

1. Resilience Planning

Nicor Gas is a natural gas distribution company headquartered in Naperville, Illinois, serving 2.2 million residential, public sector and business customers in more than 650 communities in Northern Illinois. Nicor Gas serves its customers via a 34,000-mile distribution system that is part of a network of eight interstate pipelines. Nicor Gas generally purchases gas during the summer months when it is normally less expensive and stores it for use throughout the year. This helps keep winter costs down while maintaining a year-round supply. Nicor Gas recently created the [Meter Modernization Program](#) in order to modernize and improve gas delivery and communication. The program aims to improve customer access to information and help the utility improve the efficiency of natural gas delivery, ultimately helping customers become more resilient in their operations.

2. Program or Project Implementation

Nicor Gas implements a CHP rebate program as part of its goal to encourage the installation of energy-saving technologies. This innovative partnership was launched in 2014 between Nicor Gas and ComEd, and was designed to align electric and gas utility incentives for mutually beneficial results from CHP deployment. In Illinois, both electric and gas utilities are required to reach energy efficiency targets and can count savings from CHP measures. The electric utility can earn credit for achieving a baseline efficiency and claim savings for a certain amount of kWh displaced, while the natural gas utility can earn credit for any increase in system efficiency above the baseline and claim savings for maximizing the heat recovery and thermal efficiency of the CHP system. ComEd and Nicor Gas both provide funding for CHP feasibility studies and provide general assistance in helping sites through the interconnection process. Nicor Gas has recently responded to numerous requests for feasibility assessments, which may be a result of the reinstatement of the [federal ITC](#), and expanded outreach from the [Midwest CHP TAP](#) and the [Midwest Cogen Association \(MCA\)](#).

A production incentive of \$0.07/kWh is available from ComEd, based on a review of 12 months of metered data. Eligible therm savings will receive a \$1/therm from Nicor Gas, which were capped at \$500,000 in 2017. Please check the [program website](#) for the most recent guidelines.

3. Lessons Learned

Low electricity prices can make the business case for CHP in Illinois challenging, and Nicor Gas is collaborating with partners in the state to help demonstrate the range of benefits of CHP and increase customer interest. Nicor Gas has learned the importance of maintaining valuable communications with partners in order to develop strategies for CHP deployment. It has also gained significant experience in working with customers on CHP projects and conducting feasibility studies. Accurate energy assessments are essential for CHP deployment at customer sites. The assessment team at Nicor Gas has to make sure they maintain the correct pressure and flow for CHP interconnection, and that they have the correct meter set, piping sizes, and that accurate information is communicated between the site and Nicor Gas.

4. Additional Information

- ▶ [ComEd Feasibility Assessment](#)
- ▶ [Illinois TRM for Energy Efficiency](#)