

Comfort Seasons



from

BRIDEAU
SMARTER HEATING & COOLING



personally speaking

speak up for energy choice



Mark Brideau Sr.

Dear Friends,

Brideau Energy has worked hard for

decades to ensure your family stays safe and warm on the coldest New England nights while minimizing

your home's carbon footprint.

Unfortunately, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is ignoring the environmental value of the renewable Bioheat Plus® fuel and low-carbon propane we sell.

Instead, they're pursuing a reckless, expensive plan to electrify everything in Massachusetts homes and businesses. Their plan is called the **Clean Heat Standard**, and it could dramatically impact your family's comfort and budget.

The proposed new regulations contained in the Clean Heat Standard would:

- » Impose new financial obligations on providers of propane, heating oil and

other traditional heating fuels, artificially inflating all energy prices for consumers.

- » Force home heating companies to convert customers to electric heating or face steep penalties.
- » Create an incredible strain on the electric grid—increasing the likelihood of blackouts during periods of extreme cold.
- » Exclude proven clean energy choices in Massachusetts.

Please visit BrideauEnergy.com/chs-facts/ to read more about an issue that will affect **everyone's future**. After that, use the online form to let your elected representatives know that Massachusetts citizens deserve a smarter, more balanced energy plan.

Warmly,

Mark Brideau Sr.



Go here to make your voice heard!

what's ahead for Bioheat® fuel?

Renewable fuels like the **B20 Bioheat Plus fuel** we deliver

represent a practical and economical alternative to the costly forced electrification that government leaders in Massachusetts continue to pursue.

The fact is, Bioheat fuel is not only helping to reduce carbon emissions **right now**; it will continue to reduce emissions each year as it eventually evolves into **B100**, an all-biofuel, no-petroleum home heating fuel.

In preparation for this, the R.W. Beckett Corporation has begun production of fully-warranted burners with B100-compliant components. Additionally, the National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA) has demonstrated that a home heated with **100% biofuel** while using solar panels to produce electricity can reach **net-zero carbon emissions** quickly—and at an economically viable cost.

The bottom line is, you can count on the quality of heating oil to get even better in the years ahead. And you can depend on Brideau Energy to be there by your side to help you stay comfortable and safe while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



WIN Chef-Recommended Cookware

Take your culinary skills to a high level! Enter our drawing to win a six-piece starter set of **HexClad** cookware, which combines the durability of stainless steel and the easy cleanup of nonstick. The sizes and designs of these skillet are based on the pan preferences of professional chefs around the world. **Three winners will be chosen!**

Read this newsletter and answer the questions on the enclosed reply card, or go to BrideauEnergy.com/contest to enter. All entries received by **1/19/24** with the correct answers will be entered into a drawing for the prize.



No purchase necessary. A purchase will not improve chance of winning. See enclosed card for details.

What Do You Call the Fuel Inside Your Tank?

Do you think of it as heating oil? Fuel oil? Maybe you just call it oil. Have you ever referred to it as Bioheat® fuel? We explain the difference here.



Fuel Oil vs. Heating Oil: What's the Difference?

A lot of people tend to say heating oil and fuel oil interchangeably when describing their home heating fuel. That's perfectly OK, but be aware that the term fuel oil is not limited to home heating oil. Fuel oil is a broader term because it refers to any petroleum product that can power a home heating system **or** an engine. For instance, **diesel fuel** is a fuel oil.

Both fuel oil and home heating oil are sourced from crude oil during the refining process, which separates crude oil into different “fractions” while removing impurities. The lighter fractions of crude oil eventually become propane, butane and petrochemicals.

Slightly heavier fractions are used to produce gasoline, kerosene, jet fuel, diesel fuel and home heating oil. But that's not all. There are also heavier fractions refined from crude oil that can become No. 4 or No. 6 heating oils. These heavier grades of heating oil commonly fuel the large heating systems found in commercial and industrial buildings, schools and hospitals.

Are Heating Oil and Diesel the Same?

While there are two categories of diesel — on-road and off-road — there is no chemical difference between them. The only difference is their appearance, intended usage and price.

On-road diesel, which is subject to tax, powers vehicles like buses and trucks. Off-road diesel, which is not taxed, fuels equipment like tractors and generators.

Petroleum-based **home heating oil**, or No. 2 fuel oil, is essentially the same as off-road diesel. However, many homeowners and businesses can now count on an even more environmentally-friendly product when they get a heating oil delivery from us.



Bioheat® Fuel:

A Great Option for a Cleaner Future

We have delivered heating oil blended with **renewable biodiesel** (also known as biofuel) for some years now. The most refined grade of heating oil available, Bioheat fuel is also one of the cleanest burning heating sources for your home. It reduces greenhouse gas emissions significantly, and no changes to your existing heating oil system are necessary.

The biodiesel blend in Bioheat fuel comes from various organic materials, including

food byproducts like soybean oil. You sacrifice no food with biodiesel production.

What's so great about Bioheat fuel? When traditional fossil fuels that do not contain biodiesel burn, they take carbon that was originally stored in the ground and release **100%** of that carbon into the atmosphere.

In contrast, biofuel combustion actually **recycles** carbon-dioxide emissions through renewable plant materials and other biomass feedstocks contained in biofuels. That's why Bioheat fuel can be considered a clean energy source with **net-zero emissions** in the future. Clean electricity (still a work in progress) is not the only game in town!



How Much Heating Oil Will I Need?

Many factors affect your fuel use, including the outdoor temperature, the size of your home, the quality of insulation in your home, the efficiency of your furnace or boiler and your family's heating preferences.



But here's one basic rule of thumb that will help to give you a general estimate. The median size of a new single-family home built in 2018 was nearly 2,400 square feet. If outdoor temperatures average about 32° over a 24-hour period, that size home would consume about six or seven gallons of heating oil per day. Naturally, if temperatures remain above freezing and you live in a smaller home, you will use less heating oil per day.

Be Ready for a Delivery

Here's what you can do to help ensure that your fuel delivery is as efficient as possible during the winter.

- 💧 **make sure your outdoor heating oil tank** is always cleared of ice and snow.
- 💧 **shovel a path** to your heating oil tank or fill pipe after a snowstorm.
- 💧 **mark the location** of an underground tank with a stake that is visible above snow so our driver can find it easily.
- 💧 **plow or shovel your driveway and lay down salt or sand** to create a wide enough path so our bulk trucks can navigate it safely.

Our drivers thank you in advance!



Reading Your Oil Tank Gauge

On top of the heating oil tank, you'll see a clear glass or plastic tube that is marked with numbers that resemble the gas gauge of your car: F, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$. A brightly colored marker or float commonly indicates the amount of fuel left in your tank. If the float is at the bottom of the gauge or not visible at all, your tank is empty or nearly empty.

If you think the gauge is not working properly, please contact us. You never want to **guess** how much oil is left in your tank.

ask the expert

Q: Can you help convert my home from oil to propane heat?

A: Yes, we've done that many times for our customers. We'll send an equipment specialist to perform a free, no-obligation evaluation of your home and current heating equipment. This will take about an hour.

Shortly afterward, we will send you our report and recommendations for a new propane heating system. We'll also share ways you can save on

your purchase, including applying for a **\$600 federal tax credit** for upgrading to qualifying high-efficiency equipment.

After you've made your selection, we'll set a date for your installation. We typically schedule our appointments one week after you approve our proposal, and the installation itself usually takes only one day.

Please get in touch with us soon to request an appointment for a **FREE** at-home evaluation.



Danielle Lavallee
Propane Division

has anything changed?

We pride ourselves on being familiar with your home, the condition of your HVAC system and how much fuel you generally use.

Keeping our records updated about your account allows us to continue the smooth, reliable delivery service you've come to expect from us. This is especially important if you're on our automatic delivery schedule.

With that in mind, please let us know if the number of people in your home has changed in the past year. It also helps to know if you have put your home up for sale or increased your living space.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns about your delivery schedule.



BRIDEAU

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Fitchburg, MA 01420



PRESORTED
STANDARD MAIL
US POSTAGE
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DG3

upgrade your whole heating system

We always advise customers who are upgrading very old heating oil systems to include their heating oil tank in their replacement plans.

This is especially true if your storage tank is over 25 years old. Older tanks that feed oil to your burner via a side tap are more prone to leaking. That's because this design allows for the buildup of sludge at the tank bottom, eventually leading to moisture and corrosion.

Newer tanks are less likely to leak. Plus, many tanks we install feature double-wall construction, which virtually eliminates the possibility of a leak.

The next time we're at your home for heating service, we will gladly inspect your aboveground tank at no extra charge. We will let you know if we detect any signs of corrosion. Then, we'll walk you through your replacement options. We can also discuss the benefits of switching your heat source over to propane if you wish.



Roth

