

# ENERGY



# WATCH

## VERMONT

**PG&E**  
Green Sustainable Energy

This newsletter brought to you  
in association with the Propane  
Gas Association of New England

Energy Savings & Sustainability Info

WINTER 2019

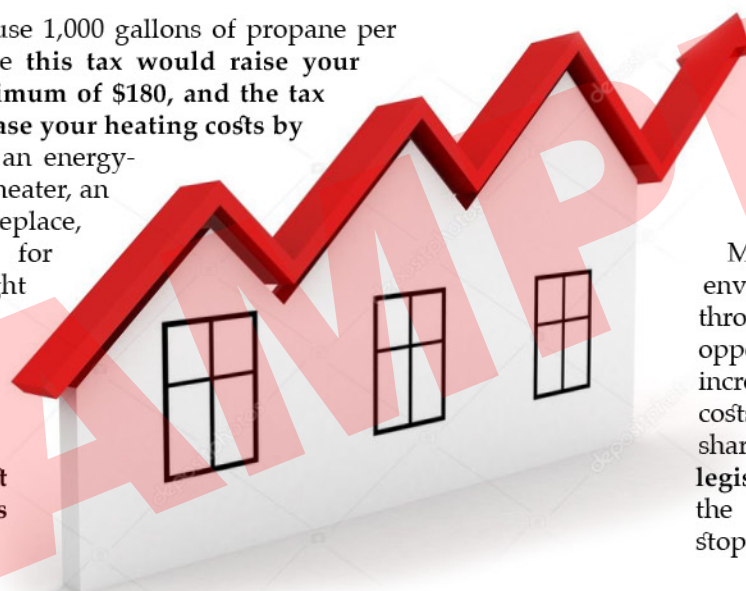
## Carbon Tax Would Raise Your Costs by Hundreds of Dollars Per Year

Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger has announced his support for a carbon tax that would raise the cost of propane by a minimum of 18 cents per gallon. The tax would eventually raise costs by \$1.02 per gallon.

In other words, if you use 1,000 gallons of propane per year to heat your home this tax would raise your heating costs by a minimum of \$180, and the tax would eventually increase your heating costs by \$1,020. If you also use an energy-efficient propane water heater, an eco-friendly propane fireplace, and a propane stove for clean cooking, you might need about 1,500 gallons of propane per year. In this case, the tax would increase your heating and cooking costs by at least \$270 and later by as much as \$1,530.

Obviously, this policy was not written with the average Vermont taxpayer's budget in mind. Additionally, if concerns about climate change and fossil fuels are truly the reason for this legislation, then Vermont politicians should note that **propane is not a fossil fuel**. Propane is a beneficial byproduct that significantly lowers greenhouse gas emissions compared to wood and other heating and energy sources.

More information on propane's environmental benefits can be found throughout this newsletter. If you oppose a tax that would unfairly increase your heating and energy costs, we strongly encourage you to share this information and **tell your legislator**. To find out more about the proposed carbon taxes, visit [stopthecarbondtax.weebly.com/vt](http://stopthecarbondtax.weebly.com/vt).



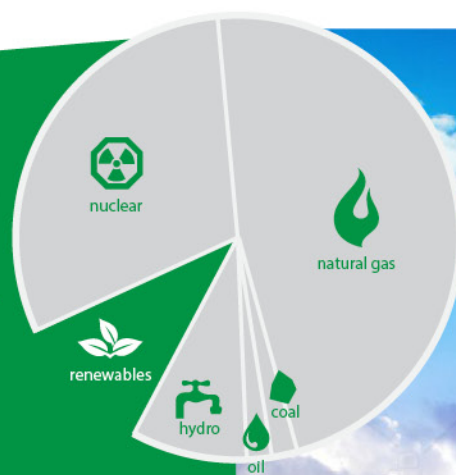
## Did You Know?!



New England gets approximately 50% of its electricity from natural gas and only about 10% from renewable energy. Many people think solar and wind power are the most popular renewable energy sources. However, New England currently gets more power from refuse and wood. As of right now, our state's energy policy recognizes burning garbage and carbon-heavy wood as "renewable energy," but does not say the same

for clean, smoke-free propane. This is bad policy, because propane is actually a great source of backup power for homes and businesses that depend on solar panels and wind turbines. Whenever the weather's too cloudy for solar energy or not windy enough for wind energy, propane can fill in for its partners in Vermont's renewable energy future.

**Help us talk some sense into Montpelier. Tell your legislator it's time to recognize propane for what it is: green sustainable energy.**





## Propane & Electricity: Don't Get Misled on Home Energy

Some policymakers and special interest groups will say just about anything to shape public perception in their favor. But look closer and you will find that many of their claims about propane and electricity are grossly exaggerated or flat-out untrue.

### Propane

#### **Affordable, Low-Carbon Hot Water**

A propane-powered water heater with a capacity of 40 gallons has a yearly operating cost of approximately \$195, according to the Department of Energy.

#### **Reliable Off-Grid Backup Power**

In the event of a blackout, propane-powered generators provide energy security. Thousands of New England homes use these generators to keep the lights on and stay safe during harsh storms and blizzards.

#### **Non-Toxic, Eco-Friendly Recycled Energy**

Propane is a beneficial byproduct of natural gas production, making it recycled and renewable by nature. Plus, propane is nontoxic and available all year — a perfect partner to wind and solar energy.



### Electricity

#### **Expensive, High-Carbon Hot Water**

A comparable electric water heater has a yearly operating cost of \$311 and produces more than double the carbon emissions of its propane-powered counterpart.

#### **At the Mercy of Nature & the Grid**

The electrical grid is vulnerable to extreme weather and "peak" conditions. Electricity prices and grid emissions spike during summer and winter when power plants must switch energy sources to meet increases in demand.

#### **Not as "Renewable" as They Say**

In addition to carbon-heavy energy sources, power plants use other harmful chemicals, including ozone-depleting coolants that have contributed to the rise in global temperatures.

## VERMONT RUNS ON PROPANE

Green, sustainable propane is a crucial part of a healthy Vermont home and a healthy Vermont economy. Across our state, propane heats homes and storefronts, builds roads and communities, creates working-class jobs and small-business opportunities, and contributes hundreds of millions of dollars to our local economies.

**39,021**

HOMES USING PROPANE

**1,870**

PROPANE JOBS

**\$366,595,000**

CONTRIBUTION TO VERMONT GDP

Don't let the politicians in Burlington and Montpelier drive up your community's heating, cooking and energy costs. Talk to your local legislator today and demand they vote no on any carbon tax that applies to propane gas.



## Clean, Safe Propane = Green, Sustainable Energy

Vermont is well known for its lush forests — all 4.46 million acres of them — and the fresh air they help provide. Propane also contributes to Vermont's clean air by preventing deforestation and eliminating harmful greenhouse gas emissions.



**1,231 Pounds**

CO<sub>2</sub> eliminated when 1 family switches from wood to propane

**1 Acre**

Global forestland saved when 50 families switch to propane

**5.5 Million Tons**

CO<sub>2</sub> eliminated by India switching 3 million families to propane

India isn't the only country that's using propane to reduce carbon emissions and improve public health. Over the course of 10 years, Sudan is eliminating 6.6 millions tons of CO<sub>2</sub> by switching families there from cooking with wood and coal to cleaner propane stoves. In the process, they are also preventing countless premature deaths from smoke-related respiratory illness. Tell your legislator to keep Vermont green with renewable propane.