

Rootswork Members Fuel Buying Group

Summary of 2021- 2022 Program

Rootswork Fuel Program Overview

- 1) **Four Fuel Providers:** We offer Four Fuel Provider Options with both fixed and variable pricing options depending on which provider and options you choose; (see Suburban¹, Irving Energy², Ward's Energy and Bourne's Energy Detail pages)
- 2) Rootswork Inc. only negotiates the price and maintains membership lists with the fuel providers in order to help make sure you are being charged the correct price for your fuel. All details of your account with the fuel supplier—including opening an account, contracts, services, deliveries, payment, credit, switching providers, and checking each bill to make sure the price you have been charged is correct and that you are correctly listed with your supplier as a Rootswork Member—are your responsibility. If you are already with the provider you intend to use, your account will remain exactly as is. If you are not, and wish to take advantage of this offer, you must open an account with one of our fuel providers. Please call the fuel provider directly—and not Rootswork—to open, change, or otherwise manage your account.
- 3) Before completing your Rootswork Membership Renewal, please read the Suburban, Irving, Ward's and Bourne's Energy Detail pages in this packet, to determine which provider best serves your needs.

Quick Summary of 2021-22 Options

- Suburban and Irving ; In addition to one year fixed pricing offers, both offer variable propane pricing based on **an independent rack price (Selkirk)** plus a mark-up (margin) based on your volume of usage. This is our traditional offering to our members. (see Suburban and Irving info sheets for details)
- Bourne's Energy is offering a 2 year fixed propane price contract (you will be locked in at a fixed price/gallon for 2 years, (see Bourne's Energy info sheet for details)

- **Ward's Energy** is offering a one year fixed price for propane and also an in-house cost plus, (not independently verifiable), variable price option. (see Ward's info sheet for details)

Heating Oil is also offered as part of Fuel Buying Group; Suburban, Irving and Wards are offering Rootswork Members variable heating oil programs. Both programs are priced using the wholesale prices determined by each dealer. The dealers will provide Rootswork with the prices, which Rootswork will post to our website rootswork.org

- 4) **Processing Time: Please allow TEN days** after we receive your propane form to for us to process your application. Plan your fuel deliveries and personal schedules accordingly.
Don't wait until your tank is near empty !
- 5) **Latest possible date to sign up for this season: June 1st 2022.** After this the Fuel Buying Group will be closed to new sign ups until the announcement of the next year's deal (if any) at the end of June 2022.
- 6) **Memberships:** Memberships are not processed until the beginning of the membership year. All membership checks received before July 1st for the next season's membership , may be held and processed on or immediately after July 1st.

Rootswrok Members FUEL Buying Group

Summary of 2021- 2022 Program

Our fuel program opens for enrollment July 1st 2021 and is closed
for enrollment after June 1st 2022

After 06/01/22, the Fuel Buying Group will be closed to new sign ups until the announcement of the next year's deal (if any) at the end of June 2022

Steps to Participate –TWO forms are required.*

1. Become a Rootswrok Member. Complete Rootswrok membership application. Pay annual dues of \$45.00 / residence (Rootswrok membership runs from 7/1 of this year through 6/30 of the following year). Sign up online at rootswrok.org (preferred) Send by mail to PO Box 31, Warren, VT 05674. Or drop off at East Warren Schoolhouse.
2. Check the box on the Rootswrok membership form indicating you wish to participate in the fuel group .
3. Complete the Fuel Buying Group Sign Up Form
You will receive an email confirmation once your sign up is complete. Please allow 10 business days from the receipt of your propane sign up for processing.

If you have additional questions not answered in the material, email Fuel@Rootswrok.org or call Rootswrok at 802-496-2474 and leave a message. Please allow 2 days for us to respond to your inquiry.

Rootswork Members Propane Buying Group

Details of 2021-2022 Program

Rootswork is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in the East Warren Schoolhouse and our mission is “making space for community to happen.” Rootswork programs include community gardens, the renovation of the historic schoolhouse, and WMRW community radio.

In 2010, the Rootswork propane group was formed to help our members with their escalating winter fuel bills by pooling our buying power. The program has been very successful the past ten years and the buying group members have realized significant savings on their propane costs.

The Board is asking our members who participate in this program to consider sharing a small portion of your fuel savings in the form of donation to Rootswork for us to continue this and our other programs.

Membership Dues and Donations are tax deductible as permitted by law and can be mailed to Rootswork, PO Box 31, Warren VT 05674. For more information about Rootswork, visit our website at Rootswork.org.

Rootswork Membership

1. You must be a Rootswork member to participate in any of Rootswork’s programs
2. Dues are \$45 annually / residence. Membership runs from July 1 through June 30th of each year. During the year, New Memberships or renewals received will run through the heating season to June 30. On July 1st we will accept applications and payments for membership for the next heating season.
3. To become a member, complete a Rootswork Membership Application either on line at the rootswork.org website, or send a printed application with your check to Rootswork, PO Box 31, Warren VT 05674 or drop them off at the East Warren Schoolhouse. There is a box in the lobby for membership forms and checks. If you’re leaving cash, put in a sealed envelope with your completed membership form and leave it with someone working at the East Warren Community Market.
4. Each household needs to become a member. If you’re having the fuel delivered to different addresses, the resident(s) at each address must have their own Rootsowrk membership.

**LIHEAP (Low Income Heating Assistance)-
May Qualify for Free Rootswork Membership**

VT LIHEAP clients can participate in the fuel group. For 2021-2022, the Rootswork Board voted to grant LIHEAP clients living in Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield, and Warren a \$45 fuel grant specifically to cover your Rootswork membership dues. If you live in one of these towns and have qualified for LIHEAP, just attach your LIHEAP qualification to your Rootswork membership application and your dues will be waived.

Fuel Group Sign Up

A separate Fuel group sign up form is required. (see page 2 of the Rootswork membership form.) Please email completed Fuel buying sign up form to Fuel@Rootswork.org for the quickest sign up process. Or leave completed form in the lobby of the East Warren Schoolhouse, 42 Roxbury Road, Warren.

If you send this form by US Mail your sign up will be delayed. Rootswork Membership forms and Fuel sign up forms are different . Both are required. You will not be signed up for the Fuel group without a Fuel sign up sheet.

Once your membership and fuel group sign up have been processed and your information sent to the fuel provider you selected, , you will receive an email confirmation from Fuel@Rootswork.org that your sign up is complete.

Confirmations will only be provided by email. We do not send information packages or confirmations by US Mail.

Allow 10 Business days after the receipt of your propane form to process your application.

Your relationship with our fuel suppliers with regard to everything (service, deliveries, payment, credit, etc) except price will remain the same. Please call the fuel suppliers directly about any of those issues.

Rootswork only negotiates the price.

Variable Price Programs and Fixed Price Fuel Programs

Some Rootswork Fuel Programs are variable price programs, i.e. the fuel price you pay will vary throughout the year based on changes in market conditions. YOUR PRICE IS NOT LOCKED IN. Each program has an underlying reference price or wholesale price, e.g. Selkirk, which moves with market conditions. Rootswork has negotiated a fixed amount or 'margin' you will pay over that varying price. We will offer weekly wholesale price snap shots on the Rootswork Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/WarrenVT/>

To verify your delivered price. Just take the posted reference price from the Rootswork Facebook posting (<https://www.facebook.com/WarrenVT/>) nearest the date of your actual delivery and add the appropriate fixed margin. It should be with several cents of the price you were charged per gallon. We can't guarantee that our posted wholesale price plus your margin will correspond exactly to your bill, but it should be within several cents. This is because the fuel prices fluctuate daily and our price postings are generally once/week.

Irving has provided the following disclosure for all its variable (rack) price customers;
*Irving Energy Rack Plus offers: The rack plus price offer will fluctuate daily, depending upon wholesale cost and market conditions. The rack plus offer allows you to take advantage of lower heating fuel prices if prices drop during the heating season and does not require you to pre-buy your heating fuel. There is a possibility at times the Rootswork Buying Group rack plus price could be the same as the provider's retail price or more. We cannot guarantee the rack plus price will always be lower than the retail price.

Fixed Price Fuel Programs

This season we are introducing a fixed price option. Both Irving and Suburban's and Ward's offers are for a one year fixed price for propane. Bourne's Energy is offering a 3 year fixed price for propane. **These are limited time offers and need to be acted on immediately to lock these prices in for the term of the contract. After the deadlines for enrollment in the fixed price option go by, they will no longer be available.**

FAQs

1) If I have questions about how your Rootswork program works who do I contact?

Call the Rootswork phone message service 802-496-2474 and leave a message, or email us at fuel@rootswork.org. More information can be found at the Rootswork

website: www.rootswork.org. But before you call Rootswork, remember:

***ROOTSWORK ONLY NEGOTIATES THE PRICE OF THE FUEL WITH THE FUEL SUPPLIER. All details of your account with the fuel supplier—including opening an account, service, deliveries, payment, credit, switching providers—are your responsibility.** If you are already an Irving or a Suburban customer, your account will remain exactly as is. If you are not, and wish to take advantage of this offer, you must open an account with one of our fuel providers. Please call the fuel provider directly—and not Rootswork—to open, change, or otherwise manage your account.

2) I'm not a Suburban Or Irving customer. Can I still participate?

Definitely, please contact your new chosen fuel provider to discuss how to switch providers.

Suburban's contact info:

Suburban's Phone: 802-888-2345 / 802-496-3316

or email Suburban JBessette@suburbanpropane.com

Irving's Contact Info:

Irving's Help Center (888) 310-1924

Irving's Email irvingenergy@irvingoil.com

Irving's Rootswork Fuel Group Identifying Number: 6050

3) Can I use the budget plan if I sign up with Rootswork?

Yes, Talk to your fuel supplier.

4) Who do I call for service, payment, or deliveries?

Please call your fuel supplier directly for service and delivery issues.

5) Where can I find out the price I should be charged?

Suburban Propane and Irving are charging Rootswork members a fixed price, depending on each members household usage, over a Selkirk* cost basis This market price fluctuates constantly and prices for propane will be posted weekly on the Rootswork home page at rootswork.org . Take the posted reference price from the Rootswork home page posting nearest the date of your actual delivery and add your appropriate fixed margin. It should be within several cents of the price you were charged per gallon. We can't guarantee that our posted wholesale price plus your margin will correspond exactly to your bill, but it should be within a few cents. This possible discrepancy is because the fuel prices fluctuate daily and our price postings are generally once/week.

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- 1) ¹ **Affecting Suburban participating Customers Only:** New Suburban Rootswork Fuel Group participants delivery addresses within the Suburban Waitsfield office catchment are required (see loophole* below) to be within the Towns of Warren, Waitsfield, Fayston, and Moretown, must have good credit with Suburban and be on Auto-Fill status to participate. **However, all RW member Suburban customers from other towns who enlisted as members in 2016 or before, can continue to participate in our fuel program, as long as they have renewed their Rootswork membership each year and have maintained a good credit rating with Suburban.**
 - 2) **As of 2019, any Suburban customer can participate from other towns provided their local Suburban Dealer is willing to honor the Rootswork pricing structure.** Please call your local dealer to confirm they are on-board with the Rootswork price structure (send them our Suburban Info Sheet). If they agree , you are good to go. If they don't, you can still use Irving Energy.
 - 3) **As of 2020-21 , Suburban is conditionally reversing it's restrictions on new members joining outside of the 4 Mad River Valley towns, but this is at their discretion. So if you want to use Suburban, it can't hurt to ask them.**
 - 4) ² **Irving Energy** only accepts Residential applicants through the Rootswork Fuel Group,