Maine’s Energy Challenges in an Atmosphere of Changing Demand, Extreme Weather, and New Environmental Rules

Lisa Smith, Governor’s Energy Office
NASEO Annual Meeting
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Did Portland area just have its worst winter ever, or its best?

2 – the most consecutive days that Portland went without measurable snowfall between Jan. 24 and Feb. 25

13 – the number of days the temperature dropped below zero in February

89 – the number of inches of snow Portland received by the end of February
You weren't imagining things. It really was the coldest month ever. 
At least if you live in a handful of cities in the shivering Northeast. They just weathered the coldest month since reliable records were first kept, which for most places means a century or more of weather data.

Topping the misery index: Bangor, Maine — that's pronounced "bang-or," not "banger," if you can stop your teeth from chattering long enough to say it.

The average temperature there should come in at 6.2 degrees for this month, said Corey Bogel, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service. That's about 15 degrees below normal and easily beats the old record of 8.4 degrees, from January 1994.
Maine’s Residential Energy Challenges

Maine experiences some of the highest residential energy costs in the country.

Residential Energy Costs

Exposure to Oil

Maine has the highest oil consumption per capita in New England.
New England exposed to natural gas price volatility

July wholesale electricity and natural gas prices

ISO NE – August 2015
Maine Home Heating Oil and Natural Gas Prices 2013-2015

- Fuel Oil, No. 2 NY gal - in MMBtu's
- Natural Gas-Henry Hub, $/mmbtu
- Algonquin Citygate Weighted Avg Index per mmbtu
Pipeline Expansion Proposals

- Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM)
- Atlantic Bridge
- Northeast Energy Direct (NED)
Propane Delivery – Infrastructure lags behind markets

2010
- 60% imported (NH and RI ports, then trucked to Maine)
- 40% by rail, primarily through Western Canada on MMA

2015
- 80-90% by rail
- No product being delivered across Western Maine
- Primary RR into Maine – almost tenfold increase in propane traffic from 2010-2014