

EFFICIENCY MATTERS

in Massachusetts

MEMA
MASSACHUSETTS ENERGY MARKETERS ASSOCIATION

BIOHEAT® FUEL PROMISES A CLEANER FUTURE FOR MASSACHUSETTS

In recent years, Massachusetts homeowners have heard about the state's plans to reduce carbon emissions. The **Clean Energy and Climate Plan** proposes the replacement of 1 million gas, propane and oil-fired residential heating systems with electric heat pumps by 2030 to help reduce carbon emissions. There are some fundamental questions and doubts about the feasibility of the plan, however, including the ability of the electric grid to handle the added electricity load of such a massive conversion to heat pumps. Meanwhile, liquid fuel energy sources have come a long way in their ability to decarbonize immediately.

ON TRACK FOR NET-ZERO CARBON

Massachusetts fuel companies are already leading the way on sustainability with Bioheat® fuel, a clean-burning blend of ultra-low-sulfur heating oil and biodiesel produced with recycled and organic materials such as animal fats, used cooking oil and soybeans. Biofuel must meet rigid production specifications and it is a drop-in fuel that requires little or no heating system modifications

Bioheat® fuel offers a responsible, immediate path for carbon reduction. Biodiesel reduces CO₂ emissions by 76% to 86% over traditional petroleum heating oil. The fuel also helps eliminate sulfur oxides and particulate matter, which contribute to climate change problems and health issues.

The heating oil industry is on pace to achieve the same 2050 carbon-reduction goals as Massachusetts' Decarbonization Roadmap — **without saddling homeowners with unnecessary and expensive conversions to other energy sources.**

A GROWING INDUSTRY

Homeowners are using Bioheat® fuel today across Massachusetts. It can be utilized with existing oil-fired equipment and is as economical as traditional heating oil. Bioheat® fuel burns so cleanly, it is helping homeowners save money on system maintenance.

Nationwide, some 3 billion gallons of low-carbon liquid fuels were consumed last year, and growth is expected to exceed 6 billion gallons by 2030. This will eliminate over 35 million metric tons of CO₂-equivalent greenhouse gas emissions annually. That is excellent news for the environment, you and your neighbors.

As we look for ways to decarbonize our economy, Bioheat® fuel is leading the way in Massachusetts and across the country. For more information visit MyBioheat.com.



A RENEWABLE ELECTRIC GRID IS A WORK IN PROGRESS

The electricity you use in your Massachusetts home or business is produced by the Independent Service Operators of New England (ISO NE), the so-called "electric grid." The electric power is then delivered to you by a local utility.

Producing electricity requires that ISO NE use various fuels – natural gas, coal, and heating oil – to operate turbines and generators that make the electricity for utility distribution via expansive towers, substations and overhead wiring attached to telephone poles. Some electricity is produced by renewable fuels including wind, solar and hydro, but those fuels contribute only a small portion of ISO NE's fuel mix. **Today, 60% of ISO NE's electricity is generated by natural gas, while only 4% is renewable fuels.**

Massachusetts is trying to increase the renewable fuel mix by developing more offshore wind and hydro capacity, but that is years away from reality which makes electrifying homes, businesses and vehicles a lengthy and expensive challenge.



A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S ENERGY PRICES

It is no surprise that energy prices have been much higher this year than they were last year. This is a painful and unfortunate situation that impacts us all. While energy associations and heating oil companies do not control oil prices, we can help you understand what does.



Entering 2022, energy prices were already high due to lingering worldwide supply issues related to the economic slowdown caused by the pandemic. Prices rose further in early 2022 as the worldwide economy began to recover and demand for all energy sources increased. Then the Russia-Ukraine conflict began, and energy prices soared to unprecedented levels, affecting everything from gasoline, to home heating oil, to electricity.

There is some reason to be hopeful. Just as constrained supply and increased demand caused upward movement on prices, the reverse will become the case as well. It is just a question of *when* prices will come down. And history is on the side of lower energy prices in the future.

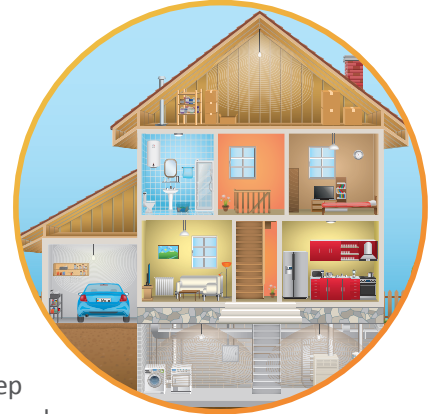
Some people mistakenly think that local fuel companies make more money when energy prices are high. **The opposite is true.** It is like when the price of milk or coffee goes up. Your local grocery does not make a higher profit. And no one will be happier to see falling prices than your local heating oil provider.

If you have questions or concerns about your upcoming fuel bills, we recommend contacting your heating oil provider now. They may be able to work out a solution with you and help you to navigate this coming winter a little bit easier.

ENERGY-SAVING TIPS BEFORE THE FIRST SNOWFALL

Before winter weather rolls into Massachusetts, you can prepare to save money on your energy bills!

- 1. Check your air filter monthly** to ensure unobstructed heat from your furnace.
- 2. Seal air leaks around windows and doors** with weather stripping or caulk to keep warm air inside.
- 3. Get smart with your thermostat.** A programmable thermostat lets you turn down the temperature in your home while you are asleep or away, saving you money.
- 4. Switch out old light bulbs with energy-efficient LED lights.** You will save electricity during longer winter nights.
- 5. Tune up your heating system.** A certified HVAC technician will keep your equipment running efficiently and burning less fuel.



SAVE BIG NOW – AND FOR YEARS TO COME!

Is your aging boiler on its last legs? There are programs in Massachusetts that offer rebates to upgrade to a new, high-efficiency oil-fired boiler or furnace. And that is just the beginning of your savings!

Modern oil-powered boilers can reach efficiencies far above the ones they replace — often 10+ percentage points higher! A recent study found that upgrading to a new boiler saves the average home **170 gallons of fuel annually***. That is hundreds of dollars in savings per year!

Although funds for many programs have run out for the year, you can still visit [MassSave.com](https://masssave.com). And of course, talk to your heating oil company about upgrading your current system.

*Source: "Report on Equipment Upgrade Incentive Project," Dr. Thomas A. Butcher, National Oilheat Research Alliance.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR LOCAL HEATING OIL COMPANY AND BIOHEAT® FUEL COMPANY, THE MASSACHUSETTS ENERGY MARKETERS ASSOCIATION AND THE NATIONAL OILHEAT RESEARCH ALLIANCE

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