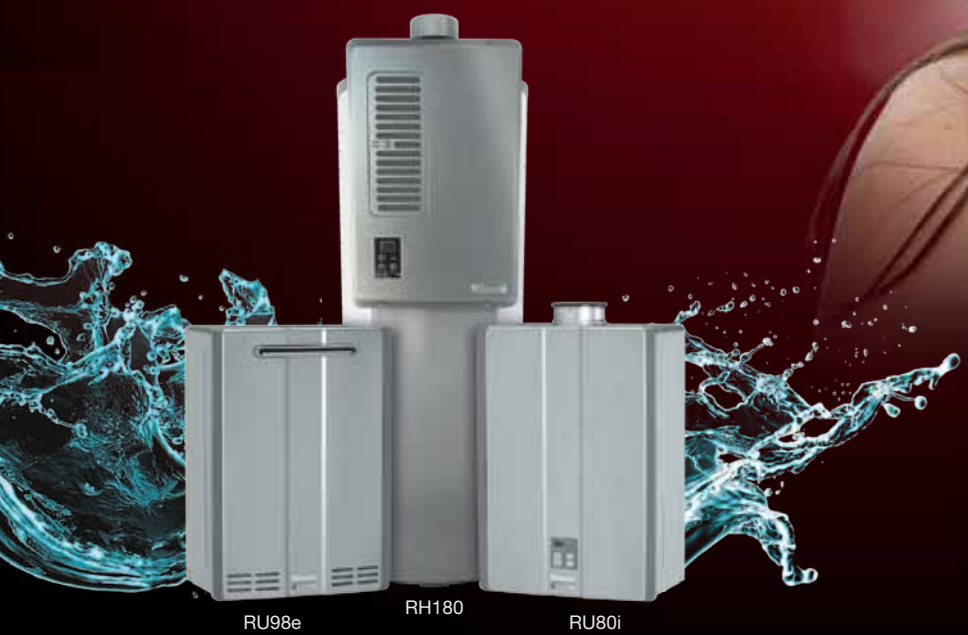

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