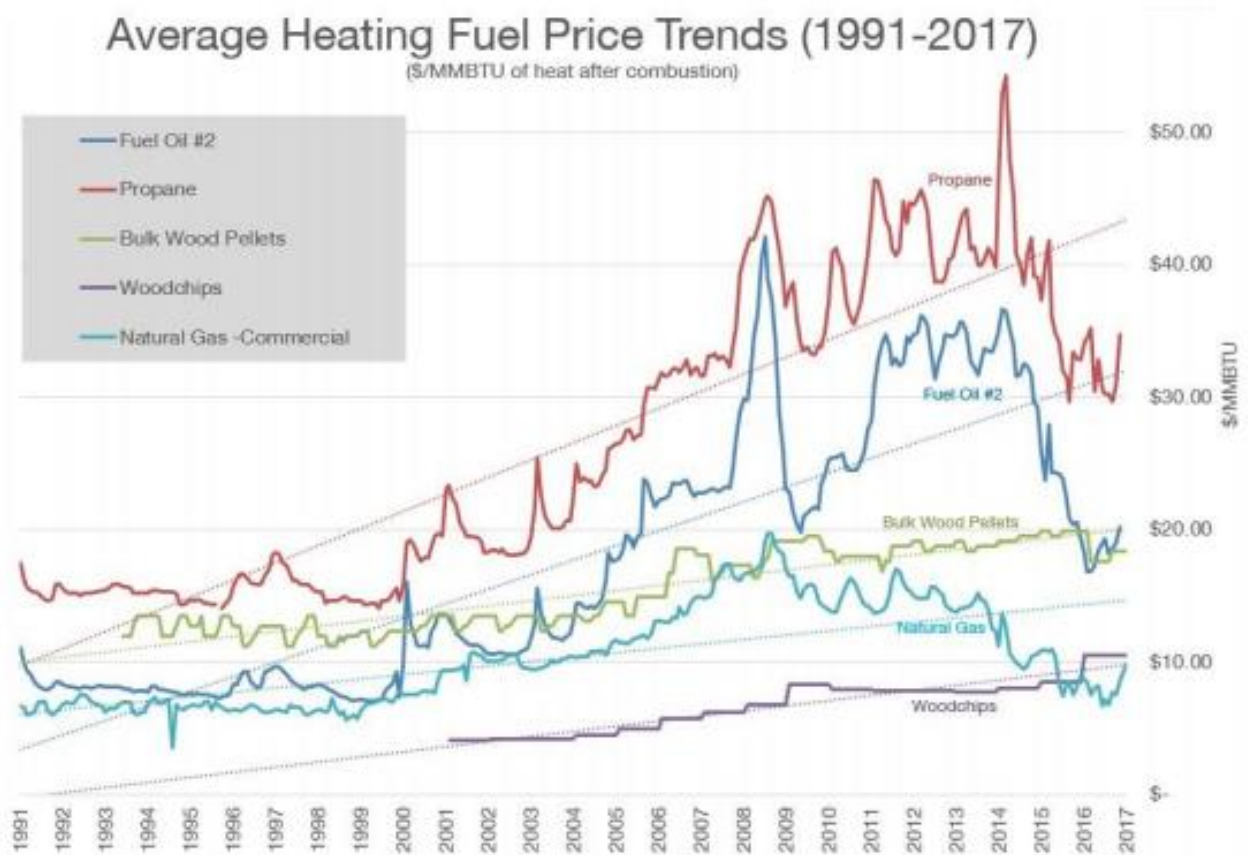


Volatility of Fossil Fuel Prices since 1991 Compared to Wood

When considering the impact of heating prices on Vermonters, it is important to understand both the **relative cost** comparison across fuels, as well as the **price volatility** of those. When prices change dramatically from year to year (and often month to month), as demonstrated by the graph below, they make it difficult for average households to predict how much they will need to budget to pay for heat.

The graph demonstrates that advanced **wood heat** – a locally produced renewable source of heat – is the most stable of all fuel sources listed. **Renewable electricity** - which powers cold climate heat pumps - is equally stable, and if the solar panels are owned by the household, the price of the 'fuel' source **declines** significantly over time as the panels are paid off (generally around 8 years through savings from electric bills).



Source: The information presented here is part of the 2016 Advanced Wood Heating Baseline report. To access a copy of the full report, please visit -- http://publicservice.vermont.gov/renewable_energy/cedf