

Comfort Seasons



from

BRIDEAU
SMARTER HEATING & COOLING



spring 2024



personally speaking

where is the electric train taking us?

Dear Friends,

At Brideau Energy,

we have been helping

Massachusetts families stay comfortable year-round for almost 40 years.

We've always been committed to doing this while helping

each of our customers shrink their carbon footprints. One way we accomplish this is by delivering Bioheat Plus® fuel, up to 20% of which is biofuel. At this blend percentage, our heating oil burns more cleanly than natural gas. We also deliver propane, which emits little carbon dioxide, no methane and almost no particulate matter.

With today's incredibly efficient home equipment, these fuels help countless New England families stay warm, reliably and affordably. Sadly, Massachusetts is pursuing a reckless path of electrification that could eliminate these proven, clean-burning fuels.

The Commonwealth is in the process of developing a Clean Heat Standard, which,

among other things, would force companies like Brideau Energy to convert customers to electric heat pumps or face steep penalties.

A whole-house heat pump conversion can cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

This plan also puts the reliability of our electric grid at risk. ISO New England, the corporation responsible for keeping power flowing to homes in our region, has advised repeatedly that the rapid, enormous increase in electricity demand will lead to more frequent power outages.

I encourage you to use the QR code below to learn more about the Clean Heat Standard and tell lawmakers we need a smarter, more affordable energy plan.



Warmly,

Mark Brideau Sr.

propane: your feel-good fuel

Why do homeowners feel good about using propane? It's a versatile, efficient, clean-burning, American-made fuel.

Propane serves a wide array of functions in our homes.

It can provide heat affordably, with modern, high-efficiency furnaces and boilers.

Propane water heaters often have hot water recovery rates that are twice as fast as those of electric units. Tankless water heaters are even more efficient! Propane equipment can cook your food, dry your laundry, light up your hearth and power your outdoor amenities.

When you use propane-powered products, you're part of the solution to climate change, since propane is a low-emissions fuel. And you can also feel confident about our country's propane supply. About 90% of the propane used in the United States is domestically produced.

If you're interested in upgrading your propane equipment, check out our article on page 4 about some generous rebates available for a limited time—then send in the enclosed reply card to get started!



WIN a Yeti Cooler

Make your next outdoor adventure extra cool by taking along this Roadie® 60 Wheeled Cooler from Yeti, which can keep more than 50 beverage cans on ice for days.

Read this newsletter and answer the questions on the enclosed reply card or go to BrideauEnergy.com/contest to enter. All entries received by **6/28/24** with the correct answers will be entered into a drawing for the prize.

Three winners will be selected!

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



THE OIL-HEATED HOME OF THE FUTURE

Higher blends of Bioheat® fuel, combined with super-efficient heating oil systems, will help you save a lot of money on heat while vastly reducing carbon emissions.

Introducing the Net-Zero Home with 100% Bioheat® Fuel

For the last two decades, the liquid fuel industry has focused on the use of renewable biofuels to replace traditional, petroleum-based heating oil. The end goal — reach net-zero carbon emissions!

Thanks to the combined efforts of the National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA), equipment manufacturers, fuel companies and heating oil associations, the use of higher blends of advanced biofuel with No. 2 home heating oil has increased substantially.

We've come so far that some companies are even preparing to deliver 100% renewable B100 Bioheat fuel (0% petroleum, 100% biofuel) in the future.

Meanwhile, NORA has proven that it's possible for a pure biofuel-heated house to be a net-zero emitter of carbon at an economically viable cost.

NORA recently piloted the **Net-Zero Carbon Home Project** using B100 Bioheat fuel with the home's high-efficiency heating oil boiler. They used solar panels for non-heating needs like air conditioning.

The promise of a net-zero carbon home powered by 100% renewable Bioheat fuel means that homeowners will achieve huge carbon reduction without having to change their heating equipment or the fuel they use to heat their homes!



Why Are People Using Less Heating Oil Now?

Compared to about 25 years ago, homeowners now need an average of **500 fewer gallons of oil** to heat their homes each year. That's because new, high-efficiency heating systems feature enhanced technology and control capabilities to provide optimal comfort while decreasing your heating costs. Another popular feature of modern, high-efficiency heating systems is that they operate **significantly quieter** than old heaters.

Old heating systems were built with thick metal components that did a poor job at transferring heat. Unfortunately, many of these systems are still in use today, and people who still rely on them pay so much more to heat their homes.

Despite the potential for big savings, many people don't bother to update their heating systems until something major goes wrong. Many don't realize that a new, high-efficiency system could pay for itself in a fairly short period of time.

If you're curious about how much you can save each year with a new, high-efficiency heating oil system, please reach out to us, and we'll be glad to crunch some numbers for you. We think you will be pleasantly surprised.

Better than Ever

Heating oil has been reformulated and blended with **renewable, ultra-low-sulfur Bioheat® fuel** to make it cleaner burning, more environmentally friendly and more energy efficient. This has paved the way for the greater availability of compact, super-efficient heating oil boilers and furnaces!

Can We Still Rely on Electricity?

Rising peak demand and the planned closure of many fossil fuel and nuclear electric generation plants over the next decade will create blackout risks for most of the country, according to a December 2023 report by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC).

NERC asserts that: "In recent years, we've witnessed a decline in reliability, and the future projection does not offer a clear path to securing the reliable electricity supply that is essential for the health, safety, and prosperity of our communities."

In its report, NERC said the growth rates of forecasted peak electric demand have **risen significantly** over the past year. This reverses a decades-long trend of falling or flat growth rates. Projections for growth in data centers and electric vehicles have contributed to these higher forecasts for electric demand.

Additionally, the rapid electrification of heating systems via heat pumps is having a big effect on seasonal demand. This is causing a shift from our traditional summer peak electric demand to winter peak electric demand or, in some cases, **dual-season peaks**.

These are some of the reasons why NERC says that "regulators and policymakers need to consider effects on the electric grid in their rules and policies and design provisions that safeguard grid reliability."

That's why we all must do our part by calling on our elected representatives to come up with a balanced energy plan that incorporates renewable Bioheat® fuel — and avoids sabotaging our electric reliability.

Sources: https://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/NERC_SRA_2023.pdf • <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/generator-retirements-threaten-grid-reliability-NERC/702504/> • <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesbusinesscouncil/2023/07/12/keeping-the-power-on-the-critical-importance-of-reliable-electricity/?sh=134878a343c2>

The Department of Energy (DOE) reports that, by 2030, the U.S. must expand electricity transmission systems by 60%.

Newly Arrived: the B100 Burner

Twenty years ago, forward-thinkers in the heating oil industry envisioned a day when advanced biofuels could be used in home heating on a wide scale. This would vastly reduce dependence on foreign oil and lower our country's greenhouse gas emissions.

Besides progressively moving toward the delivery of B100 Bioheat® fuel (100% biofuel), the industry reached another important milestone last year when the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) updated its standards to include burners that use B100 Bioheat fuel. In response,

the R.W. Beckett Corporation and Carlin Combustion quickly developed **fully warrantied burners that are completely B100 compatible**.

This will allow even more homeowners to take advantage of higher blends of Bioheat fuel and pave the way for this innovative energy source as a realistic and affordable pathway to achieve a cleaner and healthier environment for everyone who owns an oil-heated home.



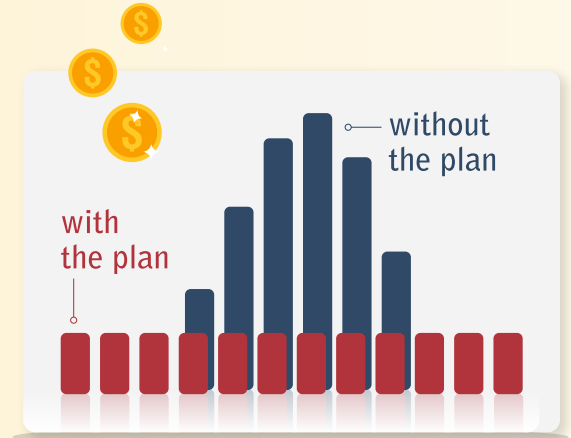
add peace of mind to your energy budget

It can be challenging to anticipate your month-to-month propane and heating oil expenses. Market prices fluctuate. Weather is unpredictable. Luckily, Brideau Energy customers have several ways to protect their fuel prices and stabilize their budgets.

You can enroll in a 12-month **Budget Plan** at no additional cost. Instead of paying in full upon delivery, you will spread your payments out evenly over the year. You can slash your winter costs virtually in half.

Our **Pre-Paid Plan** lets you lock in your price per gallon when you purchase your entire season's fuel in advance. If you add a **Price Cap** to either your Budget Plan or Pre-Paid Plan, we will put a ceiling on how much you pay per gallon—but if the market rate drops, you'll pay the lower price!

Enrollment for these programs starts in April. You can contact our office or use the enclosed reply card to sign up.



ACT NOW and save on new HVAC equipment

If your HVAC equipment is more than 10 years old,

upgrading to a high-efficiency replacement can slash your energy costs by 20%. And you can save on installation with rebates!



But you need to act quickly.

Big changes are coming to the Mass Save program. Right now, we can help you **save thousands of dollars on heat pumps and energy-efficient oil and propane boilers, furnaces and water heaters.** However, heating oil and gas equipment will soon be excluded from the program. Contact us right away if new oil or gas equipment is in your future.

You can also save at tax time when you install Energy Star-certified heating and cooling systems thanks to **federal tax credits of as much as \$2,000!**

Please visit the Rebates & Financing page on our website to learn more about these and other financial incentives. Then contact us using the enclosed reply card.



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Brideau's co-op program spotlight

Brideau Energy partners with vocational schools in our region to provide hands-on HVAC training through our Co-Op Program. Apprentice technicians learn to install and service mini-splits, boilers, water heaters and other HVAC equipment—all while attending classes concurrently.

We work with Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School (aka Monty Tech), Leominster High School and Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School. Many of our technicians came to us through the co-op program. It's an excellent way to develop real-world experience and jump-start an exciting, fulfilling career.

If you or someone you know is starting on a path to an HVAC career, don't hesitate to reach out to Mell Barrows, the co-op coordinator, at our office.



From left: Nate and Jayden, from Monty Tech.

Congratulations to Kerry I., of Rindge, NH, and Jennifer D., of Holden, MA, on winning our Winter 2024 contest. Each winner received a \$100 gift card.