

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

**SWITCHING FROM DIRTY #4 OR #6 HEATING OIL TO CLEANER FUEL**

More than 9,000 big buildings in New York still burn the lowest possible grade heating oil.

Burning dirty heating oil pollutes the air with nickel, a heavy metal that increases the risk of heart disease.

Using a higher-grade oil or natural gas reduces soot pollution emissions by 95 percent.



Soot from a building burning No. 6 oil

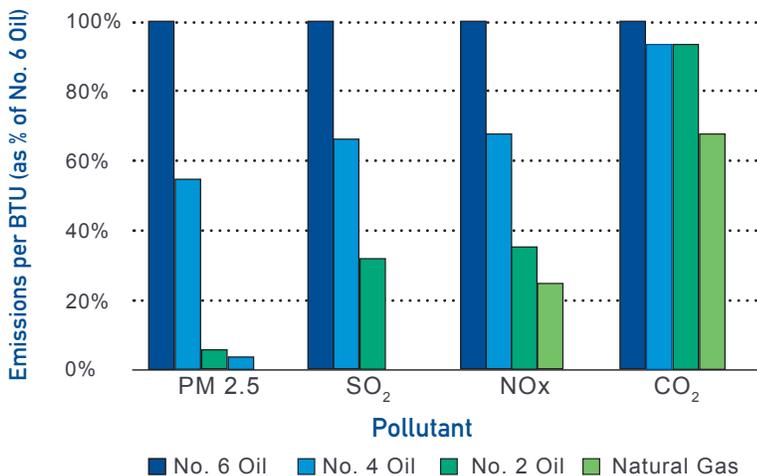
**Why should my building switch to cleaner heating fuel?**

*It protects your health.* Burning dirty heating oil (#4 and #6 oil) emits high levels of fine sooty particle pollution and nickel (a heavy metal), which are both harmful to our health.

*It can save you money.* Converting to natural gas and increasing heating system efficiency can help buildings save money. Natural gas is cheaper than heating oil and the more efficiently the heating system is running, the less fuel a building needs.

**What are the cleaner heating fuel options?**

*Natural gas, #2 heating oil or ConEdison steam.* A building owner can decide to burn only #2 heating oil, only natural gas, or a combination. ConEdison steam eliminates the need for a boiler or oil tank. #2 heating oil is 10-30% more expensive than #6 oil, and natural gas is cheaper than #6 oil.



Comparison of Harmful Emissions from Different Heating Fuels

**ConEdison**  
(if you live in Manhattan, Bronx or northern Queens)  
at 1-800-643-1289 or

**National Grid**  
(if you live in Brooklyn, Staten Island or southern Queens)  
at 1-877-696-4743

**What is required to convert to cleaner fuel?**

- Contact ConEdison (if you live in Manhattan, Bronx or northern Queens) at 1-800-643-1289 or National Grid (if you live in Brooklyn, Staten Island or southern Queens) at 1-877-696-4743 to find out a) if your utility company can bring a gas line to your building; b) if your utility company will pay to bring the line to your building; c) if your building is located in a low or high gas pressure area; and d) about the different gas rates (firm or interruptible).
- Check the map at [www.edf.org/dirtybuildings](http://www.edf.org/dirtybuildings) to see which neighboring buildings you could contact to switch to gas as well so that you can split the costs.
- #2 heating oil: If your building's existing burner can also burn #2 oil, in most cases it will only require a tank cleaning and removal of certain equipment before the building can make the switch. These two tasks can be done in just a few weeks. If a new burner also is required, it most likely will take a few months to switch.

**How else can I save money?**

Check with a licensed heating system contractor to find out what the best maintenance practices are and if your boiler and burner are properly tuned to ensure maximum efficiency. Simple steps such as setting the hot water temperature at 120° F, using low cost radiator shut off valves, and working radiator steam traps can lead to money and fuel savings of up to 30 percent.