MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
Energy Resources

2025-2026
Heating Season

Winter Heating Guide

Resources for Maine people to stay warm this winter and find heating assistance if needed

STAY INFORMED

Track Heating Fuel Prices

The Maine Department of Energy Resources (DOER), formerly the Maine Governor's Energy Office, maintains a heating fuel prices web page to help consumers make informed energy decisions. The page features an interactive dashboard that compares the operating costs of different heating systems and fuels. Prices are updated each week during the heating season.

Review Electricity Rates

View Maine electricity rates on the DOER electricity prices page or find information about competitive electricity providers through the Office of the Public Advocate or Maine Public Utilities Commission. Higher-usage households may qualify for alternative rates from Central Maine Power (CMP) or Versant Power. Contact your utility for details.

Know Your Rights

Maine law protects consumers when it comes to winter heating fuel delivery. Specifically, oil dealers cannot refuse deliveries during the heating season for customers who owe them money, provided certain conditions are met. For details, review the Office of the Maine Attorney General's Consumer Home Heating Rights.

GET EFFICIENT

Tune up your heating system each year to ensure safe and efficient operation. Schedule a chimney cleaning for wood and oil burning systems. Keep your heat pump properly maintained for optimal performance. Learn more about heat pump maintenance by visiting Efficiency Maine.

Weatherize your home to lower your energy use. Several incentives and low-cost financing options exist to help residents and businesses reduce energy costs and improve indoor comfort through weatherization. Learn about incentives for insulation, air sealing, and more from Efficiency Maine and MaineHousing.

Heat pumps are the most efficient way to heat and cool a building, and are proven to work in cold weather. Multiple incentive programs exist to reduce the cost of installing a heat pump for low- and moderate-income households in Maine. Learn more about heat pump incentives from Efficiency Maine.

Community Action Agencies across Maine help low-income households access energy efficiency and other assistance programs. Visit MaineHousing to find your local agency or click the link below.

Emergency Fuel Assistance

If you are very low on fuel and can't afford to fill your tank, you may qualify for an emergency delivery. Emergency funds are available at non-profits, churches, municipalities, and other organizations.
Call 211 or contact your local Community Action Agency for more information.

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES

HEATING FUEL TIPS

Automatic Delivery
Ask your heating fuel provider about automatic delivery, where they can monitor your fuel levels so you don't accidently run out. Automatic delivery also offers added security in the event of a supply disruption or very cold or inclement weather.

Fixed-Price Contracts
Some consumers elect to enter into a contract for a set fuel price before winter to ensure predictability and guard against rising prices. If your dealer offers a contract and you decide to lock in a price, be sure to read the contract carefully and understand all terms before signing. Once signed, fixed-price contracts between a customer and dealer are binding.

Propane
If you heat with propane, read our Propane Consumer Guide, which includes information on obtaining a good price, changing suppliers, and potential start-up and closing fees.

PROPANE GUIDE

Firewood
If you use wood to heat your home, read the firewood guide prepared by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Remember to schedule a chimney cleaning to ensure safe heating.

FIREWOOD GUIDE

ENERGY AGENCIES

Maine Department of Energy Resources
The Maine Department of Energy Resources (DOER; previously the Maine Governor's Energy Office) leads energy policy, planning, and development for the state. DOER provides policy leadership and technical assistance, develops energy programs, monitors energy markets, and reports on heating fuel and electricity prices, among other activities. DOER works in partnership with various state agencies, federal and local officials, industry, nonprofit interests, and academia on energy issues.

Contact: Call (207) 624-7449 or visit maine.gov/energy

MaineHousing
The Maine State Housing Authority (MaineHousing) is an independent authority that addresses problems of unsafe, unsuitable, overcrowded, and unaffordable housing. Working with Community Action Agencies around the state, MaineHousing administers home heating assistance and weatherization programs for Maine people to help them stay warm during the winter.

Contact: Call (800) 452-4668 or visit mainehousing.org

Maine Public Utilities Commission
The Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is the state's governing body that regulates the rates and services of Maine's utilities. If you have contacted your utility and still need help, contact the PUC's Consumer Assistance Division. They can help resolve disputes and negotiate a mutually-agreeable payment arrangement.

Contact: Call (800) 452-4699 or visit maine.gov/mpuc

Efficiency Maine Trust
Efficiency Maine Trust (Efficiency Maine) is the independent administrator of energy efficiency programs in Maine. Efficiency Maine provides consumer information, rebates, loans, and other initiatives to promote high-efficiency equipment and operations that help homes, businesses, and institutions reduce their energy costs through greater energy efficiency.

Contact: Call (866) 376-2463 or visit efficiencymaine.com

Maine Office of the Public Advocate
The Maine Office of the Public Advocate's (OPA) primary responsibility is to represent the interests of Maine utility consumers. The OPA provides information regarding utility services as well as resources for energy consumers in Maine.

Contact: Call (207) 624-3687 or visit maine.gov/meopa

MAINEHOUSING PROGRAMS

MaineHousing helps qualified homeowners and renters pay for heating costs, including assistance with fuel costs and emergency fuel delivery as well as energy-related repairs and utility payments. Lower-income households may qualify for heating assistance and energy improvements at no cost to them. Moderate-income households may qualify for low-cost energy loans. To get started with programs offered by MaineHousing, check the income eligibility requirements or contact your local Community Action Agency.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

The Home Energy Assistance Program (commonly known as HEAP or LIHEAP) provides funds to low-income homeowners and renters to help cover heating costs. The funds are distributed by Maine's local Community Action Agencies and Prosperity Maine (in most cases directly to the fuel vendors). The program is not intended to pay for all heating costs, rather to assist in paying heating bills. For more information, visit MaineHousing or call (**877) 544-3271**.

Low Income Assistance Program (LIAP)

The Low Income Assistance Program (LIAP) helps low-income homeowners and renters with their electric utility bills. Through Community Action Agencies, MaineHousing accepts customer applications for LIAP as part of the HEAP application process. Customers who participate in a DHHS program can apply for LIAP here. Some people will receive a letter from DHHS stating they qualify for LIAP and should contact their utility to enroll.

Weatherization Program

MaineHousing's Weatherization Program provides grants to low-income homeowners and renters to reduce energy costs by improving home energy efficiency. This program is available through Maine's local Community Action Agencies that screen people for eligibility as part of the HEAP application process. For more information on weatherization, visit MaineHousing or call **(207) 626-4600 ext. 57433.** See Efficiency Maine for additional incentives.

Central Heating Improvement Program

MaineHousing's Central Heating Improvement Program (CHIP) provides grants to repair or replace central heating systems that serve low-income households. Limited benefits may also be available for rental properties occupied by HEAP-eligible tenants.

EFFICIENCY MAINE PROGRAMS

Efficiency Maine offers a variety of incentives and rebates for home efficiency upgrades, as well as loans to help income-eligible Maine homeowners pay for incentive-eligible upgrades. Call **866-376-2463** or visit Efficiency Maine to learn more.

Residential Rebates and Incentives

Financial incentives for households are available for insulation, heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and more. Enhanced incentives are available for income-eligible households. For low- and moderate-income people living in single-wide mobile homes, incentives for new ducted heat pump systems are available through the Manufactured Home Initiative.

Residential Home Energy Loans

Efficiency Maine offers home energy loans to help income-eligible Maine homeowners pay for incentive-eligible energy upgrades. Qualifying homeowners can borrow up to $7,500 over 10 years with no fees and interest rates as low as 5.99% APR. Electric vehicles are not eligible.

Non-Residential Programs

Efficiency Maine also offers non-residential energy efficiency initiatives for commercial, industrial, municipal, educational, or multifamily (i.e., three or more units) customers.

OTHER PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

Natural Gas Customer Discounts

If you are an income-eligible natural gas customer receiving service under residential heating and non-heating rates, you may be eligible to receive a 30% discount on your delivery and gas supply rates.

This discount is available to any customer identified by MaineHousing as eligible for HEAP. Once enrolled, customers receive the discount for 12 consecutive months. Call your gas utility to enroll.

Tools to Manage Past-Due Balances

CMP and Versant Power each operate an Arrearage Management Program (AMP) for eligible low-income residential customers who have past-due balances on their electricity bills. Customers who are eligible for HEAP and have a past-due balance of $500 or more that is at least 90 days old are eligible to participate in the program. Participating customers will have 1/12 of their past-due amount, up to $300, forgiven each month that they pay their current bill on time. To enroll in an AMP, customers should contact either their local Community Action Agency or their utility.

Find other programs and support for managing your electricity bill through the Maine Public Utilities Commission's online resource guide, available at MaineElectricHelp.com.

Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP)

The Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) provides emergency fuel assistance to HEAP-eligible households. A household may be eligible for up to $500 in emergency funds to avert an energy crisis beginning after November 1. Contact your local Community Action Agency to learn more, check eligibility, and apply.

Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Alternative Heat Source Safety Guide

During a power outage, or when fuel such as propane or heating oil is in short supply, people may seek alternative heating sources, such as generators and space heaters. There are a number of safety considerations to keep in mind when using an alternate heat source. Learn more about alternative heat source safety by visiting the Maine Emergency Management Agency.

DIY Energy Efficiency Ideas

Leaky windows or ducts, old appliances, or inefficient heating and cooling systems can cost families extra money to run, especially during the heating season. The Energy Saver Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Savings Projects from the U.S. Department of Energy offer easy, step-by-step instructions for home energy efficiency improvements that can save you money and reduce your energy consumption.

Federal Home Energy Tax Credits

Recent federal policy changes have set new deadlines for tax credits for heat pumps, weatherization upgrades, and other home energy upgrades. For more information, including new deadlines, visit this page. Efficiency Maine continues to offer rebates for qualified home efficiency upgrades. Visit Efficiency Maine for more details.

Additional Programs

More home energy financial assistance programs are listed on the Maine PUC's consumer assistance programs page.

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maine.gov/energy