



Efficiency Maine is partnering with homeowners in several communities across the state to assess the cold-weather performance of heat pumps. During the first weekend of February 2023, Maine experienced some of the coldest temperatures it had seen in more than five decades, with wind chills reported as low as -60 °F. Residents braced themselves for the cold. And heat pump owners wondered:

Will my heat pump keep me warm?

The short answer is YES!

Here's what Mainers who use heat pumps as their sole source of heat say about their experiences.

"I live on the top of a mountain in Waterford, Maine, where it gets pretty windy. That's not a challenge for my heat pumps, which during the February cold snap kept me warm without backup even during -49 °F wind chill! I'm also saving around \$300 a month using heat pumps instead of propane." **Frank D., Waterford, ME**

"I've saved thousands of dollars by heating my entire home with two heat pumps. In fact, I haven't had an oil delivery since the fall of 2021."

Paul N., Van Buren, ME

"We live in a small 1930s cape cod and it routinely gets down to -20 °F in the winter. We replaced our failing, 25-year-old oil furnace with heat pumps. When we had forced hot air with an oil furnace, we were always adjusting the temperature, and now we set the heat pumps and forget them. The heat pumps are also saving us money. This past February when it was -25 °F, our electric bill was only \$281 for the month, and we were very comfortable. It's also really inexpensive to run the air conditioning. This technology is great."

Cathy and George H., Dexter, ME

"I love my heat pump! It's in the closet where my furnace used to be and uses the existing ductwork. It keeps the entire house a steady, comfortable, toasty warm temperature even on bitter cold days. Even with higher electricity rates, the cost is nowhere near the cost to buy 100 gallons of oil. It has so many benefits: no oil delivery and no need to shovel a path to my oil tank to read the gauge. And I don't have to put my air conditioners in anymore!" **Michelle W., Freeport, ME**

"We replaced our oil furnace and have a heat pump that uses our existing duct work. The heat pump worked well during the cold snap, keeping our home at a steady, comfortable temperature. Compared to the cost for oil usage, the heat pump is less costly and the maintenance is minimal. And we like that it's more environmentally friendly; it's quieter and cleaner." **Rita D., Freeport, ME**

