

EnergyCentral



Call before you dig to have utilities marked

April is designated as national Dig Safely Month, and Central Hudson reminds anyone planning to dig to first submit a location request through UDig NY (formerly Dig Safely NY), or by calling 811, the toll-free hotline. Through the hotline, underground utility lines and equipment can be marked and properly identified prior to the start of excavation. The service is provided at no cost to the caller.

Before digging, even by hand on a resident's own property, call 811 or file a location request at www.udig-ny.org at least two to 10 days before any excavation takes place to ensure underground lines are located and marked. Underground utilities can be located on both public and private property, so locating underground systems prior to any excavation work is critical. This online and toll-free national calling service connects excavators to their regional One-Call center that alerts utilities, municipalities and other parties of the intention to excavate at specific sites so that the lines can be properly marked. There is no charge for the service, and util-

SEE 811 ON BACK PAGE



EARTH DAY

COMPANY HELPS REDUCE EMISSIONS, PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

In celebration of Earth Day, Central Hudson is reminding customers about the many ways they can reduce carbon emissions and help protect the environment through energy efficiency programs offered by the utility.

“Central Hudson is proud to help our customers conserve natural resources and protect the environment through our full suite of energy efficiency programs,” said Charles A. Freni, President and CEO of Central Hudson. “Thousands of customers have already seen how these programs can pay for themselves while helping New York State achieve its nation-leading clean energy goals.”

In 2021, energy efficiency measures taken by Central Hudson's customers saved an annualized 74 million kilowatt-hours of electricity and nearly 65,500 dekatherms of natural gas, equating to nearly \$10.8 million in energy costs. Since 2009, customers enrolled in Central Hudson's energy efficiency programs cumulatively save nearly \$86 million annually, reducing energy demands by enough to power

52,250 homes and avoiding nearly 1.1 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions each year, or the equivalent of removing 102,880 cars from the road or planting nearly 512,600 acres of forest.

EPA Recognition

Central Hudson was recently named an ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year for exceptional efforts in promoting and educating its customers on ENERGY STAR® certified products. It is EPA's highest honor, which recognized Central Hudson for substantially increasing customers' energy-saving impact. Central Hudson has helped facilitate the purchase of more than 800,000 LED lightbulbs, 1,600 smart thermostats and approximately 600 electric heat pump water heaters in the last year.

Energy Leadership

There are many ways Central Hudson protects the environment:

- Solar installations within the utility's service area are among the high-

SEE EARTH ON BACK PAGE

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Earth: 74 million kilowatt-hours of electricity saved in 2021

est in New York on a per-capita basis, with nearly 11,400 systems installed by residents and businesses with 245 megawatts of total solar capacity. This level of capacity has the potential to supply the average electricity use of up to 40,000 homes or approximately six percent of the region's electric consumption while reducing carbon emissions by approximately 90,000 tons.

- Central Hudson customers can subscribe to a share of the electricity generated by a local solar farm or other source of clean energy through the Clean Energy Marketplace. The marketplace allows customers to search and sign up for clean, renewable energy projects in their area that can help them save on their electric bill while reducing carbon emissions. Since the start of the program in July 2020, subscribers in the Clean Energy Marketplace have helped offset 6,927 tons of carbon emissions per year.

- Central Hudson promotes electric vehicles, which are less costly to operate and reduce emissions by 60 to 85 percent. A new Central Hudson program will facilitate the installation of 3,204 Level 2 chargers and 69 Direct Current Fast Chargers within the service area by 2025 through

partnerships with municipalities and private developers. Central Hudson is also engaging municipalities and fleet owners in determining the feasibility of adopting select electric cars and trucks, including its own utility fleet.

- In 2021 alone, Central Hudson facilitated the installation of nearly 6,500 heat pumps and plans to promote the installation of at least 12,000 ground or air-source electric heat pumps in total by 2025. In conjunction with the New York State Clean Heat Program, Central Hudson offers homeowners up to \$1,000 off per 10,000 btus for air-source electric heat pumps for customers removing their existing conventional heating source and up to \$500 per 10,000 btus for those retaining their conventional heating source. As an example, a 1,600 square-foot house with modern building code practices and average to better insulation could require a heat pump system providing a heat load of 40,000 btuh, which would equate to a Central Hudson/Clean Heat incentive of up to \$4,000 when removing the old conventional heating system. Customers converting to a ground source heat pump system can receive up to \$2,000 off per 10,000 btus.

- Central Hudson also assists residents and businesses in converting heating systems from oil or propane to natural gas, where available, to reduce energy costs and lower emissions by 30 percent.

- To support these initiatives, Central Hudson continues to invest in the electric and natural gas systems to modernize the energy delivery infrastructure and enable expanded use of clean resources. State-of-the-art equipment and systems are being deployed to improve the efficiency, durability and reliability of the energy delivery system. These improvements are also critical to integrating the growth of distributed resources such as solar and battery storage.

- Central Hudson also protects the environment through its operations, for example by reusing and recycling tons of materials through a partnership with Ulster-Greene ARC started more than 30 years ago; reusing and retreading tires for its fleet; and operating three hydroelectric plants to produce local renewable power to supplement the energy needs of its customers.

For more information on Central Hudson's energy efficiency programs, [click here](#). ✨

811: Toll-free service marks underground utilities

ity crews will locate and mark lines at no cost to the caller.

Excavators must also be familiar with New York State Code Rule 753, which sets regulations governing the protection of underground facilities and public safety. Duties of excavators include:

- Providing notice of excavation to UDig NY,
- Preserving markout until no longer required,
- Verifying location of underground facilities by hand in the area of excavation,
- Understanding powered excavating equipment limitations,
- Supporting and protecting facili-

ties in work zones,

- In the event of an emergency, evacuate all personnel in the vicinity, immediately notify 911 and the utility operator.

For more information about this regulation, visit <https://udignny.org/resources/nys-code-rule-753/>.

Private facilities owned by businesses and homeowners are not marked as part of the UDig NY process. Private facilities which are not marked by the utility can still be located by private location companies. A list of private location companies can be found on UDig NY's website <https://udignny.org/diyers/private-locators/>.

When working near utility under-

ground or overhead lines, excavators and construction crews are always encouraged to contact Central Hudson to review plans and discuss ways in which to work safely. If a gas odor is detected, remember to 'Stop. Go. Let Us Know' by ceasing all activities, evacuating all workers and others from the immediate vicinity and calling 911 and Central Hudson's Gas Odor Response hotline at 1-800-942-8274 to report the odor.

Additional information about the UDig New York One-Call system and requirements for excavating near marked lines is available at <https://udignny.org/>; information on the 811 service is available at www.call811.com. ✨