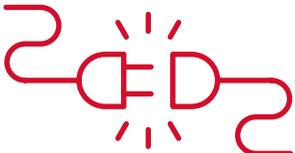
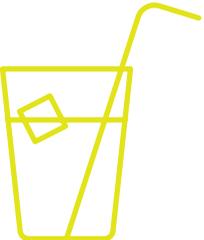
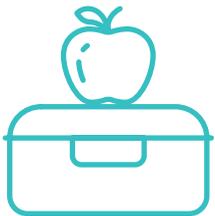
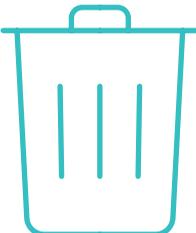
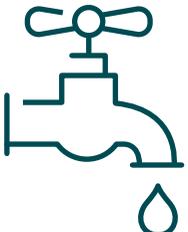


Celebrate Earth Day with a scavenger hunt

Earth Day is April 22. Celebrate with a scavenger hunt!

 <p>Find a light that is on that doesn't need to be, and turn it off.</p>	 <p>Unplug a device charger as soon as your device is fully charged.</p>	 <p>Recycle a plastic bottle, aluminum can, paper or cardboard.</p>
 <p>Say no thank you to a plastic straw and use a metal straw instead.</p>	 <p>Pack your lunch in a reusable container and avoid using disposable items.</p>	 <p>Take a walk or ride a bike to a nearby park.</p>
 <p>Replace an old incandescent light bulb with an LED bulb.</p>	 <p>Find a bumble bee or other pollinator. Pollinators are important because many food crops and other plants rely on them to reproduce.</p>	 <p>Pick up at least one piece of litter.</p>
 <p>Find something made from recycled materials.</p>	 <p>Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth.</p>	 <p>Visit NorthWesternEnergy.com/Tips and learn more ways to conserve energy at home.</p>

Call before you dig

April 28 is National Arbor Day. Planting a tree is a great way to celebrate, but before you begin any digging project be sure to call 811 or visit call811.com.

Call at least two full business days before you plan to dig to allow time for all underground utilities to be marked. Even on your property and in your yard, damages caused by hitting an underground utility can be expensive and even deadly.

Once utilities are marked, be sure to hand excavate within 18 inches on each side of markings. If you ever hit a gas line, call 911 and NorthWestern Energy immediately. Even minor damage to a pipeline can result in future leaks.



Plan before you plant

A healthy tree might live for a century or more, so be sure you're planting the right tree in the right place.

- Before you plant a tree, know where overhead power lines are located and plant at least 20 feet away. Trees that grow taller than 40 feet should be planted more than 35 feet away.
- Be sure trees are also planted at least 20 feet away from buried gas lines. Roots can become tangled around pipelines causing damage, and if the tree should blow over, it can damage the pipeline if the roots become entwined and pull up the pipeline.
- If your yard has a ground-level transformer (a large, green, metal box), be sure to leave room for our crews to access the transformer. Plant your shrubs at least 10 feet away from the front, and 2 feet away from the sides and back

Excess Gas Flow Valve Notice

If a gas service is installed to your home, you have the option to purchase an Excess Flow Valve (EFV) to be installed by NorthWestern Energy. An EFV is intended to stop the flow of gas if the service line is severed. The valve is placed in the service line where it leaves the gas main.

An EFV will stop the flow of gas only if the service line is severely damaged. It is important to note that an EFV will not protect you from a leak or broken line inside your home, or a small leak on the line in your yard. An example of when the valve provides protection is in the event the gas service is damaged from digging or extreme ground movement.

As required by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), we are notifying you that an EFV that meets the minimum prescribed DOT performance standards is available for installation on your natural gas service line.

The cost of installing the EFV will need to be evaluated by an engineer. If you are interested, please contact your local NorthWestern office to set up an appointment. Payment is required prior to installation of the EFV.

Recognizing a gas pipeline leak

Call 911, if you notice any of these signs of a pipeline leak:

- An unusual blowing or hissing sound coming from the ground.
- Dirt or dust blowing from a hole in the ground.
- Bubbling ponds.
- Dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area near a pipeline right of way.
- A fire close to a buried pipeline.

