

Hot Ideas!

ENERGY TIPS FOR OUR CUSTOMERS



This newsletter brought to you in association with

Higher Energy Prices Call for Conservation ... and We're Happy to Help!

It seems that high energy prices have become a fact of life in the New York Metropolitan area. But *there's plenty you can do to save money on your energy bills this winter.*

• UPGRADE TO A NEW HIGH-EFFICIENCY HEATING SYSTEM.

If your home heating equipment is 15 years old or older, consider upgrading to a new, energy efficient system—you cannot lose! A new heating/hot water system—one that includes a programmable thermostat—can mean an annual savings of as much as \$300+ a year for every \$1,000 you currently pay for fuel*. Meanwhile, your home will heat up more rapidly as you enjoy more available hot water year 'round. Upgrading pays for itself quickly—in as little as 4 years for many households. And you may qualify for tax credits for even greater savings (see box at top right).

* National Oilheat Research Alliance

• WEATHERIZE YOUR HOME.

Your local home improvement retailer has all you need to weather-strip around doors and windows ... add insulation in



Energy Bill Brings Homeowner Tax Credits for 2006

Now it REALLY pays for you to practice conservation!

The new **Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT)** offers consumers federal tax credits beginning in January 2006 for installing energy-efficient equipment and weatherizing their homes. A tax credit is generally more valuable than an equivalent tax deduction because a tax credit reduces tax dollar-for-dollar, while a deduction only removes a percentage of the tax that is owed.

- Installing energy-saving windows* could be good for as much as a **\$200 credit** or 10% of cost.
- Installing insulation* can be worth as much as a **\$500 credit** or 10% of cost.

* Must meet 2000 IECC & Amendments specifications. Source: www.energy.gov

crawl spaces and the attic ... seal air leaks on the exterior of your home with caulking ... install storm windows and doors ... insulate water heater and hot water pipes ... and much more. For further tips, see the Alliance to Save Energy web site, www.ase.org/consumers.

• BUY ENERGY STAR®-RATED APPLIANCES AND ELECTRONICS.

When shopping for new appliances (refrigerator, dishwasher, etc.) and electronics (TV, computer, etc.), demand the ENERGY STAR® label. ENERGY STAR is the government's rating program that shows you which items are more efficient than typical models. ENERGY STAR items will save you money over the product's useful life. Log on to www.energystar.gov for more details, or call us today.

Think you have to spend money to save money?

Think again. Here are 7 *conservation tips* that won't cost you a penny:

1. Close your closet doors, kitchen vent and fireplace damper when not in use.
2. Dust off your radiators.
3. Turn your manual thermostat back. You'll save about 3% for each degree of setback, or better yet, install a programmable thermostat.
4. Don't let furniture and rugs block baseboard outlets.
5. Open curtains and blinds to let the sun warm your home.
6. Take showers instead of baths. A bath uses more hot water than a five-minute shower.
7. Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.



WALLET CHECK.....DID YOU KNOW?

- By weatherizing your home, you can save up to 10%*
- By investing in a programmable thermostat, you can save as much as 10%**
- By getting a full-system tune-up, you can save 3-5% off annual heating bills***

*Source: Alliance To Save Energy **Source: U.S. Department of Energy. *** Source National Oilheat Research Alliance

Short-Term Comfort ... Long-term Supply: There's Plenty of Oilheat for Everyone!

The forecast for this week's weather may be unpredictable, but the forecast for future supplies of Oilheat certainly isn't. There's enough to go around ... and enough technological innovation to discover even more!

An Abundant Supply Now

Strategic Petroleum Reserve: As we saw in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, natural disasters can affect our oil supplies. To respond to such emergencies, the United States has a **Strategic Petroleum Reserve**. At 1 million barrels per day, the Reserve can release oil into the market continuously for a year and a half.

In the case of Katrina, the U.S. government made an emergency loan of 9.8 million barrels and sold 11 million barrels from the inventory. (Of the loaned volume, 4.2 million was repaid during October and November 2005 and the remaining volume, plus premium barrels, will be repaid during March-May 2006.)

The recently enacted Energy Policy Act of 2005 directs the Secretary of Energy to *expand the SPR to one billion barrels* from its current 727-million-barrel storage capacity.

Northeast Heating Oil Reserve: In addition to the SPR, the U.S. government also maintains a 2-million-barrel Northeast Heating Oil Reserve to be used in case of supply shortages or delivery problems in nine northeastern states, including ours. The Bush administration is prepared to tap into the heating oil reserve to keep supplies adequate this winter if necessary.



More Refining Capacity: This past fall, President Bush called on Congress to streamline the approval process so that construction can begin on new refineries.

An Abundant Supply for the Future

The important question regarding future oil supply may not be "how much is there?," but "where will it come from?" And there are plenty of (literally) ground-breaking solutions.

The U.S. Department of Energy is partnering with the petroleum industry, universities and other research organizations to develop **Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)** technology. EOR holds considerable promise for recovering hundreds of billions of barrels of oil that are left behind in mature oil fields through



the use of heat, chemicals and gases. Moreover, the technology is already in place to produce **synthetic fuels** from our nation's huge resources of coal and oil shale. Pennsylvania is already leading the way in constructing the nation's first commercial plant to convert waste coal into 40 million gallons of zero-sulfur diesel fuel and home heating oil annually.

Yes, there's ample Oilheat for everyone. You don't need the keys to the SPR and you don't need a Ph.D. in chemistry. **All you need to do is practice conservation. The future of Oilheat is in your hands.**

The Future of Oilheat is NOW!

Recent improvements in the efficiency and technology of Oilheat equipment have saved consumers over \$6 billion. Further advancements in heating oil itself have not only benefited our environment but created jobs for American farmers. The result — **better living through Oilheat!**

Better Equipment: Their names may sound complicated, but the latest Oilheat equipment delivers simple cozy warmth. There are other important benefits, too. Breakthroughs like advanced combustion equipment utilizing **vaporizing technologies** and **high flow atomization burner concepts** reduce emissions. **Flame retention burners** draw in less air and produce a hotter, more energy-efficient flame. **Thermo-photo-voltaics (TPV)** use radiation from flames to generate electric power for the home. **Low-mass boilers** and **two-stage burners** produce more heat with less fuel. Plus, new equipment contains **self-diagnostic and monitoring controls** to alert homeowners and Oilheat dealers about any potential problems.

Better Fuel: The heating oil industry is presently testing **low-sulfur Oilheat** that not only exceeds heating efficiency, but improves on environmental performance as well. It has been estimated that using this new and advanced blend could save American consumers as much as 50 million gallons of fuel each year. And that means lower heating bills for you.

You've probably heard the buzz about **Bioheat** — heating oil blended with organic materials such as soybean and other oils. Extensive tests prove that burning Bioheat results in lower emissions and greater fuel efficiency. Plus, Bioheat is literally "grown at home," decreasing our need for foreign oil. President Bush's Energy Bill has earmarked additional funding for Bioheat research and development.

With so many exciting things unfolding in the world of Oilheat, the future certainly looks HOT!



WINTER REMINDER
Please don't let snowdrifts block
your oil fill pipe. Thank you.