

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY COST ANALYSIS FOR GREATER OHIO REGION

Based on data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), prices in the broader East North Central region follow patterns comparable to those in Ohio, offering an indication of expected household energy cost trends across the Region. When analyzing the cost of energy for Ohio households, state prices and use are only available through the spring of 2026. Modeling future energy prices is available only from the EIA for the Census Region.

In 2025, the average EIA-reported residential prices in Ohio were:

Natural Gas

\$13.85 per Mcf

On an energy-equivalent basis, this means electricity costs about 3.7 times more than natural gas (with a regional average of about 4.6x in 2024).

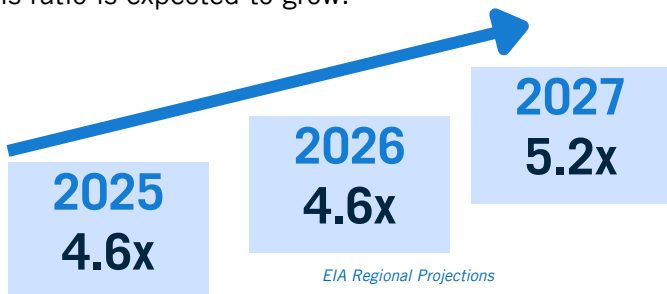
Based on the current EIA Short-Term Energy Outlook, this ratio is expected to grow:

Electricity

17.0 Cents per kWh

Month	Natural Gas Price \$/Mcf	Electricity Price cents/kWh	Natural Gas Price \$/MMBtu	Electricity Price \$/MMBtu	Electric to Gas Ratio
January-25	\$9.12	\$15.62	\$8.79	\$46.78	5.2x
February-25	\$9.79	\$15.83	\$9.44	\$46.40	4.9x
March-25	\$11.54	\$16.10	\$11.13	\$47.19	4.2x
April-25	\$14.30	\$16.32	\$13.79	\$47.83	3.5x
May-25	\$22.16	\$17.09	\$21.37	\$50.09	2.3x
June-25	\$36.38	\$17.50	\$35.08	\$51.29	1.5x
July-25	\$44.41	\$17.38	\$42.83	\$50.94	1.2x
August-25	\$47.43	\$17.59	\$45.74	\$51.55	1.1x
September-25	\$40.19	\$17.61	\$38.76	\$51.61	1.3x
October-25	\$22.99	\$17.85	\$22.17	\$52.32	2.4x
November-25	\$13.33	\$17.66	\$12.85	\$51.76	4.0x
December-25	\$11.25	\$17.31	\$10.85	\$50.73	4.7x
January-26	\$11.03	\$17.59	\$10.64	\$51.55	4.8x
February-26	\$12.81	\$17.52	\$12.35	\$51.35	4.2x
March-26	\$13.75	\$18.78	\$13.26	\$55.04	4.2x

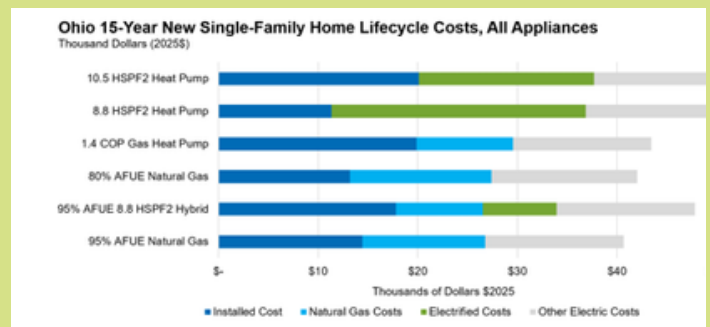
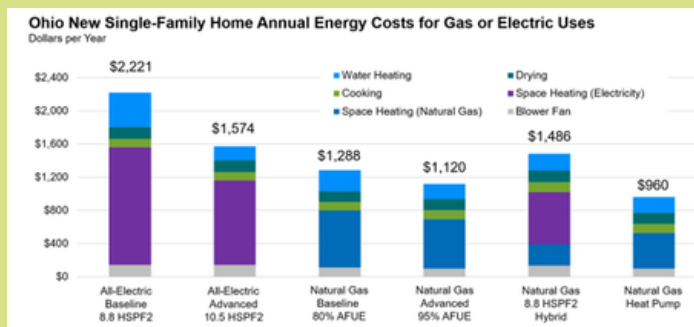
Average Energy Costs During Winter Storm Fern



Seasonal price patterns can make natural gas particularly cost-effective for space heating, especially in homes that also use natural gas for water heating, cooking, or clothes drying. Seasonal patterns make natural gas even more attractive for space heating, especially when combined with other natural gas appliances. While the average electricity-to-gas price ratio in the state is around 3.7x in 2025, it may drop to about 1.2x in summer and rise to about 5.0x in the winter months.

Ohio First-Year and Lifecycle Cost Analysis for New Single-Family Homes

Using the methodology outlined in the AGA Building for Efficiency report, estimated heating costs were calculated for typical new single-family homes in the Greater Ohio area. A family living in a new single-family home with natural gas could save between \$455 and \$934 per year compared with an all-electric, air-source heat pump. **Over the life of the equipment, households could save between \$10,000 and \$12,000 with natural gas.**



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Impact of Winter Storm Fern on Energy Use and Energy Bills

This winter, much of the eastern United States experienced colder-than-normal weather, with temperatures staying below freezing for extended periods. In Ohio and the surrounding region, **January and February averaged about 2°F below normal, which was below freezing all day. During Winter Storm Fern, from January 22 to January 30, temperatures were about 6°F below normal, with some of the coldest conditions occurring during peak morning hours and single-digit temperatures lasting through much of the day.**

Cold weather like this can significantly affect home energy use and bills. **Natural gas heating systems commonly perform near their rated efficiency during cold weather.** By contrast, air-source heat pumps for space heating tend to lose efficiency and capacity during very cold periods, necessitating backup electric resistance heat.

A heat pump for space heating might have an average January operating performance of 220% to 290%, but during the cold weather storm, it may have dropped to between 241% to 160% or as low as even 99% if only resistance was in use, which is likely for many households with older or minimum efficiency heat pumps.

Given that in January of 2026, electricity cost 4.8 times more per unit of delivered energy than natural gas, households relying on electric heat may face significantly higher energy bills during severe winter weather than households using natural gas heating. Comparing the efficiency range of space heating appliances and average costs, electric bills for space heating could have been **1.6 to 4.4 times higher during the storm than the average natural gas heating bill.** The average natural gas space-heating cost in Ohio in January was \$220. **Heat pumps might have increased average heating costs during that month to \$356 to \$501 compared to natural gas, and as much as \$967 with only backup electric heating.**

