

National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA) & The Energy Choice Act

Background

Congress authorized NORA in 2000 to facilitate the liquid heating industry's efforts to lower emissions and provide more reliable home heating and hot water to six million homes. NORA receives \$0.002 at the wholesale level on every gallon of liquid heating fuel sold in the 21 states who voluntarily participate in the NORA program. NORA receives no federal or state appropriations and is 100% industry funded. As mandated by Congress, NORA directs annual fee receipts to support (1) Consumer Education, Safety & Training; (2) Research, Development & Demonstration; and (3) Heating Oil Efficiency & Upgrade Program.

NORA Initiatives

Consumer Education, Safety & Training

Technician Certification Program—certifications, continuing education & workforce training for entry-level & experienced liquid fuel service technicians

- Recognized Technician Certification for the liquid heating fuels industry
- NORA Silver Certification is required to practice in New Hampshire, Vermont and Putnam County, NY
- Online & in-person training at State association training centers, technical high schools & community colleges
- NORA Bronze apprenticeship program offers a professional pathway for student and entry-level technicians

32,000+

Service Technicians Trained
under NORA's Professional
Education Program

Research, Development & Demonstration (RD&D)

NORA's RD&D results deliver consumer products that reduce emissions & lower energy costs for hardworking Americans.

- Bioheat® fuel, an efficient and direct path to lowering emissions from homes
- Advanced heating systems that can operate with renewable biofuels
- Advanced research for storing, handling and utilizing alternative fuels
- Partnering with appliance manufacturers to advance efficiency, operability, & safety of home heating systems
- NORA's RD&D activities are conducted at the Country's first liquid heating fuels research center in Plainview, NY

16,500+

Liquid fuel fired appliances
upgraded with NORA's Efficiency
Upgrade Program

Heating Oil Efficiency & Upgrade Program

Heating Appliance Upgrade Program—helping thousands of homeowners upgrade to a more efficient heating system.

NORA has completed over 16,500 upgrades in 21 states. Since January, 2021 upgrades have resulted in:

- Over 1.75 million gallons of total fuel savings each year due to the upgrade
- More than \$6.3 million in total fuel cost savings each year due to the upgrade
- Nearly 25,593 metric tons of total CO2 emissions each year due to the upgrade

25,593+ tons

Annual emissions reduction as
a result of NORA's Efficiency
Upgrade Program

“The Ask”

Support NORA Reauthorization

NORA reauthorization is crucial for the liquid fuel heating industry to continue providing consumers with advanced alternative fuels, innovative technologies, and cost-savings. NORA has enjoyed bipartisan and bicameral support since its initial authorization in 2000.

- To maintain a neutral score in the 10-year budget window, we urge Congress to provide a seven (7) year extension of NORA by amending section 713 of the *National Oilheat Research Alliance Act of 2000* (42 U.S.C. 6201 note; Public Law 106–469) to strike “28 years” and insert “35 years.”
- An extension through October 1, 2035, provides NORA with the needed certainty to continue long-term research and development, real estate leases, education training certifications, and partnerships.

Support the *Energy Choice Act*

The *Energy Choice Act* would ensure Americans can maintain their preferred energy source, promoting market competition and an all-of-the-above energy approach.

The legislation would:

- Prohibit states or local governments from discriminating against types or sources of energy through bans on an energy service's connection, reconnection, modification, installation, or expansion.
- Allow Americans to select the heating solution best suited for their household and budget.
- Maintain the availability of more energy efficient fuels like biomass-based diesel and renewable diesel.

EMA Staff Contact: Rob Underwood, runderwood@emamerica.org, Austin Harrison,
Austin.harrison@squirepb.com