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With the recent cold snap, we want to help you understand why your natural gas bill might be higher than usual. Heating and power generation demands have surged nationwide, leading natural gas suppliers to report the highest demand in over 25 years. We're committed to transparency, so we've compiled a list of Frequently Asked Questions to help you understand your bill and find ways to reduce your costs.

Why is my Natural Gas Bill higher?

The freezing temperatures in January 2026 & February 2026 were primarily caused by a North American cold wave that brought in unusually colder temperatures. (Wikipedia: [January–February 2026 North American cold wave - Wikipedia](#))

My natural gas usage last month was 88 units/88 cu. ft., and I only have a water heater and central heat unit on natural gas, and my usage is the same this month. Why is my bill higher?

Last month's Fuel Adjustment cost was .586290486 at 88 units = \$51.59

This month's Fuel Adjustment cost will be 1.276156949 at 88 units = \$112.30

Bill Dated 1/31/2026	
Flat Rate/Service Availability	\$10.49
Gas Service 88 @ .99 per /100 cu. ft.	\$87.12
Fuel Adjust 88 @ .586290486	\$51.59
OCLG (Outside City Limits Gas)	\$5.03
Total Bill Due	\$154.23

Bill Dated 2/28/2026	
Flat Rate / Service Availability	\$10.49
Gas Service 88 @ .99 / 100 cu. ft.	\$87.12
Fuel Adjust 88 @ 1.276156949	\$112.30
OCLG (Outside City Limits Gas)	\$5.03
Total Bill Due	\$214.94

Flat Rate/Service Availability is combined with the Gas Service on your utility bill.

Gas	Total Gas Usage: 8,800cu ft	\$97.61
Fuel Adjust		\$51.59
OCLG		\$5.03
Total Current Charges		\$154.23

What is Fuel Adjustment Cost?

The City of Walker does not profit from the Fuel Adjustment Cost, the rates are established by the Suppliers who provide us with the Gas. The City of Walker pays for the Fuel to provide the natural gas to the customer. The Fuel Adjustment Cost is what we paid for the fuel. If this charge were not passed on to our customers, it would raise the cost of our service to the highest level. Every month would be at that high number, and when the cost goes down to 50 cents, the customer would be billed at that high number.

The customers will always pay the true cost of the fuel, as it is not estimated. The advantage of customers paying exactly what it costs the City of Walker is that, when it is low, the customers will also pay the low fuel adjustment rates. The best way to keep the costs down for our customers is to have it fluctuate with the Market.

Why is the Fuel Adjustment cost so high?

Due to the freezing temperatures, there was an increased demand for natural gas. Extremely cold weather causes people to use more natural gas to heat their homes and businesses. There were 25 out of 31 days in January with temperatures at or below 55°, with 14 of those days at 35° or below. In February, there were 17 days with temperatures at or below 55°.

The City of Walker doesn't profit from the Fuel Adjustment Cost. These rates are determined by our natural gas suppliers. We pay for the fuel to supply natural gas to you, and the Fuel Adjustment Cost simply reflects what we paid for that fuel. If we didn't pass this cost through to you, our flat service rate would be set at a higher rate to cover potential spikes. This means customers would be billed at that higher rate even when fuel costs drop. By allowing the Fuel Adjustment Cost to fluctuate with the market, this ensures you are getting the best rate possible.

How is this year different from previous years? How was the City of Walker able to provide a continuation of service?

Despite the challenges and freezing temperatures, the City of Walker was able to maintain service without any significant disruptions. Although there was a significant increase in demand for natural gas, the City of Walker maintained pressure, ensuring our customers' service was not affected as in previous years.

As a reminder, colder weather may impact the amount of natural gas you use. Using energy wisely and making a few household changes may produce a big difference in how much you spend on natural gas and other energy bills. Below is a list of Energy Conservation Tips and how to save on your natural gas bill:

- Lower your thermostat to at least 68 degrees during the day and 58 degrees when you are away from home.
- Reduce your shower and bath time.
- Lower your water heater temperature to 120 degrees.
- Do not use a pool heater. Instead, run your pool pump to circulate the water.
- Operate your clothes washer, dryer, and dishwasher only when fully loaded.
- Unless a fire is burning, close your fireplace damper to prevent warm air from escaping up the chimney.
- Turn off gas lanterns.

If you are struggling, know there is help. If you are unable to afford your heating costs and would like to know if you would be eligible for Energy Assistance, please contact Quad Area LIHEAP Energy Assistance at 225-686-3811. You can also visit their website at quadarea.org/quadliheap.html.

Please call the City of Walker Utility Department at 225-664-3123 for any additional questions.