

## Budget 2024 - 2025

August 2023

The National Oilheat Research Alliance Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-469) as amended by P.L. 113-79 requires the National Oilheat Research Alliance (the Alliance) to publish a biennial budget for public comment before August 1<sup>st</sup> of 2014 and every two years thereafter. That budget shall include the probable costs of all programs, projects, and contracts and other agreements.

Following public review and comment, the Alliance is required to submit a proposed budget to the Secretary of Energy and to the Congress.

### **Part I. Assessment Rate and Income**

The Alliance has one primary sources of income. The federally authorized assessment on Oilheat sold in the states participating in NORA at \$.002 per gallon. The Alliance also receives interest income on the investment of assessment funds. Additionally, the Alliance realizes revenue from the sale of books and other educational resources and expects to receive revenue from the provision of studies. Further, NORA periodically enters into contracts with other research organizations to conduct studies.

### **Assessment Collections**

The Alliance estimates that revenues from assessments will be **\$7,889,747. in 2024.** Similarly, the 2025 revenue from collections was placed at **\$7,653,055.** These calculations are based on normalizing the most recent year's collections for weather, and then reducing by 3 percent per annum to accommodate conservation and loss of customers. To ensure the appropriate allocations to the accounts established by Congress are in line with actual collections, NORA adjusts the rebates to the states at the conclusion of the audit. Reductions or overages are generally made to the state rebates in the next year. This ensures that with the central budget and the state budget, Congressional allocations are followed.

The Alliance expects to receive interest of \$100,000 in 2024 and \$50,000 in 2025. NORA expects no continuing revenue from book sales as the publications are now printed and distributed independently and NORA distributes the materials with no expectation of revenue.

NORA will also be making it a priority to work with other organizations and provide services that benefit the oilheating industry. NORA anticipates that partnerships with organizations such as the Clean Fuels Alliance America and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) may provide as much as \$450,000 per year in 2024 and 2025. However, since these grants are uncertain, they are not included in the Budget

## **Escrow**

The Congressional Budget Office changed the scoring rules for programs like NORA since its inception in 2000. To ensure the program did not impact the deficit, the law requires that 25 percent of the funds be placed into escrow, and that those funds cannot be obligated or spent until October 1, 2028. This escrow will significantly curtail operations, and the reduced amounts are reflected in this budget.

## **Part II. General Expenditures and Capital Investments**

Office Unallocated Expenses in 2024 are anticipated to be \$ 356,000. and include salaries and other expenses related to administering the program, insurance, accounting fees and rent. This figure will be increased to \$369,000. In 2025. However, the total of all unallocated expenses will thus be approximately 6.0 percent in 2024 and 6.4% of the program's collections after the escrow. Thus, they will be within the statutory cap of 7%.

## ***Assessments and Collections.***

The Alliance anticipates expenditures of **\$230,000** for collection expenses in 2024 and 2025. These costs include processing of collections, publicizing the collection system, maintaining lists, and providing attorney's fees to ensure that the system is effective. It also includes expenses associated with refunds, and audit costs. These expenses reflect actual costs in previous years.

## **Part III. State Rebates**

The Alliance has endeavored to ensure that the funds generated benefit consumers and the oilheat industry. The limitation on Administration contained in the Act and the current status of the industry also indicates that allowing local decision-making is the best way to maximize value. To that end, the Alliance therefore intends to return a substantial portion of the funds for use in the state where they are generated. In 2024, this is anticipated to be \$3,761,309 and in 2025, it will be \$3,515,790. The states will use these funds to accomplish many of the goals described herein and will be within the statutory directives and their spending will match congressional allocations.

## **Part IV. Program and Project Expenditures**

The Act requires the Alliance to develop programs, and projects and enter into contracts or other agreements with other persons and entities for implementing this title.

The Act is designed to benefit consumers of Oilheat by allowing the industry to develop appropriate programs of consumer education, energy efficiency, research and development and education and training to benefit consumers.

This budget document will determine all spending. The Executive Committee of the Alliance and the Alliance will be responsible for reviewing contracts and approving them as appropriate and implementing this budget.

### ***Education and Training and Consumer Education.***

The Act requires the Alliance to enhance consumer and employee safety and training and provide consumer education. The total expenses available for these activities are \$1,716,020 in 2024 and \$1,664,539 in 2025. Of these expenditures the Alliance is proposing to budget \$280,000 to be administered by the national office in each year. These budgetary amounts represent approximately 29% of the overall NORA budget, which falls below the statutory maximum of 30%. The national office will be producing and maintaining an online training center with these funds. In-person training is often the preferred method of training; however, many technicians are in remote areas and have limited access to training. Having a training center that can provide training, maintain student records and outreach to students is critical.

The states affiliated with NORA will be provided with \$1,436,020 for 2024 and \$1,384,539 in 2025. The states will develop internal budgets based on these allocations. The states will focus most of their funding on basic technician education. Extended management training to improve overall service and improve the oilheat consumer experience will also be developed and used.

### ***Technician Certification Program***

The Alliance will continue to improve its Technician Certification program. Recognizing excellence is a vital part of improving employee training which leads to improved consumer value and safety. To this end, the Alliance is continuously improving the website, training materials and the certification tests.

### ***New Training Materials.***

The Alliance will continue to develop training materials and course materials for the industry. NORA will continue to conduct Train-the-Trainer programs for the Gold and Silver program. NORA is working on online presentations of the subject areas of its expanded gold program, steam, hydronics, venting, advanced controls, air flow for warm air systems, and energy efficiency. NORA will continue to work with the states to bring these training opportunities into the community.

### ***State Rebates***

A significant portion of the Alliance generated funds will be returned to the states in conformance with the law to accomplish the objectives of the Act. The states will

implement many of the programs described above. Providing in field training for technicians is critical.

Several of the states operate full time training facilities used by the industry. These include Maine, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania. The remaining states use the funds to do periodic training at temporary facilities.

Additionally, the states may allocate a portion of this to traditional consumer education activities using traditional media such as broadcast television and radio, and a limited amount of internet communications. Using broadcast media allows the industry to provide a small bit of information to consumers which might help them make decisions regarding Oilheat/Bioheat fuel. These consumer education activities will also provide information on energy efficiency and improvements to the equipment.

### ***Research and Development***

The Act requires the Alliance to provide for research, development, and demonstration of clean and efficient oilheat utilization equipment. The Alliance anticipates expending approximately \$2,050,193 being directly allocated to research and development activities in 2024, and \$1,996,937 in 2025. Of this, \$1,270,000 will be directly funded by the central office. At a minimum, the research and development program will be 31% of the budget..

NORA is operating a research and development laboratory in New York. Staffing for that includes a full time director, as well as 2 research engineers, and a supporting technical expert. Additionally, NORA will continue to fund and develop new projects based on its research review meeting which established priorities for the industry, including biofuels, controls, novel burner technologies, and new appliances.

Under the revised statute, there are additional responsibilities which include the transition and facilitation of the entry of energy efficient heating systems into the marketplace. A report on biofuels in oilheat fuel utilization equipment, and the development of consumer education materials describing the benefits of using biofuels in oilheat fuel is also a core function of research and development in the act. It is likely that the states will use their funds to facilitate these two objectives. NORA had decided in 2021 & 2022 to allocate \$1million dollars per year from its reserves and its central funds to states that are actively using research and development funds.

NORA anticipates that the core of its fundamental research will occur at the NORA laboratory in Plainview New York, while more product development projects will occur through funded projects. NORA will continue to work with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and the Clean Fuels Alliance America to advance the liquid heating industry.

## ***Energy Efficiency***

The Act also includes a requirement on “Heating Oil Efficiency and Upgrade Program. The Alliance has budgeted \$937,596 in 2024 and \$910,968 in 2025.

There are three main tasks under this section, and at least 16 percent of the assessments shall be used to assist consumers to

- 1) Make cost effective upgrades to more fuel-efficient modifications to an existing heating system or otherwise make cost-effective modifications to an existing heating system to improve the efficiency of the system.
- 2) To improve energy efficiency or reduce energy consumption through cost-effective energy efficiency programs for consumers, or
- 3) To improve the safe operation of the system

In carrying out this section, the Alliance shall to the maximum extent practicable coordinate, develop and implement the programs and activities of the Alliance in conjunction with an existing state energy efficiency program administrator. The amount of funding in states will limit the amount of planning that is likely to occur. NORA believes that developing a series of programs that meets the goals of this section will be essential, and then each state affiliate will be able to work to the maximum extent practicable with its state energy efficiency administrator to develop the best plan for that state. Preliminary discussion have indicated that better understanding of efficiency and appropriate tools to measure and improve efficiency in the home, tune-ups of existing equipment, and setback thermostats may all be invaluable in fulfilling this task. States have also had robust rebate programs. However, the 25 percent cutback impacts those programs.

States will receive \$872,596 in 2024 and 840,968 in 2025 to carry out and implement energy efficiency program activities.

## **State Rebates**

NORA’s Board has indicated a continued desire to utilize the state resources to implement the program. Thus, funds not specifically allocated to programs in accordance with this budget will be subject to the decision making of the states. Currently, \$672,500 in 2024, and \$563,345 in 2025.

## **Central Office Expenses**

The budget provides for \$356,000 to be spent on the management of the Alliance and compliance with specific program objectives in 2024, and \$369,000 in 2023. These numbers have decreased since the last budget because we have moved the Audit expenses to Assessment and Collection Costs to better reflect Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ( GAAP).

**Part V. Budget Summary**

The following pages provides an income statement for 2024 and 2025. The board has directed that the allocations to the states be adjusted annually based on the collections in the prior year. This is a formulaic adjustment and thus the allocations to the state for 2025 will not be known until 2024, however, the allocation for 2024 is based on the Board's formula.

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b><i>INCOME</i></b>		
<b><i>Collections and Assessments</i></b>		
Collections	7,889,747.67	7,653,055.24
Escrow	1,972,436.92	1,913,263.81
<b><i>Net Collections</i></b>	<b>5,917,310.75</b>	<b>5,739,791.43</b>
<b><i>PROGRAM EXPENSES</i></b>		
<b><i>Consumer Education and Training (Max. 30%)</i></b>		
Education and Training (Central)	280,000.00	280,000.00
Education and Training (States)	1,436,020.12	1,384,539.51
<b><i>Research Development and Demonstration (Min. 30%)</i></b>	<b>2,050,193.23</b>	<b>1,996,937.43</b>
Research Development and Demonstration (Central)	1,270,000.00	1,270,000.00
Research Development and Demonstration (States)	780,193.23	726,937.43
<b><i>Home Energy Efficiency Program (Min. 15%)</i></b>		
Home Energy Efficiency Program (Central)	65,000.00	70,000.00
Home Energy Efficiency Program (States)	872,596.61	840,968.71
<b><i>Total Program Expenses</i></b>	<b>4,703,809.96</b>	<b>4,572,445.66</b>
<b><i>Total Central</i></b>	<b>1,615,000.00</b>	<b>1,620,000.00</b>
<b><i>Total States</i></b>	<b>3,088,809.96</b>	<b>2,952,445.66</b>
<b><i>State Rebates</i></b>	<b>672,500.80</b>	<b>563,345.77</b>

***Office Unallocated Expenses***

Salaries and Consulting (Admin)	165,000.00	165,000.00
Accounting (Admin)	35,000.00	35,000.00
Insurance (Admin)	15,000.00	20,000.00
Taxes	3,000.00	3,000.00
Postage	1,500.00	1,500.00
Web Pages	15,000.00	18,000.00
Rent and Telephone	7,500.00	8,000.00
Travel	7,500.00	8,000.00
Meeting Expenses	5,000.00	6,000.00
Office Supplies	2,500.00	2,500.00
Dues & Memberships	5,000.00	5,000.00
Bank Fees	3,000.00	4,000.00
Legal Expense (non-admin)	84,000.00	84,000.00
Equipment Consulting	3,000.00	5,000.00
Payroll Processing	4,000.00	4,000.00

***Total Unallocated Expenses (7 Percent Cap)***

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356,000.00	369,000.00
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**General and Special Projects:**

Assessment and Collection Costs	230,000.00	230,000.00
Annual Report	55,000.00	55,000.00
Total General and Special Projects	285,000.00	285,000.00

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***Other Income (Expenses)***

Other Revenue (Grants, CFAA grant, etc)	225,000.00	225,000.00
CFAA Research & Development Grant Expense	(225,000.00)	(225,000.00)
Cost of Goods Sold	-	-
Interest	100,000.00	50,000.00

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***Total Other Income/(Expense)***

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100,000.00	50,000.00
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***Net Revenue (Expense)***

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# State Allocations

2024

State	Consumer Ed and Training	Research and Development	Energy Efficiency	Rebates	
	<b>\$1,436,020.00</b>	<b>\$780,193.00</b>	<b>\$872,596.00</b>	<b>\$672,501.00</b>	
CT	\$182,374.54	\$99,084.51	\$110,819.69	\$85,407.63	
DC	\$143.60	\$78.02	\$87.26	\$67.25	
DE	\$8,616.12	\$4,681.16	\$5,235.58	\$4,035.01	
IN	\$1,005.21	\$546.14	\$610.82	\$470.75	
KY	\$21,540.30	\$11,702.90	\$13,088.94	\$10,087.52	
MA	\$146,330.44	\$79,501.67	\$88,917.53	\$68,527.85	
MD	\$42,362.59	\$23,015.69	\$25,741.58	\$19,838.78	
ME	\$86,448.40	\$46,967.62	\$52,530.28	\$40,484.56	
MI	\$26,997.18	\$14,667.63	\$16,404.80	\$12,643.02	
NC	\$62,466.87	\$33,938.40	\$37,957.93	\$29,253.79	
NH	\$55,286.77	\$30,037.43	\$33,594.95	\$25,891.29	
NJ	\$62,036.06	\$33,704.34	\$37,696.15	\$29,052.04	
NV	\$287.20	\$156.04	\$174.52	\$134.50	
NY					
	NYSEC =.6	\$178,870.65	\$97,180.84	\$108,690.56	\$83,766.72
	UNYEA =.25	\$74,529.44	\$40,492.02	\$45,287.73	\$34,902.80
	Hudson =.15	\$44,717.66	\$24,295.21	\$27,172.64	\$20,941.68
OH	\$40,782.97	\$22,157.48	\$24,781.73	\$19,099.03	
PA	\$210,520.53	\$114,376.29	\$127,922.57	\$98,588.65	
RI	\$49,542.69	\$26,916.66	\$30,104.56	\$23,201.28	
SC	\$25,417.55	\$13,809.42	\$15,444.95	\$11,903.27	
VA	\$49,111.88	\$26,682.60	\$29,842.78	\$22,999.53	
VT	\$30,730.83	\$16,696.13	\$18,673.55	\$14,391.52	
WA	\$4,595.26	\$2,496.62	\$2,792.31	\$2,152.00	
WI	\$31,305.24	\$17,008.21	\$19,022.59	\$14,660.52	
	<b>\$1,436,020.00</b>	<b>\$780,193.00</b>	<b>\$872,596.00</b>	<b>\$672,501.00</b>	

# State Allocations

2025

State	Consumer Ed and Training	Research and Development	Energy Efficiency	Rebates
	<b>\$1,384,540.00</b>	<b>\$726,937.00</b>	<b>\$840,968.00</b>	<b>\$563,346.00</b>
CT	\$175,843.06	\$92,321.00	\$106,802.94	\$71,544.94
DC	\$138.46	\$72.69	\$84.10	\$56.33
DE	\$8,307.55	\$4,361.62	\$5,045.81	\$3,380.08
IN	\$969.21	\$508.86	\$588.68	\$394.34
KY	\$20,768.87	\$10,904.06	\$12,614.52	\$8,450.19
MA	\$141,089.82	\$74,074.88	\$85,694.64	\$57,404.96
MD	\$40,845.43	\$21,444.64	\$24,808.56	\$16,618.71
ME	\$83,352.38	\$43,761.61	\$50,626.27	\$33,913.43
MI	\$26,030.31	\$13,666.42	\$15,810.20	\$10,590.90
NC	\$60,229.71	\$31,621.76	\$36,582.11	\$24,505.55
NH	\$53,306.75	\$27,987.07	\$32,377.27	\$21,688.82
NJ	\$59,814.33	\$31,403.68	\$36,329.82	\$24,336.55
NV	\$276.92	\$145.39	\$168.19	\$112.67
NY				
NYSEC =.6	\$172,464.65	\$90,547.27	\$104,750.97	\$70,170.38
UNYEA				
=.25	\$71,860.27	\$37,728.03	\$43,646.24	\$29,237.66
Hudson				
=.15	\$43,116.16	\$22,636.82	\$26,187.74	\$17,542.59
OH	\$39,322.38	\$20,645.01	\$23,883.49	\$15,999.03
PA	\$202,981.04	\$106,568.96	\$123,285.91	\$82,586.52
RI	\$47,768.39	\$25,079.33	\$29,013.40	\$19,435.44
SC	\$24,507.26	\$12,866.78	\$14,885.13	\$9,971.22
VA	\$47,353.01	\$24,861.25	\$28,761.11	\$19,266.43
VT	\$29,630.25	\$15,556.45	\$17,996.72	\$12,055.60
WA	\$4,430.69	\$2,326.20	\$2,691.10	\$1,802.71
WI	\$30,184.08	\$15,847.23	\$18,333.10	\$12,280.94
	<b>\$1,384,591.00</b>	<b>\$726,937.00</b>	<b>\$840,968.00</b>	<b>\$563,346.00</b>