



Conservation Services Group

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THIS SEASON, CONSUMERS HAVE MANY REASONS
TO CONSERVE, FROM KATRINA'S EFFECTS,
TO PREDICTIONS OF A "POLAR COASTER"**

MassSAVE Program Offers Tips and Financial Incentives

WESTBOROUGH, Mass., Sept. 26, 2005 – Consumers in the Northeast have substantial cause to conserve heating oil and energy costs this fall and winter. Katrina, the powerful hurricane that destroyed the Gulf Coast in August, will be felt in the pocketbook as heating oil supplies are further constrained and prices inflate. According to the Energy Information Administration, fuel prices could also rise 21 percent. The 2006 edition of The Farmer's Almanac predicts the coming winter will bring "unusually sharp fluctuations in temperature" and is being dubbed a "Polar Coaster." The publication also states that the coldest, snowiest weather will be in the Northeast. Not only that, many fixed cost and capped oil price programs are not being offered by oil dealers, putting consumers at a further disadvantage. Fortunately, MassSAVE's programs can provide Bay State residents with some relief.

Launched last fall, MassSAVE provides energy information and services to all residential energy users in the Bay State. Sponsored by the state's utilities and energy service providers, the initiative is designed to help Bay State residents find solutions to home performance problems, such as draftiness and excess energy use. MassSAVE also offers rebates and other financial incentives to encourage residential energy efficiency improvements.

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According to Jerry Hanna, of National Grid, the MassSAVE program has been very successful in raising awareness of residential energy conservation. He said, “Already, the number of MassSAVE inquiries have doubled over last year. It’s very clear that Massachusetts residents are worried about high energy and oil costs. MassSAVE is available to help them and we hope the public continues to take advantage of this important resource.”

As part of MassSAVE’s menu of home efficiency services, National Grid and NSTAR Electric offer Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®, a program supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The program involves a comprehensive assessment of a house from the basement to the attic. Air leaks, heating/cooling, ventilation systems and insulation are evaluated as part of the process. Advanced computer software is then used to analyze the performance of the house and estimate potential cost savings for the recommended improvements. During a subsequent retrofit, cutting edge building science technologies and products are used to check for quality and effectiveness. Combustion safety tests are conducted to check for carbon monoxide and other toxins. The most efficient appliances, lighting, windows and heating systems are also recommended. National Grid and NSTAR are offering 50 percent rebates (up to \$1,500) for insulation, air sealing and other energy efficiency measures. This year, NSTAR is also offering a \$400 instant rebate and zero percent APR loan financing for eligible customers. By taking advantage of the “Home Performance” program, eligible customers can cost effectively retrofit their homes and save up to 30 percent on heating and energy bills.

Debra Pirrotta, residential program manager for NSTAR, said, “Now, more than ever, we need to help customers make their homes more energy efficient. This year, we hope our financing and rebate options will encourage more people to do so. It’s going to be a long, cold winter.”

For energy saving tips and more information about MassSAVE, consumers can visit www.masssave.com or call 1-866-527-7283.

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