

EFFICIENCY MATTERS

in South Carolina

Keeping SC Fueled.
SCCPMA
CONVENIENCE & PETROLEUM MARKETERS ASSOCIATION

BIOFUEL IS ON THE CURRICULUM IN BLYTHEWOOD, SC

The school buses in Richland School District Two will be using organic biofuel in the near future. But this biofuel won't come from an industrial facility. It's coming from a science lab at Blythewood High School!

Chemistry students at the school are learning how to process used cooking oil into non-petroleum diesel fuel. They've tested the fuel in the school's tractors with the goal of using it in buses. This is the same kind of biofuel found in the clean-burning Bioheat® fuel that South Carolina families use in their heating systems.

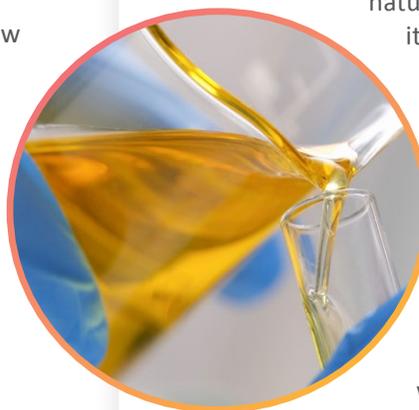
Blythewood's program has been running for five years, but it's now scaling up operations as a result of grants from South Carolina Energy Office and Green Energy Biofuels. **Funding will increase production from 40 gallons per week to 150 gallons!**

Chemistry teacher Will Epps started the program as a way to educate his students and help them enter STEM careers after graduation. Student response has been incredibly positive. They love the hands-on process and the fact that they're helping reduce carbon emissions.

Senior Ayden Stevens recently told the local NBC affiliate, "I'm really proud to be in this program and just see it and help advance it even further every single day."

ETHYL LEVULINATE — THE NEXT BIG THING IN BIOFUEL

Modern heating oil is already one of the most eco-friendly home comfort fuels around today. Bioheat fuel — a blend of ultra-low-sulfur heating oil and biofuel made from organic and recycled ingredients — is often cleaner burning than natural gas, depending on its blend ratio.



Now, biofuel is on its way to a negative carbon intensity with **ethyl levulinate, or EL**.

EL is a cellulosic biofuel produced using woody biomass from forest waste. Essentially, producers are taking

forest debris that would otherwise break down and release carbon into the atmosphere and converting it into a home heating product that replaces petroleum, gallon for gallon.

"Ethyl levulinate could be a game changer for the industry, delivering the comfort of heating oil and **essentially eliminating greenhouse gas emissions**," said John Huber, former president of the National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA).

Bioheat fuel is used in homes across South Carolina. You can burn it in any oil-fired equipment without modification. It's better for the environment and leaves fewer deposits, saving you money on maintenance!

Win A SMART THERMOSTAT!

Here's your chance to win a smart thermostat! Just read the articles in this newsletter and then go to **OilheatSouthCarolina.com/contest** and answer the three questions correctly. If you do, we'll enter you into a drawing to win a smart thermostat!

No purchase necessary. A purchase will not improve your chances of winning. Employees of SCCPMA, its affiliates, agencies or vendors may not enter. Winners will be notified by email. Drawing will take place on or around 12/31/22.



HIGH ENERGY PRICES AFFECT EVERYONE

All energy prices have risen this year, including heating oil. Here's a breakdown of factors affecting the global oil market, the home comfort business and families across the Palmetto State.

We entered 2022 with already-elevated oil rates. Then came the war in Ukraine. In the leadup to the invasion, energy prices rose over potential sanctions on Russian energy. When Russia invaded Ukraine in February, all energy prices surged — gasoline, natural gas, electricity and more.

Some people think that local fuel companies make more money when energy prices increase. **The opposite is true.** It's like when the price of milk or coffee goes up. Your local grocery doesn't make a higher profit — Wall Street investors do.

There are some hopeful signs. Many fuel suppliers are holding off on buying oil, anticipating a price drop. Everyone would like to see that happen, but no one knows for sure.

If you're worried about paying for fuel this coming winter, we recommend contacting your heating oil provider. They may be able to work out a solution with you. Many companies offer **monthly budget plans** that lower your winter payments.



SAVE UP TO \$1,000 ON NEW HEATING EQUIPMENT!

It's a fantastic time to upgrade your oil-fired heating system before the winter. And with equipment rebates from the South Carolina Convenience & Petroleum Marketers Association (with the support of NORA), modernizing your heating is more affordable than ever! You qualify for:

- > **\$400 off** when you install a new oil storage tank.
- > **\$600 off** when you install a new heating oil boiler or furnace.
- > **\$1,000 off** when you install both!

That's just the start of your savings. Upgrading to a high-efficiency oil-fired system can save you up to 40% on your energy bills!

Your property must be located in South Carolina, and your new system must have a higher efficiency than the system you're replacing. Funds are limited, and rebates will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

To get started, visit OilHeatSouthCarolina.com.



LOWER YOUR ENERGY BILLS THIS WINTER

With energy prices rising, everyone is looking to stay comfortable for less. Before the nights get chilly, here are some ways to reduce energy usage.

- ✓ **Check your air filter every month** and clean or replace it if it's dirty. This will improve your system's efficiency.
- ✓ **Keep the warm air inside your home by sealing air leaks.** Use weatherstripping for windows and doors and caulking at wall seams.
- ✓ **Invest in a smart thermostat** to preprogram lower temperatures when you're asleep or away from home.
- ✓ **Run ceiling fans in reverse**, which pulls cool air up and pushes the warm air down. This makes your living space feel warmer.
- ✓ **Tune up your furnace or boiler.** It keeps your equipment working at peak performance, lowering fuel use and preventing breakdowns.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR LOCAL OILHEAT COMPANY, THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONVENIENCE & PETROLEUM MARKETERS ASSOCIATION AND THE NATIONAL OILHEAT RESEARCH ALLIANCE

