

# Hot Ideas!



ENERGY TIPS FOR OUR CUSTOMERS

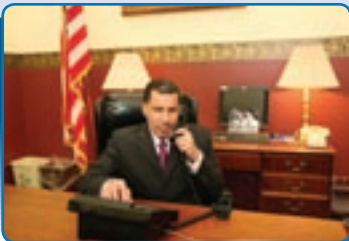
## Governor Paterson Addresses Energy Issues

In his first State of the State address, Governor David A. Paterson outlined his plan for a stronger New York, including the need to confront the current fiscal crisis head-on.

The governor laid out a progressive policy agenda to help working families during these difficult times, including calling for one of the most ambitious clean energy plans in the nation, setting a "45 by 15" goal that 45% of New York State's electricity needs will be met through improved energy efficiency and greater use of clean renewable energy by 2015.

"Energy has become too expensive, too unpredictable, and too damaging to our environment," said Governor Paterson. "It is time to control the cost of energy and how much we use. It is time to make New York more energy independent and more energy efficient, to develop our own sources of clean and renewable energy, and build new statewide systems for energy generation, transmission and distribution."

Not only is this "45 by 15" goal good for the environment, it will also reduce air pollution and create an estimated 50,000 new jobs. This is one of the ways New York will provide jobs for our displaced and unemployed workers and create the workforce necessary for a clean energy economy.



This newsletter brought to you in association with the National Oilheat Research Alliance



## A Whole-House Approach to

## Energy Savings

Equipment upgrades, preventive maintenance, air sealing and proper thermostat settings – put them all together and you get a whole-house approach to energy savings.

According to the ENERGY STAR® Web site ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)), almost half of your home's annual energy bill goes to heating and cooling the house. And when you combine all the factors described below, you can lower heating and cooling bills by 20% to 50% – with the added benefit of reducing environmental emissions.

### Equipment upgrade

Upgrading your current boiler or furnace can reduce bills by up to 30% or more. You'll also help the environment, because your new system will produce near-zero emissions and will run more efficiently.

### Tune-up

Having annual preventive maintenance on your boiler or furnace (better known as a tune-up) during the spring will ensure that it is running at peak efficiency and, according to the National Oilheat Research Alliance, systems that have not been tuned regularly may have significant savings, while systems that have not been tuned in the last couple of years may save 3%.

### Programmable thermostat

The Department of Energy estimates that a homeowner can save approximately 10% per year on heating and cooling costs by setting temperatures back 5% of the comfort level eight hours each day. When properly used, a programmable thermostat can reduce annual energy bills by \$100. So your initial investment is paid back within months!

### Weatherization

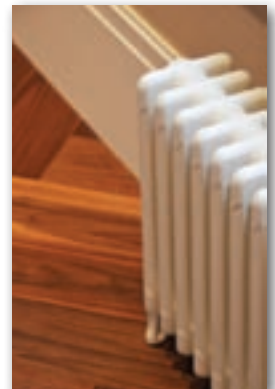
Install caulking and weather stripping around windows, doors and thresholds to seal air leaks.

**These are only a few conservation ideas you can implement – we would be happy to advise you on more. Please give us a call!**

## Help Your Heating System Do Its Job

You can't speak well if there's food in your mouth and you can't see well if there's hair in your eyes. Just the same, your heating system has to work harder than it should – and thereby wastes fuel – if there are obstacles in its way. **Here are three easy ways to make your boiler or furnace's job easier:**

- Keep sofas, rugs and furniture away from baseboards or radiators.
- If you have a furnace, have the air filters cleaned regularly. (Call us for a suggested cleaning schedule.)
- Close off rooms you don't use – and remember to shut the vents inside.



# Today's Energy Prices Call for a Budget Plan



Since last summer, the price of crude oil has fallen over \$100 a barrel. The problem, however, is more than oil prices declining – the issue is really *volatility*. Between July and January, daily oil prices rose or dropped by 5% or more 39 times, versus just four times over the previous two years – and analysts foresee oil prices staying volatile for much of 2009.

What to do about these ups and downs? **We suggest that, rather than focusing on the price of oil, you consider what we provide for**

**that price – automatic delivery, service contracts, conservation advice, and so much more.**

One of the best ways to help you manage your energy costs during these times

of volatile prices is to enroll in a **budget plan**. This convenient plan lets you spread your annual fuel costs into equal monthly payments, insulate you from market volatility and take the unpredictability out of your budget. Call us for details!



No one, after all, knows where the price of oil will go tomorrow, but you can always count on us, as your full service Oilheat dealer, for excellent value and outstanding service.

## “Greener” Oilheat to Be Delivered to Your Home

A new agreement among Oilheat suppliers will ensure that the Oilheat delivered to your home will contain gradually reduced sulfur levels over the next 10 years. This change, which will go into effect during the 2009-10 heating season, will

gradually reduce levels of sulfur dioxide in the atmosphere. Sulfur dioxide is a known contributor to haze and the formation of acid rain, which can cause plant and water damage.

The agreement was made with the Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Visibility Union, a planning organization that coordinates efforts to improve air quality to meet the requirements

of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The suppliers will reduce sulfur in already low-sulfur heating oil from 0.2% to 0.0015%. In addition to environmental benefits, this reduction will also result in energy savings due to more efficient boiler and furnace operation, as well as fewer maintenance calls.

## Other Exciting Oilheat Innovations

The National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA) is hard at work developing new applications and products for Oilheat consumers:

- **Condensing boilers and furnaces**, which basically use the heat in the exhaust gases to make more heat, recapturing energy that would otherwise be lost.
- **Two-stage (modulating) oil burners**, which operate on low flame, and then automatically increase to high-flame when more heat is needed.
- **Advanced synthetic coal-to-liquid fuels for oil-fired burners**, which would lead to a virtually unlimited supply of clean-burning, no-sulfur fuel, produced domestically.
- **Oil-fired heat pumps**, which would allow heating efficiencies up to 160% and reduce demand on the electric grid.
- **Advanced venting**, which will result in greater use of higher efficiency Oilheat systems, lower equipment costs and safer venting.
- **Advanced burner controls**, which automatically adjust your boiler or furnace's output as your energy requirements change, resulting in greater system efficiency, fuel and energy savings, and a more even comfort level.