

Rootswork Members Fuel Buying Group

Summary of 2024- 2025 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 2024-25 Options and Changes

The Vermont Legislature, has passed a law that has upset the fuel market in Vermont by adding a surcharge tax to the cost of heating fuel, purportedly to reduce the use of fossil fuels which they see as the main cause of "climate change". At this time I believe the tax amount is not yet determined, but I have heard that \$0.80 / gallon is being discussed. The law is also not yet in effect, and the date when it becomes effective is also not decided. In any case this has caused great uncertainty in the Vermont heating fuel markets and suppliers are understandably unable to offer any long term (more than one year) fixed price offers. If you have concerns about this please contact your representatives and let them know.

With that in mind , here are the offers for this Season:

- **Suburban** offers a variable propane pricing based on **an independently verifiable rack weekly average price (Selkirk)**, plus a mark-up (margin) based on your volume of usage. This is our traditional offering to our members. (See the Suburban info sheet for details) Fixed prices will also be available. Fixed price options are time sensitive; are only available for a limited time and close when the allocated fuel is gone. So they are “first come first serve” .
- **Irving Energy** is no longer offering Rootswork pricing based on the Selkirk rack price, but has switched to their internal Irving rack price which cannot be independently verified. They also offer fixed prices and have other add-on stackable deals involving gasoline discounts at their service stations. (See Irving’s info sheet for details)
- **Bourne’s Energy** is offering a 1 fixed propane price contract (you will be locked in at a fixed price/gallon for 1 year, and a variable price based on their own rack price (not independently verifiable. (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; There are no fixed price offers for heating oil this season. Suburban, Irving and Wards are offering Rootswork Members variable price heating oil programs. Both programs are priced using the wholesale prices determined by each dealer.

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 !**

- 4) **Latest possible date to sign up for this season: May 31st 2025.** 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 2025.
- 5) **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.

Rootswork Members FUEL Buying Group Summary of 2024- 2025 Program

Our fuel program opens for enrollment July 1st 2024 and is closed
for enrollment after May 31st 2025

After 05/31/25, 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 2025

Steps to Participate –TWO forms are required.*

1. Become a Rootswork Member. Complete Rootswork membership application. Pay annual dues of \$45.00 / residence (Rootswork membership runs from 7/1 of this year through 6/30 of the following year). Sign up online at rootswork.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 Rootswork 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@Rootswork.org or call Rootswork 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 2024-2025 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 thirteen 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. In 2021-2022, the Rootswork Board voted to grant LIHEAP clients 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. Please email fuel@rootswork.org and ask for a Selkirk price check for the date of your delivery.

To verify your delivered price:

Please email fuel@rootswork.org and ask for a Selkirk price check for the date of your delivery.

Use that base price and add to it the appropriate fixed margin which is based on your yearly propane usage. This total 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 continue to have some fixed price options for propane. Both Irving and Suburban's and Ward's offers are for a one year fixed price for propane. Bourne's Energy is offering one year and two year options for fixed prices 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 options, or if the suppliers sell their fuel allotments for the fixed prices, 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 Bourne, Suburban, Irving or Wards customer. Can I still participate?

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

Bourne's Energy Contacts:

Jon Whittle 802-888-2611 Jon.whittle@bournes.net www.BournesEnergy.com

Suburban's contact info:

Suburban's Phone: 802-888-2345 / 802-496-3316
or email Suburban JBessette@suburbanpropane.com

Irvings Contact Info:

Irving's Help Center (888) 310-1924
Irving's Email irvingenergy@irvingoil.com
Irving's Rootswork Fuel Group Identifying Number

Wards Energy Call:

**Heather Bombard, Phone: (802) 496-6023, Fax: (802) 496-4810, Email :
wardsenergy@wardsvt.com Ward's Energy, Inc., 438 Mad River Park, Waitsfield, VT. 05673**

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 is charging Rootswork members a fixed price, depending on each members household usage, over a Selkirk* cost basis This market price fluctuates constantly . Please email fuel@rootswork.org and include the date(s) of your deliveries , and we will email you back the weekly average Selkirk price(s) for those dates. Then you can add your appropriate fixed margin to that base price and 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 its 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,