Massachusetts is the 12th most petroleum dependent state in the country. Although Massachusetts has about 49% of its homes and businesses connected to natural gas infrastructure, about 32% (more than 1.1 million) that do not have natural gas use heating oil.

As a result, Massachusetts EXPORTS more than 1.7 billion dollars every year.

All of the heating oil money that leaves Massachusetts takes local jobs with it: at current heating oil prices, more than 89,000 Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts 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 14,000 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 Massachusetts’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