



HOT Ideas

Energy tips for our customers



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

New York State on the Path to Cleaner Heating Oil



Great news for Oilheat customers!

In July, Governor Paterson signed a bill into law that will limit the sulfur content of heating oil to 15 parts per million, effective July 1, 2012.

This marks **the beginning of a new "clean and green fuel era" for the entire home heating oil industry.** As the largest Oilheat consuming state in the nation, New York has finally set the standard for the rest of the country to follow.

What's this new law all about?

"Reducing the levels of sulfur in heating fuel oil will improve the health of New Yorkers and our environment, and will **help consumers cut their energy bills** through reduced fuel use and lower maintenance costs," Governor Paterson said in a statement. **"The energy, health and environmental benefits of this legislation are indisputable."**

Governor Paterson's putting pen to paper would not have been possible without the leadership of the Oilheat industry, including members of the New York Oil Heating Association (NYOHA) – the folks behind this *Hot Ideas!* newsletter. Whenever the government – city, state or federal – considers new policies or regulations that would affect the fuel oil industry, NYOHA is there, speaking for our members and their customers.

Passage of the New York City Bioheat® Bill is another victory for clean, green Oilheat. See the article to the right!

Bioheat® for Everyone!

Heating oil users are on a winning streak when it comes to legislation making an already-clean fuel even cleaner and greener!

Just days after Governor Paterson signed into law a mandate to lower the sulfur content of home heating oil, Mayor Bloomberg signed a measure requiring a biodiesel component in all heating oil and a lower sulfur content in oil used to heat apartments and other commercial buildings.

This legislation, known as "Intro. 194," requires **all grades of heating oils to contain at least 2% biodiesel beginning in October of 2012.** Intro. 194 makes New York City a national leader in mandated biofuel use for heating. The National Oilheat Research Alliance advocates for increased use of biofuel for heating nationwide, and many Oilheat retailers now sell biofuel blends in place of traditional Oilheat.

What are biodiesel and Bioheat?

Bioheat is a blend of traditional heating oil and renewable biodiesel that is derived from plants and food byproducts. **Produced domestically,** Bioheat can replace imported oil – and now that it is mandated in New York City, will **give a boost to local biodiesel producers who manufacture it from renewable sources** such as used cooking oil. Plus, Bioheat is extremely clean burning, making it environmentally friendly.

When used with the latest, energy-efficient heating systems, Bioheat will make home heating greener than ever!



Myths about Your Home Heating

Learn the facts – you'll save money and energy – and ensure your home's safety!

Myth: If I set my thermostat to its highest setting, the heat will go on faster.

Fact: Most boilers and furnaces deliver heat at the same rate no matter how high they're set. So the best thing to do is to just set your system at the temperature you'd like, and your unit will heat your home as fast as it can.

Myth: If I want to upgrade for more heat, I should buy the biggest heating system possible.

Fact: When it's time to upgrade your boiler or furnace, choosing one of the correct size (we're talking about heating output, not inches) is critical. Oversized heating systems are more inefficient and expensive to operate. Your Oilheat dealer will know exactly which size system you need for your home heating.

Myth: If I go away on vacation, I should turn my heat off completely.

Fact: Never turn your boiler or furnace off when you go away during the winter. Your pipes could freeze and burst – not a pleasant discovery when you return home! Instead, turn your thermostat to 55 degrees, which saves money, keeps water pipes warm and prevents condensation on walls and windows. You should also arrange for your home to be checked while you are away.



Heating Assistance Is Available!

Help is available for our customers on a limited budget through **HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program)**. HEAP is a federally funded program that helps qualified persons pay their heating bills during times when they need assistance.

Need is determined by your income and other factors. Emergency assistance is also available. Funds are limited, so if you're interested, please apply early. **The program begins on November 1, 2010, at which time applications will be available.***

For more information and eligibility guidelines, please call the New York City Human Resources Administration at 718-557-1399 or 1-877-472-8411 (toll free within the five boroughs). You may also visit the HEAP Web site, www.otda.state.ny.us/main/heap.

**The HEAP state plan for fiscal year 2011 had not been approved at the time of publication.*

Attention, Building Owners

Keeping your tenants comfortable is the law!

Between October 1st and May 31st, residential owners with tenants in New York City are required by law to maintain an indoor temperature of at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. when the outdoor temperature falls below 55 degrees. Between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., building owners must maintain an indoor temperature of 55 degrees when the outside temperature falls below 40 degrees.



THIRD PARTY NOTIFICATION

Would you like someone to receive notices relating to your Oilheat account?

Please complete the form below and send it back to us if you or someone you know would like to select a "third party," such as a relative or friend, to receive all notices relating to service termination or credit actions regarding your Oilheat account. The third party must agree in writing to accept those notices and contact us on your behalf, but is NOT responsible for paying your bills.

Third Party Notification Enrollment Form

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Name of Third Party _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____

Signature _____ Date _____