

Community First Oxfordshire - Bulk Heating Oil Buying Scheme

Background

Community First Oxfordshire (formerly ORCC) Bulk Oil Buying Scheme uses group buying to reduce the cost of domestic heating oil. Group orders allow the supplier to deliver more efficiently as their costs are reduced and the group gets the same oil from the same suppliers, yet pays less for it. A single bulk delivery is also better for the environment than multiple deliveries to individual households and there will be fewer lorries on the roads, especially rural roads and hence making the countryside safer for the inhabitants. Community First Oxfordshire (formerly ORCC) is an independent charity helping the rural communities of Oxfordshire since its foundation in 1920. Read more about Community First Oxfordshire at www.communityfirstoxon.org

What's the scheme about?

Community First Oxfordshire runs a scheme that helps to reduce the cost of your domestic heating oil each time you place an order. We aim to achieve the lowest possible prices for heating oil.

What's the snag?

There isn't one. By bringing communities throughout Oxfordshire together and making the most of joint buying power, we can make savings and pass them directly to people like you whose fuel costs are high simply because you use oil-fired central heating.

Where possible we operate the scheme through local volunteer co-ordinators who are placed within the community and can help with any day to day issues. From helping those with no internet/computer facilities to reminding you that an oil order is due, they are there to support anyone who needs just that extra bit of guidance.

The environment benefits too

Every time a tanker comes out to make a delivery, it is using a lot of diesel – a full tanker can get as little as 8 miles per gallon. If deliveries are organised so that one tanker delivers to several customers in a village instead of making lots of individual deliveries, the fuel consumption is reduced and so is traffic in the village.

Professional Oil Negotiators

We use the services of AF Affinity to negotiate and place our order. They are a subsidiary of Anglia Farmers who are a mutual company formed under the Co-Operative & Community Benefit Society. They are based in Norfolk and have excellent relationships with oil suppliers.

The scheme orders oil 22 or 23 times each year, avoiding December when oil tends to be more expensive. There is no premium to pay for orders between 500 and 1000 litres. All you need do to take advantage of the scheme is to pay an annual membership fee of £24, which will cover as many oil orders as you need during the course of the year.

The Scheme can supply kerosene, gasoil and red diesel plus additives if required. It now supplies many farms, rural businesses and schools.

For further details please contact Bill Leppard on 01793 710349 or email oil.leppard@orangehome.co.uk