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# How Massachusetts Households Heat Their Homes

Breaks down how Mass households heat by fuels including comparison to rest of New England.

## How Massachusetts Heats

Since the 1970's, Massachusetts has seen a steady shift to heating with natural gas in a majority of households, from a greater reliance on heating oil in the past, despite the fact that not all Mass. communities have access to natural gas service. Among the factors driving the switch to natural gas: prices for heating oil are traditionally more volatile, especially over the past decade and extraction of shale gas has helped lower natural gas prices over the same period. Some residents also switched for environmental reasons, believing natural gas to be a cleaner fuel, emitting less greenhouse gas.

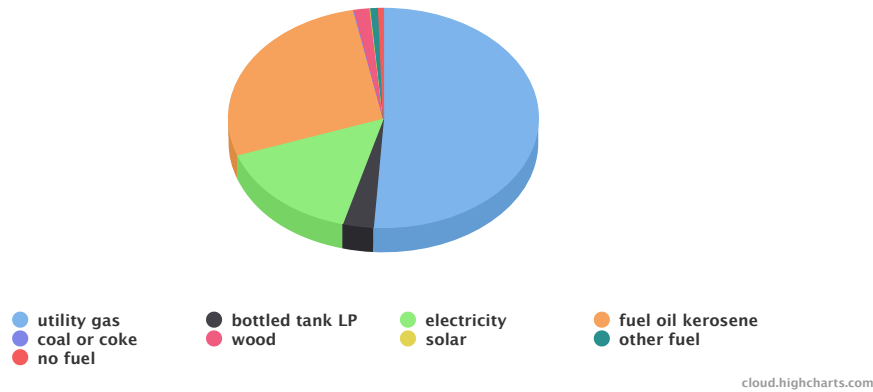
The latest U.S. Census data breaks down Mass. households' heat by fuel type.

Massachusetts Household Heating		
Fuel Type	# of Households	Percentage
utility gas	1,321,175	51.1%
bottled, tank, LP	83,401	3.2%
electricity	395,373	15.3%
fuel oil, kerosene	707,835	27.4%
coal or coke	2,851	0.1%
wood	40,176	1.6%
solar	1,984	0.08%
other fuel	20,025	0.8%
no fuel	12,895	0.5%
total	2,585,715	

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, Dec 2018, 2013-2017, American Community Survey 5-year estimates](#)

(<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>)

## Massachusetts Household Heating by Fuel Type 2013-2017



## How New England Heats

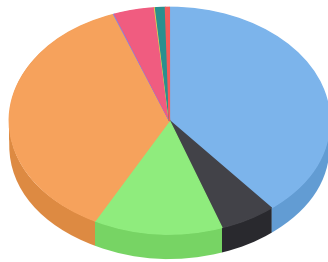
In New England as a whole, heating oil remains a primary heating fuel. Lack of infrastructure (Maine, Vermont, and parts of New Hampshire) means less access to natural gas supplies. These states are looking into ways to bring in more natural gas to offer their residents a choice of heating fuel. The following breaks out how all the New England States combined heat their homes

New England Household Heating		
Fuel Type	# of Households	Percentage
utility gas	2,201,422	39.3%
bottled, tank, LP	322,469	5.7%
electricity	745,601	13.1
fuel oil, kerosene	2,102,793	36.9%
coal or coke	8,412	0.1%
wood	231,037	4.1%
solar	4,413	0.1%
other fuel	58,104	1.0%
no fuel	24,553	0.4%
total	5,698,804	

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, Dec 2018, 2013-2017, American Community Survey 5-year estimates](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_12_5YR_DP04&prodType=table)  
([https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_12\\_5YR\\_DP04&prodType=table](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_12_5YR_DP04&prodType=table))

### New England Household Heating by Fuel Type

2013-2017



- utility gas
- coal or coke
- no fuel
- bottled tank LP
- wood
- electricity
- solar
- fuel oil kerosene
- other fuel

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