

Heating Degree-days

A heating degree-day is basically a measure of how cold it has been.

When heating a space, fuel demand varies according to how cold it is. Degree-day units were developed to help in estimating the heat requirements and fuel costs for a building.

When the outside air is above a certain temperature no heat is required. This is what we refer to as a base temperature. 65° F is used as the base temperature for calculating heating degree-days.

If you take the average daily temperature and subtract it from 65° F you can determine your degree-days. Each degree accounts for one degree-day.

If today's High temperature is 50° F and the Low is 30° F our average daily temperature is 40° F. Subtract 40° F from 65° F and you will see that there are 25 degree-days for today.

Heating costs are directly proportional to the number of degree-days in a year.

<http://www.erpud.com/HeatingDegreeDays.htm>