

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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## **Businesses Save Money and Energy with Small Business Energy Solutions**

**Cleveland, Ohio** – Small businesses now have a new way to save money on natural gas bills, create a more comfortable work setting and improve productivity and profits. Columbia Gas of Ohio launched its **Small Business Energy Solutions** program on March 3rd to help businesses lower energy use by up to 30 percent, reduce utility bills and earn instant rebates for qualified energy efficiency improvements.

“**Small Business Energy Solutions** makes it easier for businesses to complete energy efficiency improvements that reduce their operating costs and add to their bottom line,” said Columbia Gas of Ohio President Jack Partridge. “This program makes it simpler for our small business customers to install the most cost-effective improvements with valuable rebates to reduce the initial costs of qualified energy efficiency improvements. Since gas commodity costs are the largest part of a gas bill, these energy efficiency improvements will make a big impact on energy savings now and for years to come.”

Small business customers of Columbia Gas that are considering improvements like upgrading insulation or replacing gas-heating equipment can go to [ColumbiaGasOhio.com/SBES](http://ColumbiaGasOhio.com/SBES) or call 1-877-644-6674 for a list of pre-qualified contractors that can install any of the qualified energy efficiency improvements and provide instant rebates. Customers may work with their own contractor if that contractor completes a pre-qualified contractor application and installs one or more qualified energy efficiency improvements.

Some improvements have a set instant rebate amount while other rebates are offered based on the size of the project. Rebates for qualified improvements include:

<b>Small Business Energy Solutions Qualified Energy Efficiency Improvements</b>	<b>Instant Rebate</b>
Tubular radiant space heater	\$350
Duct sealing and insulation	\$250
Replacement gas furnace ≥ 92% AFUE,* gas boiler ≥ 90% AFUE	\$200
Wall insulation per square foot (sq. ft.) installed	\$.25/sq. ft.
Attic insulation per square foot (sq. ft.) installed	\$.30/sq. ft.
Air sealing cracks, gaps, and holes	\$40/air sealing hr.
Infrared fryers for restaurants	\$175
Efficient pre-rinse spray valve	\$25
Programmable thermostat	\$25

\* Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE)

Many businesses may save even more through Federal Energy Tax Credits for qualified energy efficiency improvements. Columbia Gas encourages customers to speak to their contractor or a tax specialist for more details.

**Small Business Energy Solutions** is available for businesses using an average of 3,000 Ccf or less of natural gas annually who are customers of Columbia Gas. **Small Business Energy Solutions** is part of **Your Energy Solutions**, a family of energy efficiency programs helping Columbia Gas customers save money and energy. For more ways to save at your business or home, visit [ColumbiaGasOhio.com](http://ColumbiaGasOhio.com) or call 1-877-644-6674.

### **About Columbia Gas of Ohio**

Columbia Gas of Ohio, with headquarters in Columbus, is one of the nine energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). Serving approximately 1.4 million customers in 61 of Ohio's 88 counties, it is the largest natural gas utility in the state. NiSource distribution companies serve approximately 3.8 million gas and electric customers primarily in seven states. More information about Columbia Gas of Ohio is available at: [ColumbiaGasOhio.com](http://ColumbiaGasOhio.com).

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