



SUFFIELD • EAST GRANBY • WINDSOR LOCKS

POSITION | HEATING THIS WINTER

Heating oil: what you can do, and what I will do

Oil costs 82 percent more than it did a year ago. There is help, and many people who qualify never apply.

\$5.88

a gallon, state average, Sept. 28

\$3.23

the same week last year

+\$530

on one 200-gallon delivery

WHERE THINGS STAND, OCTOBER 10

- **Washington.** Federal heating aid runs on a stopgap budget through December 11, and that law requires the money to reach the states by November 1. The amount for the rest of this winter is decided after the election. The President's budget proposed ending the program. Senator Blumenthal is asking Congress for \$7 billion nationally, up from about \$4 billion.
- **Hartford.** The state's plan assumes about \$94 million in federal aid, roughly level with last year, while oil rose more than 80 percent. On October 9 the Governor said he will ask legislative leaders to use part of a state reserve for relief. No amount has been announced yet.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

- 1 **Apply for Energy Assistance now, not in January.** Income limits: \$48,714 for one person, \$63,703 for two, \$93,681 for four. It pays \$355 to \$705 straight to your dealer, plus up to three emergency deliveries of \$430 if you run low. Dealers are paid a set price below retail and cannot bill you the difference, so your benefit buys more oil. Program deliveries start November 2.
- 2 **Earn a little too much? Watch the calendar.** Generation Power CT, formerly Operation Fuel, gives up to \$500 once a year to households up to 75 percent of state median income. It takes applications online only, December 1 to 15 and March 1 to 15.
- 3 **Ask for 100 gallons if a full fill is out of reach.** A dealer cannot require a regular customer to take more than 100 gallons, or 75 percent of the tank if that is less, and cannot add a small-delivery fee at 100 gallons. At today's average that is about \$590.
- 4 **Shop, and order at a quarter tank.** In the latest state survey, prices ran from \$5.36 to \$6.30 a gallon, almost \$190 apart on a 200-gallon fill. Dealers cannot add a fee to automatic deliveries they schedule. Problems? Consumer Protection: 860-713-6160.

WHAT I WILL DO AS YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

- **Make sure relief reaches oil customers.** If you heat with gas or electricity and qualify for hardship protection, your heat cannot be shut off from November to May. If you heat with oil and cannot pay, the truck simply does not come. Relief should reach people who buy fuel by the delivery, including families just above the limits, where a \$500 grant no longer covers a 100-gallon delivery.
- **Budget for this winter's prices, not last winter's.** Connecticut added \$30 million in 2022 and \$17 million in 2024 when federal aid fell short. It can do it again.
- **Work our congressional delegation.** Only Congress can raise federal heating aid, and the final number is set in December. Joe Courtney represents Suffield and has pressed for the money to go out on time. Luke Bronin is the Democratic nominee for the seat covering East Granby and Windsor Locks. I know them both, and I will make District 61's case directly.

If you are worried about this winter, call or email me. I will help you find the right program, whether or not I am your representative in January.

Energy Assistance (CEAP)

Apply: ct.gov/heatinghelp

Call: Community Renewal Team, 860-560-5800, or dial 2-1-1
Open now through May 31, 2027. Reapply every year.

Generation Power CT

Apply: gpct.org/gethelp (online only)

Questions: 860-243-2345, weekday mornings

Next windows: Dec. 1 to 15, 2026, and March 1 to 15, 2027.

Sources: CT DEEP weekly heating oil survey; CT DSS FFY 2027 LIHEAP Allocation Plan and CEAP 2026-27 income guidelines; Generation Power CT; Conn. Gen. Stat. 16a-21 and 16a-22a; letter of 117 House members to HHS, Sept. 25, 2026; WFSB, Oct. 9, 2026.

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