

Senator Shaheen urges homeowners and businesses to consider biomass energy for heating.

Shaheen tours WoodPellets.com headquarters to learn about the industry's job creation and potential to offset dependence on oil for home heating.

October 24, 2011 – Goffstown, NH - New Hampshire Senator Jeanne Shaheen visited WoodPellets.com headquarters in Goffstown, NH on **Monday, October 24th** to brainstorm with industry leaders about how to level the playing field for biomass energy so that it is on par with other renewable energy sources such as solar and wind. She met with WoodPellets.com staff, customers, experts in wood pellet heating and small business development professionals. They discussed how renewable wood resources can offset the region's dependence on oil and propane and stimulate the New Hampshire economy. With petroleum-based heating fuels at record high prices, the need for affordable heating fuel is critically important.

“Biomass presents an excellent opportunity to keep our energy dollars at home, instead of shipping them overseas to foreign oil-producing nations like Saudi Arabia and Venezuela,” Shaheen said. “At the same time, it allows businesses and consumers to switch to an energy source that is cost-effective, clean, and renewable.”

Recently released data from the US Census show that in New England, the use of wood as a primary heat source nearly doubled between 2000 and 2010. Wood pellet and cord wood use in Connecticut grew a staggering 122% in the ten-year period and over 95% in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine and Rhode Island.



From left to right, Jon Strimling (President, WoodPellets.com), Lou D'Allesandro (NH State Senator), Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Mary Collins and Hollis McGuire (NH Small Business Development Center). Photo by Melissa Paly, Cross Current Communications

The surge in wood as a primary home heating fuel is driven by the volatility and high price of petroleum-based fuels. This year, oil and propane consumers will spend more than ever before on their heat, according to the Energy Information Administration's Winter Fuels Outlook.

However, heating with wood pellets instead of oil will save the average homeowner nearly \$700 this year, and the [cost savings with pellets](#) are even greater against propane. Customer Hollis McGuire told the group she has been heating her 2,700 square foot home with wood pellets almost exclusively for three years. McGuire says she saves \$1,500 a year: “I can't believe how easy it is to fill up my stove with pellets in the morning and when I come back from work at night, even the upstairs bedrooms are toasty warm.”

Shaheen went on to say “Wood for home heating is a two-fer in New Hampshire. 80% of the homes in New Hampshire heat with fuel oil, yet we're the second most heavily forested state in the country. We need to replace the manufacturing base we have lost with an industry like

biomass heating, which creates jobs and is more affordable and environmentally friendly.”
“When people make the decision to buy a wood pellet or conventional wood stove for home heating, they are making an important choice to keep their neighbors employed and their dollars flowing through the community,” says WoodPellets.com CEO Jon Strimling, who co-hosted the news conference.

“This really is the time for people to kick the petroleum habit and start heating with wood pellets,” continued Strimling. “Wood is renewable and pellets are produced from what would otherwise be a waste product. With modern, high technology stoves, wood pellets burn cleanly and efficiently, they reduce our carbon emissions and cost far less than oil or propane. What’s not to like?”

Wood Pellet Heating

Wood pellets are a highly efficient heating fuel made from clean, compressed wood by-products. Sustainable, domestically produced, and cost-stable, wood pellets help to create local jobs while simultaneously reducing dependency on fossil fuels. More information is available at <http://www.woodpellets.com/about-wood-pellets.aspx> or www.forgreenheat.org.

About Woodpellets.com

WoodPellets.com is the nation’s leading online retailer of wood pellet fuel, offering home delivery service throughout New England. Renowned for award-winning customer service and the highest quality pellet fuels, WoodPellets.com is committed to making clean, green heat available and affordable. For more information, please visit www.woodpellets.com.

Media Contact

Barbara MacLeod
CrossCurrent Communications
207-752-0484
barbara@crosscurrentcommunications.com