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## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Reduce Cost of Heating With Equipment Tune Up & Maintenance**

**Albany, NY – October 10, 2007** – Recent news reports predict that heating fuel costs are going to stay at record-high levels this winter. The reason: Higher crude oil and natural gas prices, along with increased demand for energy throughout the country and across the globe. Any way you look at it, the cost of heating your home or business is not getting any cheaper.

Despite the mild Fall weather, the cold weather will be here before you know it – and you'll expect a flawless performance from your heating system. Regardless of what fuel you use to heat your home, there are some important things you can do to ensure your heating system operates efficiently and keeps your costs down.

One of the most important things you can do to prepare for winter is to make sure your heating equipment gets a tune-up. "Most people take the time to perform regular maintenance on their cars because we all depend on them day-in and day-out. The same should apply to our home heating systems" said Barbara Roach, executive director of the New York Propane Gas Association. "As with our cars, there are some simple things that we can do ourselves to keep our heating systems performing at peak capacity, and there are other things best left to professionals," she added.

The New York Propane Gas Association suggests that homeowners can do a number of things themselves to get ready for winter:

- Clean or replace air filters on forced-air heating systems
- Caulk around doors and windows to keep heat inside the house
- Make sure heating vents and registers are clean and not blocked
- Check attic and crawl spaces for proper insulation
- Repair any air leaks in ductwork with duct tape
- Seal air leaks around openings where plumbing or electrical wiring goes through walls, floors and ceilings
- Set your thermostat back at night and when you aren't home. For every degree you lower your thermostat for 8 hours or more each day, you'll save 2% on your heating bill

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**Fall Heating Preparation**  
**October 10, 2007**  
**Page 2**

John Hamilton, president of the New York Propane Gas Association, recommends that it's best to call in professionals to handle tune-ups and regularly scheduled maintenance for heating equipment. "Fuel and equipment dealers have trained service technicians that can perform efficiency and safety tests on all controls, inspect the vents, and tune-up the system so that it operates at peak efficiency," said Mr. Hamilton. "Dealers can also help homeowners consider replacing older heating systems with newer, high-efficiency equipment that can save fuel costs significantly over time," he added.

As a heating fuel, propane is growing in popularity throughout the United States. According to a survey conducted by the National Association of Home Builders, more than 65% of homes built in the past year featured natural gas or propane. Propane extends the benefits of clean-burning and efficient gas appliances beyond the natural gas mains to suburban and rural areas.

For more information, visit the New York Propane Gas Association at [www.nypropane.com](http://www.nypropane.com) or the Propane Education and Research Council at [www.usepropane.com](http://www.usepropane.com).

About the New York Propane Gas Association (NYPGA)

NYPGA is a member-focused trade organization providing services that communicate, educate, and promote the propane industry in New York. The association was formed in 1948, to offer opportunities to learn through training and networking with peers, and to aid with legislative issues that contribute to operating a safe and successful industry.

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