

What do I need to bring in for ENERGY ASSISTANCE?

Gather the following information and bring it along when you apply for energy assistance at your local outreach sites:

✓ Proof of income

- State budget sheet
- Unemployment printout
- Social Security benefit
- Employment pay stub (four if weekly, two if biweekly)
- Current bank statement

✓ Social Security cards

- For all members of your household

✓ Birth certificate

- For all members of your household

✓ Picture ID

✓ Section 8 lease (if any)

✓ Pay for heat?

- Bring gas/electric utility bills

✓ Recent rent receipt

✓ Landlord information

- Name
- Address
- Phone number



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If you are homebound contact SCG at 1-866-659-4140 to schedule an appointment for a home visit.

KEEP YOUR GAS ON.

The Southern Connecticut Gas Company (SCG) is preparing to continue its efforts to assist customers with their winter gas bill. Each year, SCG reaches out to its customers in many ways to encourage them to apply for hardship status and energy assistance.



What is Hardship status and Energy Assistance?

- Hardship status is a term assigned to a SCG heating customer who is eligible to receive energy assistance.
- Energy assistance is when state funds are provided to SCG heating customers who qualify under the state income guidelines and meet program qualifications. Page 4 of this booklet outlines what information is needed to bring to an energy assistance qualification appointment.

How Do I Apply?

To apply for Hardship status, provide the necessary documentation to an SCG representative (1-866-659-4140) to prove that you are of hardship status. Your documentation should include proof of income, social security cards, birth certificates (for all members of household), see Page 4 for more details. Once your hardship status has been verified, your natural gas account will be marked as hardship.

To apply for energy assistance, make an appointment to visit your local Outreach site and bring all of your documentation (see Page 4) to qualify for energy assistance dollars. Contact information for Outreach Sites is located on Page 2.

Once SCG qualifies your hardship status, your account is marked as hardship and you will be protected under the winter protection program from **November 1, 2009 – May 1, 2010**.

IMPORTANT: Please remember that programs offered by SCG are only available if you qualify for hardship status and apply for and receive energy assistance.

Inside:

Page 2: Income guidelines and phone numbers for local energy assistance agencies.

Page 3: The Matching Payment Program and how it works.

Page 4: Documentation needed to complete an energy assistance application to prove hardship.

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Keep Your Gas On... All Year



Outreach Sites

ABCD

1070 Park Avenue,
Bridgeport
384-6904

CAANH

781 Whalley Avenue,
New Haven
387-7700

TEAM

30 Elizabeth Street,
Derby
1-203-736-5420

Community Renewal Team

44 Hamlin Street,
Middletown
1-860-347-4465
(shoreline customers)

Other Areas

Dial 2-1-1

Energy Assistance 2009-2010 Income Eligibility Guidelines

Family Size	Maximum Income Level
1	\$30,485.00
2	\$39,865.00
3	\$49,245.00
4	\$58,625.00
5	\$68,005.00
6	\$77,385.00
7	\$79,144.00
8	\$80,903.00

**Contact Southern Connecticut Gas
at 1-866-659-4140 or Infoline at 211.**

Matching Payment Plan

Every year, Southern Connecticut Gas offers the hardship Matching Payment Plan (MPP) to customers that need assistance paying their natural gas bills. Below are instructions that need to be completed in order to be successful on the program.

- Phase 1 of the program begins November 1 and is completed on May 1. The program is for six months.
- In order to qualify for the program, the customer needs to be of a hardship status, and **MUST:**
 1. Qualify for energy assistance.
 2. Make all agreed upon scheduled monthly payments.
- **If the customer does not file for hardship with SCG or does not apply for energy assistance with an agency, the MPP will not be successful.**
- The reason this program is named the Matching Payment Program is due to the customer completing the following three steps:
 1. Contact SCG to qualify for hardship status.
 2. Apply for and receive energy assistance.
 3. Pay monthly payment arrangement determined by SCG.

*Here is an example of how the program works:

SCG Customer Bill Balance	\$3,500
Energy Assistance Commitment	(\$500)
MPP Dollars paid by customer (\$120 for six months)	(\$720)
Total Customer Payments and EA \$s	(\$1,220)
Remaining Bill Balance	<u>\$2,280</u>
Matching Payment Program \$s	(\$1,220)
Customer Balance	\$1,060

Because the customer was successful by applying for and receiving energy assistance and making the required amount of monthly payments in Phase 1 of the Matching Payment Program, the customer is eligible to participate in Phase 2 of the program.

MPP Phase 2 – Customers who have been successful in Phase 1 of the program will automatically be eligible to participate in Phase 2. Phase 2 is six months long, beginning May 2 and completed October 31. In early November, SCG will match your dollars paid. Please be aware that matching payments can only be used to reduce your bill as low as \$0 – it cannot result in SCG owing you money.

* Dollar amounts in the above example may vary.