Lower oil prices also cutting winter heating oil and propane bills

Lower oil prices are not only driving down gasoline costs, but U.S. consumers will also see a bigger savings in their heating oil and propane bills this winter.

In its new short-term forecast, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said households that use heating oil most of which are located in the Northeast will pay on average $1,779 this winter. That's 25% less or a savings of nearly $600 compared with last winter.

The Midwest has the most households that heat primarily with propane. That region’s propane users are expected to see their winter heating bills decline by more than one-third to an average of $1,410. Compared with last winter, that frees up $850 in the family budget to spend on something else.

In addition to lower oil prices expected warmer temperatures this winter compared with last year will also contribute to lower heating bills.

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