Don't Need Your Coat?...Get Out and Vote

Posted by Glenn on November 5, 2005 - 11:58am in The Oil Drum: Local
Topic: Policy/Politics
Tags: new york, new york city, oil, peak oil, politics, weather [list all tags]

It has been an unseasonably warm fall here in NYC and much of the East Coast, meaning that people have been enjoying this great last gasp of great weather before the onset of winter. It also leaves no excuse to not get out and vote in Tuesday's municipal elections in New York. Not sure of who's running in your district? Go check out the NYC Campaign Finance Board website and familiarize yourself with who's running and what issues they are talking about. I strongly believe that the collective local responses to peak oil will be critical to adapting to a new way of life that is less dependent on oil. Be loud and be proud to discuss energy and transportation issues and how they impact your life to the candidates in your area.

The warm weather has also meant that the first month of the home heating season has not required a lot of fuel and as a result refiners put out of commission have been able to recover and rebuilt stocks according to this Forbes.com article.

> Oil prices have been falling recently as warmer than average temperatures in the US northeast - the world's largest heating oil market - dent demand for heating oil.

> This has given refiners a chance to rebuild stocks, especially heating oil stocks, which have been falling to below average levels for this time of year as a result of refining outages.

A mild winter, in combination with higher imports from abroad, may avert shortages this year that would send pricing spiking to record levels, but people will be feeling the pinch of the higher prices nonetheless. At best a mild winter will buy us a little more time, but it will not reverse the macro trend toward ever higher oil and gas prices. We need to get our story in front of local leaders and talk about the everyday realities of higher energy costs.