

Winter 2011-2012 Natural Gas Rates for Massachusetts
(November 2011 – April 2012: R3 Residential Rates)
Based on 150 Therms of Monthly Gas Heat Consumption

Gas Utility	Total	Per Therm Cost	Real Gas Cost Compared to a Heating Oil Gallon
Blackstone Gas	\$256.61	\$1.71	\$2.39
Berkshire Gas	\$251.95	\$1.68	\$2.35
Columbia Gas	\$212.05	\$1.41	\$1.97
National Grid/Boston	\$215.00	\$1.43	\$2.00
National Grid/Colonial Cape	\$197.40	\$1.31	\$1.84
National Grid/Lowell	\$197.40	\$1.31	\$1.84
National Grid/Essex	\$215.00	\$1.43	\$2.00
New England Gas	\$227.87	\$1.51	\$2.12
NStar Gas	\$181.49	\$1.20	\$1.70
Unitil Gas	\$229.49	\$1.53	\$2.14
Average:			\$2.03

Notes:

Gas Cost Compared to Heating Oil

As a heating source measured in British thermal units (Btu), a gallon of heating oil has 40% more energy than a therm of gas. There are 100,000 Btu in a therm of gas and 140,000 Btu in a gallon of heating oil. You must use 1.4 therms of gas to generate the heat content of a gallon of heating oil. Therefore, to account for the Btu difference between a therm of gas and a gallon of heating oil, you must multiply the price per therm by 1.4. This gives you the real cost of gas heat compared to oil on a Btu-to-Btu basis – the most valid cost calculation when comparing the two fuels.

Rate Calculations

To determine the winter 2011-2012 residential (R3) gas rates, MOC used rates approved by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities in coordination with those published on gas utility web sites. The rates include all charges such as monthly customer charges, head block and tail block assessments, cost of gas, and energy conservation charges.