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**Maine Discovers Lower Heating Fuel Prices on Columbus Day**

Augusta--- The Governor’s Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted its weekly heating fuel survey on Monday, October 10, 2011 and found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at **\$3.44 per gallon**, six cents lower than the price last week.

“Despite unseasonably warm temperatures and a dip in heating oil prices this week, Maine’s heating season is in full swing and prices are still significantly higher than this time last year,” said OEIS Director Ken Fletcher. “I recommend that businesses and homeowners take advantage of the warm weather and take steps now to manage energy bills this winter. For example, an annual maintenance check on heating systems can help increase efficiency by burning less fuel. Also, properly insulated pipes, caulking around doors and windows and the use of programmable thermostats can prevent heat loss and freezing while improving the comfort level in homes and buildings. These and other simple and relatively inexpensive energy efficiency and conservation measures will help Mainers confront high prices and prepare for winter. We should have a better idea of what to expect when the U.S. Energy Information Administration presents its outlook for heating fuel supply and costs this week.”

*As of October 10, 2011*

Heating Oil	Statewide	Southwest	Central	Eastern	Western	Northern
Average	3.44	3.35	3.47	3.53	3.38	3.60
High	3.70	3.60	3.70	3.65	3.47	3.65
Low	3.16	3.16	3.30	3.40	3.16	3.53
<b>Kerosene</b>	3.84	3.81	3.78	3.91	3.76	4.00
<b>Propane</b>	3.08					

It is important to note that the price for heating oil is a statewide average and that prices in a given geographic region of the state may be considerably higher or lower than the statewide average. Within the OEIS sample, the lowest actual heating oil price of \$3.16 per gallon was found in the Southwest and Western regions. The highest price of \$3.70 per gallon was found in the Central region. The statewide kerosene price average is \$3.84 per gallon at this time. The statewide average for propane *based on a use of 925 gallons a year* is \$3.08 per gallon. The table above provides current Maine cash prices in dollars rounded to the nearest penny. On October 10, the price of WTI crude oil, a major driver of refined petroleum product prices, including heating oil was \$85.56.

Efficiency Maine links Maine homeowners and businesses with qualified, certified contractors who provide access to energy improvement options. For program details call 866-376-2463 or visit [www. efficiencymaine.com](http://www. efficiencymaine.com).