

Comfort Seasons



from

BRIDEAU
SMARTER HEATING & COOLING



personally speaking

what affects your fuel price?



Mark Brideau Sr.

Dear Friends,

As temperatures start dropping in

Central Massachusetts and Southern

New Hampshire, Brideau Energy trucks are on the

road, making deliveries of propane and heating oil. Many customers have asked what influences the price of these fuels and how they can better manage their energy budgets.

Several variables affect heating oil prices. Some are global, like wars, refinery interruptions, supply chain disruptions and OPEC production cuts. Since more than 80% of U.S. heating oil usage happens in the Northeast, prices regularly rise in the winter because of high demand in our region.

Propane's price tends to be more stable, because this fuel is almost entirely American made. That being said, other unique factors have an impact on propane rates, including demand from the agricultural and industrial sectors.

Local fuel companies like ours don't make more money when prices rise. Think of your neighborhood grocery store—its profits don't increase if coffee prices go up. We want the markets to stay stable and affordable for propane and heating oil, just as you do.

Brideau Energy offers pricing and payment programs (see page 4) that can stabilize your bills. You can also save 10¢ per gallon by signing up for AutoPay. Finally, upgrading to more efficient heating equipment can make a huge difference in your energy spending. (See related article on this page.)

If you want to learn more about how we can help you with your energy budget, go to **BrideauEnergy.com** or call our office. Take care and enjoy the beautiful fall foliage!

Warmly,

Mark Brideau Sr.

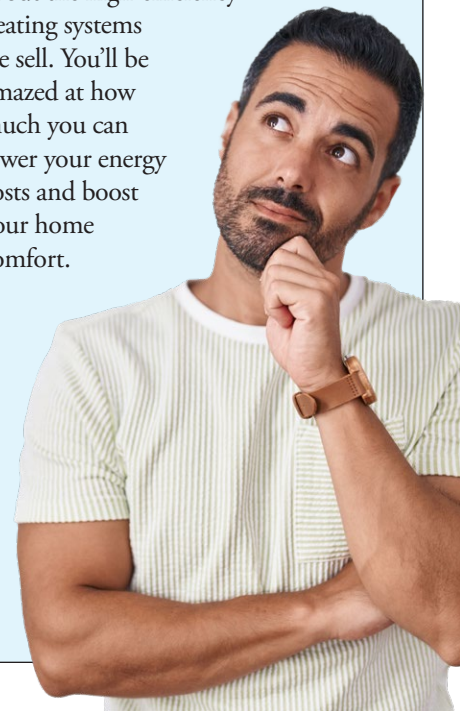
time for a new heating system?

Is your furnace or boiler over 15 years old?

Have you had to call us for more repairs recently? It could be time to explore your replacement options. Upgrading to a new propane or oil heating system could **lower your fuel costs by up to 20%**.

Depending on the efficiency of the new equipment, you might also be able to save money on installation. We'll help you qualify for any state rebates, manufacturer's discounts and tax credits—potentially saving you hundreds of dollars or more!

Get in touch with the Brideau Energy team now to learn more about the high-efficiency heating systems we sell. You'll be amazed at how much you can lower your energy costs and boost your home comfort.



WIN \$500 Worth of Food

These days, everyone can use some extra money in their pockets when they go food shopping. Here's your chance to do that.

Just read this newsletter and answer the questions at **BrideauEnergy.com/contest** to enter. All entries received by **11/20/2024** with the correct answers will be entered into a drawing for a **\$500 gift card** for their favorite supermarket. **Three winners will be selected!**

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



Oil Heat: Champion of Comfort

You can continue to rest easy knowing you can rely on heating oil to deliver great value while being one of the cleanest, safest and most efficient home heating fuels — now and in the future.

The Energy Efficiency King

Heating oil generates nearly 140,000 Btu of heat for every gallon burned and warms a home evenly and efficiently. That's more Btu power than 100 cubic feet of natural gas and 10 kWh of electricity combined! This is because the flame in a heating oil system burns much hotter than many other energy systems, producing more heat and hotter air or water. So, when the outdoor temperatures are below freezing, that powerful heat output can help keep your home as cozy as ever.

Technology has also brought great improvements in heating oil equipment efficiency, which has reduced annual fuel consumption by 20% or more. This has saved heating oil consumers a lot of money on fuel. Plus, we are now seeing more super high-efficiency systems become available with efficiency levels of 90% or more!



How Safe is Heating Oil?

Heating oil is a remarkably safe home heating fuel!

First, heating oil cannot explode in its liquid form. The fuel that sits in your tank is as likely to explode as the water in your backyard swimming pool.

Additionally, a heating oil system poses a very low risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. If an oil burner malfunctions (most often due to a lack of maintenance), the safety devices in the unit will typically shut the heating oil furnace or heating oil boiler off.

Plus, you will usually see smoke coming out of your boiler or furnace as a warning sign. In contrast, a gas heating system usually does not produce a visual warning sign if there is a carbon monoxide problem.



Bioheat® Fuel Raises the Bar

We deliver Bioheat fuel to our heating oil customers, and it's been a game-changer when it comes to heating your home, saving you money and helping the environment. Bioheat fuel is a blend of ultra-low-sulfur heating oil and premium biofuels made from renewable resources such as plant oils.

Bioheat fuel is cleaner burning, generating fewer greenhouse gas emissions than both conventional heating oil and, depending on the blend level, natural gas.

Bioheat fuel leaves fewer deposits on your system's internal parts. That helps to reduce wear and tear, meaning you will likely have fewer breakdowns and a longer life expectancy for your heating oil system. No system modifications are needed to use our Bioheat fuel!



Will We Run Out of Electricity?

We all know that electricity is vital to our lives. But these days, our country needs a lot more of it, partly because of the government's push to expand the use of electric vehicles and electric heat pumps. But that's not all.

The International Energy Agency has projected that electricity demand from the approximately 8,000 global data centers—one-third of which are in the U.S.—will more than double from 2022 to 2026. The primary reason for this is the explosive growth of artificial intelligence (AI), which gets its strength from thousands of computer servers in data centers around the world. AI models consume power at a much higher rate than data centers in the pre-AI days.

Right now, residents in many communities are worried about the impact of new data centers going up in their neighborhood, including the possibility that taxpayers may get stuck with the cost of adding more power lines.

None of this is good news for Mother Earth either. Despite progress in the expansion of renewable energy sources like wind and solar, electric power generation remains the largest source of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in the world.

It is also bad news for our fragile electric grid, which could leave us vulnerable to massive power outages if we don't come up with a smarter energy plan. To us, this includes recognizing the importance of renewable Bioheat® fuel as a viable option for heating homes now and in the future.

Sources:
time.com/6987773/ai-data-centers-energy-usage-climate-change/
iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/6b2fd954-2017-408e-bf08-952fdd62118a/Electricity2024-Analysisandforecastto2026.pdf



Heating Oil vs. Other Fuels

While prices will always rise and fall, you can rely on heating oil for great value. That's because a gallon of heating oil gives you a lot more heating energy than what an equivalent amount of other heating fuels can generate. Here's how we know this.

Energy or heat content can be used to compare energy sources or fuels on an equal basis. You can convert fuels from physical units of measure (such as weight or volume) to a common unit of measurement of the energy or heat content of each fuel.

For example, the U.S. Energy Information Administration uses British Thermal Units (Btu) as a unit of energy content and has calculated the sample Btu conversion factors shown here. As you can see, heating oil is far and away the most energy-efficient of the four most popular heating fuels.

Electricity	1 kilowatthour = 3,412 Btu
Propane	1 gallon = 91,452 Btu
Natural gas	1 therm = 100,000 Btu
Heating oil	1 gallon = 138,500 Btu



ask the expert

Q: How reliable are heat pumps during the winter?

A: Electric heat pump systems provide excellent air conditioning and even good heat during mildly cool months. However, heat pumps are too unreliable right now to be your only heating option in the winter. When temperatures dip below freezing in New England, these units struggle to generate enough heat to keep your family warm. Homeowners who install a heat pump often hold

onto their oil- or gas-fired furnace or boiler as a backup heat source.

Heat pumps are also difficult to repair, and there is a shortage of replacement parts. This situation will become worse next year when the R-410A refrigerant used in many of today's systems is phased out.

If you're looking to replace your current heating equipment, reach out to us. We'll help you identify a product that reduces your energy consumption while safeguarding your comfort.



Jim Hamilton
Service Manager

join a winning team with Brideau



Do you or someone you know

have a background in heating and cooling? Are you interested in work that ensures the well-being of people in your community? Consider joining the family of Brideau Energy employees.

We're a proudly family-owned-and-operated company with a sterling reputation in the communities we serve. We have a friendly, dynamic, supportive work culture and want to see our team grow with some outstanding people. Right now, we are looking for **oil and propane service technicians, equipment installers, and licensed propane/LP technicians.**

To learn more, go to the Careers page at BrideauEnergy.com.



BRIDEAU

49 Cobbler Drive
Fitchburg, MA 01420



PRESORTED
STANDARD MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID
DG3

lower your stress levels this winter

Here are a few ways Brideau Energy can make your winter a little easier:

- ▶ Our free **Budget Plan** allows you to spread your payments out evenly over the course of the year. You can slash your winter expenses substantially by paying these lower installments.
- ▶ Enrolling in **paperless billing** prevents a lot of the paper clutter in your home, and you can still easily access your emailed billing statements.

- ▶ With electronic **AutoPay**, you'll never be late with your payment—plus you'll receive a 10¢-per-gallon credit, like our cash customers.
- ▶ Enroll in **automatic heating oil or propane deliveries** if you haven't already done so. With this free service, we track your usage and schedule your refills for you. You'll never need to check a tank gauge again!

One more thing: Please make sure that we have your most up-to-date contact info (email and phone numbers) on file. It's critical for us to be able to reach you if there's an emergency, especially during inclement weather.

Congratulations to **Edwina O.** on winning our Spring 2024 contest. She won a **\$500** gift card.