



National Fuel Funds Network

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Dear Member: Crude oil prices have gone over \$90 a barrel and some experts are predicting that the price may actually hit \$100 per barrel. This does not bode well for people using heating oil to keep their homes warm this winter.

The Energy Information Administration, in its most recent forecast, predicted a 44 cents per gallon increase in heating oil prices this winter, but we expect that number may be revised when the next forecast is released early next month.

The NFFN will continue to monitor the heating oil situation, and we ask that you keep us informed on what is going on in your community. We are collecting information that will be useful as we make the case for increased funding for federal energy assistance.

Washington Action Day for LIHEAP

- If you're planning to come to Washington for Washington Action Day for LIHEAP on January 30th, you can register on-line at the NFFN website – www.nationalfuelfunds.org. Action Day, now in its sixth year, has become the most important lobbying effort on behalf of LIHEAP and your participation in this event would only increase its effectiveness.

LIHEAP

- The Coalition of Northeastern Governors (CONEG) has written to the leadership of the House and Senate appropriations committee urging them to provide at least \$1.98 billion in regular funds and \$682 million in contingency funds for LIHEAP for FY 2008.

The letters were sent to the Congressional leaders as they prepared to go to conference on the Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill. The Senate passed version of the bill sets funding for LIHEAP at \$1.98 billion in general

funds and \$181.7 million in contingency funds while the House version has an additional \$500 million in contingency money.

Utility Actions

- To mark the 25th anniversary of its EnergyShare assistance program, Dominion announced that it is expanding the program to provide cooling assistance for eligible seniors.

Beginning next summer, seniors age 60 and older who are income-eligible can apply for cooling assistance of up to \$200. The program will run from June 1 to September 30. Free fans will also be provided to seniors who demonstrate a situation at home that threatens their health.

EnergyShare has raised more than \$25 million since it began and last year the program helped nearly 10,000 families.

- Holy Cross Energy has donated \$50,000 to Energy Outreach Colorado to provide energy assistance to families within the utility's service area. The rural electric cooperative serves residents in Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison, Mesa, and Pitkin counties.

Fuel Fund Actions

- Operation Fuel, the state-wide fuel fund in Connecticut, has received a \$75,000 grant from the Connecticut Health Foundation. The foundation, based in New Britain, is a non-profit independent organization that funds health programs.
- Energy Outreach Colorado along with the Colorado Low-income Energy Assistance Program, Xcel Energy, the Governor's Energy Office, and Denver Human Services held an Energy Assistance Expo on October 26.

The Expo was designed to help those in need apply for energy assistance and receive information on how to save energy at home.

- New Jersey SHARES, state-wide nonprofit providing emergency energy assistance, celebrated its 10th anniversary in October with a cocktail reception attended by more than 100 guests at the PNC Bank tower in East Brunswick.

Over the past 10 years, New Jersey SHARES have provided energy assistance to more than 125,300 households in crisis with grant amounts exceeding \$40,350,000.

- The Salvation Army in Kansas City, MO has begun administering the Midwest Customers' Care program for Midwest Energy, Inc., a customer owned electric

and gas utility serving central and western Kansas. The program is funded through customer donations and will provide aid to those eligible households among the utility's 48,000 electric and 42,000 gas consumers.

The Salvation Army also has received a \$5,000 winter grant from the Butler Rural Electric Coop which provides service to 10,500 customers in Butler, Preble, Montgomery and Hamilton Counties in Kansas.