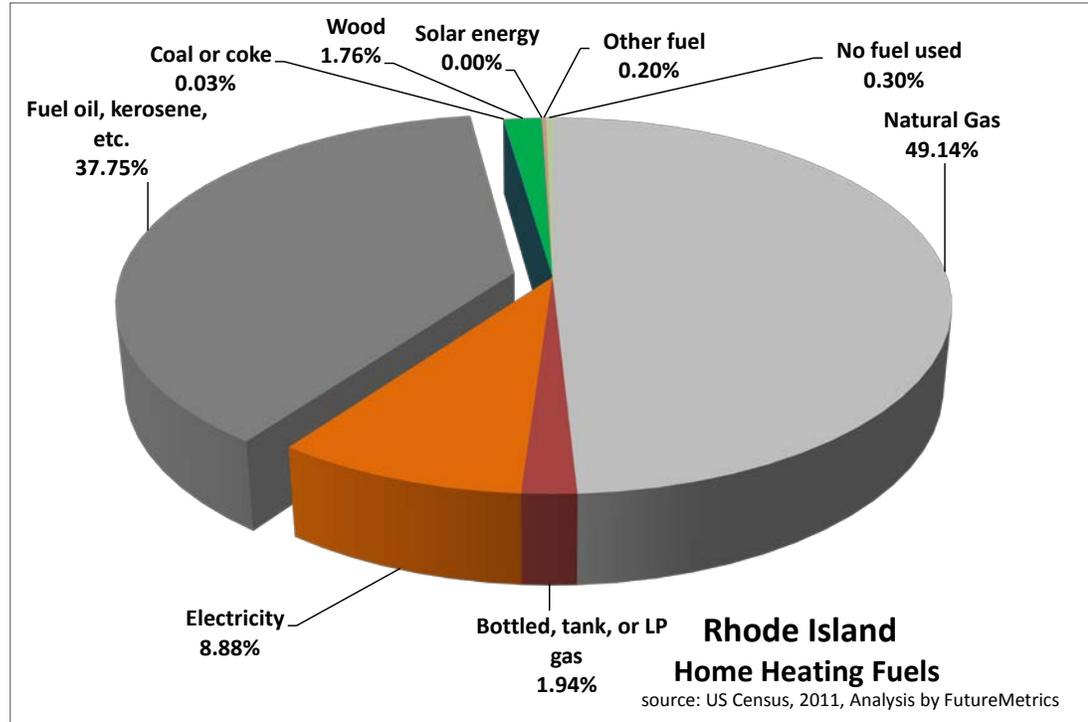


Building Rhode Island's Local Thermal Energy Economy

Rhode Island is the seventh most petroleum dependent state in the country*. Although about 49% of its homes and businesses use natural gas almost 38% of those homes and businesses with no gas infrastructure use heating oil.

State and Rank in the US	Petroleum Dependency*
Connecticut (8)	43.29%
Maine (4)	46.64%
Massachusetts (12)	40.37%
New Hampshire (1)	52.41%
New York (14)	37.28%
Pennsylvania (26)	35.05%
Rhode Island (7)	43.68%
Vermont (2)	51.99%

*Petroleum dependency shows the proportion of the total energy used in the state that is derived from petroleum including transportation and power generation (source: US Energy Information Administration, 2011). Excluding Hawaii.



As a result, Rhode Island EXPORTS more than 460 million dollars every year.

	Number of Households and Businesses that use Heating Oil	Average Gallons Used per Year	Average Total Expenditure Per Year (#2 at \$3.65/gal)	Amount that Does not Stay in the States (EXPORTED)	Job Losses
Rhode Island	208,000	161,455,000	\$ (612,883,180)	\$ (459,662,385)	-22,874

All of the heating oil money that leaves Rhode Island takes local jobs with it: at current heating oil prices, almost 23,000 Rhode Island jobs are "exported" to OPEC nations and other locations! (See the 25x25 Vision paper at www.nebioheat.org for a full explanation of the basis for the job loss estimates.)

If Rhode Island were to convert only 18.5% of its homes and businesses** from heating oil to locally produced biomass fuels such as pellets, chips, or cordwood used in modern efficient stoves and boilers, it would create about 1,500 permanent and stable jobs. Some of those jobs would be for the production and supply of wood fuels and some of those jobs would be created by no longer exporting money.

Economic growth and job creation, Energy independence, and Environmental stewardship are the rewards of using regionally produced renewable energy for heating Rhode Island's homes and businesses.

For more information, visit the Northeast Biomass Working Group at www.nebioheat.org.

***18.5% is the result of the 25x25 study which determined the sustainable quantity of biomass fuel in the Northeast states. Analysis by FutureMetrics*