

Massachusetts Energy Watch

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR MASSACHUSETTS OILHEAT CONSUMERS

Happy New Year ... and Happy Savings!

Did you know that your **Oilheat dealer offers a full range of services*** that can help you reduce your energy costs in 2011?

- **Heating system upgrades:** Replace your current boiler or furnace with a more energy-efficient oil-fired system and you could save hundreds of dollars on fuel.
- **Preventive maintenance:** Arranging for an annual heating system tune-up could cut your fuel bills by up to 5%.
- **Enrolling in a service plan:** Should you need emergency service, your service plan could cover potentially expensive heating system parts as well as labor.
- **Energy-saving devices:** Your Oilheat dealer can install a programmable thermostat or burner control that will keep energy costs down.
- **Conservation advice:** Ask your dealer about low- and no-cost ways to significantly reduce your energy consumption.

Make 2011 the year you lower your energy bills. Your local Oilheat dealer is here to help! Call today to find out how.

**Not all Massachusetts Oilheat dealers offer all services mentioned. Please check with your individual dealer.*

For More on Oilheat, Visit These Websites

The chilly days of winter are just right for staying indoors and surfing the web. Here are some sites to visit and learn about Oilheat's safety, cleanliness, efficiency and economy.



Massachusetts
Oilheat Council:

www.massoilheat.org



Oilheat America:

www.oilheatamerica.com



National Oilheat
Research Alliance:

www.nora-oilheat.org

Out with the Old, in with the New (Your Heating System, That Is)

While you may already have a list of home improvements you intend to tackle in 2011, **please don't overlook the heart of your home – your boiler or furnace.**

An older heating system could be running at 60% efficiency – which means that 40% of your heating oil is going to waste. Wasted fuel means wasted money ... with an older system, that could amount to several hundred dollars per year.

Upgrading your heating system is also a great investment, which will pay you back in only a few years, after which your savings will continue every year.

Your Oilheat dealer has the expertise to help you choose a system that is right for your home and budget. Today's systems use sophisticated technology to create **more heat with less fuel** – plus they're **quieter, more reliable** and **more environmentally friendly.**

Don't Forget Your Tax Credit!

If you had a new high efficiency heating or cooling system installed in 2009 or 2010, you may be eligible for a generous federal tax credit when you file your 2010 income tax return. If a system qualifies for the home energy efficiency tax credit, you can claim a tax credit of 30% of the purchase and installation cost, up to \$1,500.

If you qualify, be sure to file an **IRS Form 5695** to claim the credit. Save your receipts and the Manufacturer's Certification Statement for your records. If you have any questions, please give your Oilheat dealer a call.

6 signs that you may need a new heating system

1. Your current boiler or furnace is over 15 years old
2. You're renovating your living space
3. Your equipment needs frequent servicing
4. Your home is heated unevenly
5. Your energy costs are rising even when you turn the thermostat down
6. You're simply not *comfortable*



MASSACHUSETTS RANKS SECOND IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Massachusetts is second in the nation when it comes to promoting energy efficiency, according to a recent survey of the 50 U.S. states. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) honored the Bay State as the No. 2 performer for the second year in a row in its annual State Energy Efficiency Scorecard.

This is the latest honor for Massachusetts, which is also a national leader in Oilheat use and the first state in the nation to mandate the use of biofuel blends in both home heating and transportation.

Only California outperforms Massachusetts in the ACEEE survey, which assesses states on utility and public benefits programs; transportation policies; building energy codes; use of combined heat and power technology; state government initiatives; and efficiency standards for appliances. Other states in the top 10 are Oregon, New York, Vermont, Washington, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Minnesota and Maine.

Consistently high performance on nearly all the standards measured by ACEEE accounts for Massachusetts' strong performance. Here is a quick look at the policies that keep our state on the cutting edge:

- Requiring electric utilities to budget 2.2 percent of revenues for energy efficiency measures;
- Promoting fuel efficiency by regulating greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles;
- Implementing land-use policies aimed at promoting public transit and reducing vehicle miles driven;
- Funding public transit at a rate well above the national norm;
- Implementing strict energy efficiency standards for new residential and commercial buildings;
- Providing incentives for the use of combined heat and power systems, which reduce energy waste;
- Leading by example through state government policies and practices;
- Implementing efficiency standards for household appliances;
- Making demonstrable progress in reducing energy consumption.

Are you in compliance with the new oil line law?



The deadline for complying with the state law regarding upgrading unprotected lines that carry oil from your tank to your burner is **9/30/11**. If your oil line is not coated with a continuous non-metallic sleeve or is not protected by a safety valve – or if you're just not sure – call your Oilheat dealer today. For a modest cost, a technician will upgrade your oil line during a service call. Beat the rush and call now.



HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

We will be happy to help you lower your energy costs with new high-efficiency heating equipment and accessories. Please check the items that interest you and send this form back to us.

I am interested in:

- Upgrading my heating system
- Replacing my oil line/ adding a valve to meet the new law
- Evaluating and/or replacing my oil tank
- Other (please indicate):

Name: _____

Account #: _____

THANK YOU!



Thanks for Clearing the Way!

When the snow starts falling, your oil tank's fill pipe can do a disappearing act. Please help our hardworking delivery drivers by keeping the pathway to your fill pipe (or outdoor tank) clear. You'll be sure to have a full tank of oil when you need it and your delivery person will appreciate your help. Remember, your safety always comes first, so if you are a senior citizen or have medical issues, please don't do anything that might put your health at risk.

Governor Patrick's Re-election and Energy Policy

Governor Deval Patrick's ambitious clean energy agenda has put Massachusetts firmly on the path to being the most energy-efficient state in the nation – and his commitment to clean, renewable energy continues in his second term. This is evidenced by his support of the Cape Wind project, which will provide 75% of the electricity needed to power the Cape and Islands, as well as his commitment to solar projects and the state's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Of great interest to readers of *Energy Watch* is the suspended state mandate for Bioheat®, originally slated for July 2010. When the Massachusetts biofuels mandate is fully operational, the state will reduce petroleum use by over 40 million gallons annually. Many Massachusetts Oilheat dealers are already offering customers this renewable, green fuel alternative. The Massachusetts Oilheat Council (MOC) – the folks who bring you this newsletter – is hard at work to get the biofuels mandate implemented as quickly as possible. After writing to state officials with the Department of Energy Resources (DOER), MOC has received positive feedback from the State's Undersecretary of Energy Phil Giudice that he and his staff are **ready to renew efforts to restore the full Massachusetts biofuels mandate in 2011**. Stay tuned for the latest news – and if you don't already have Bioheat it in your tank, get ready to go clean and green soon!

Newsletter brought to you by
Massachusetts Oilheat Council



www.massoilheat.org

And



www.nora-oilheat.org

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