

Press Advisory
State Energy Officials Release 2008 Energy Cost Survey
Families Making Tough Choices in Paying High Energy Bills

Time: June 11, Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. Eastern
Phone Call In: 1-877-856-1958 **Title:** Energy Affordability Survey
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State energy officials will be releasing the first national survey of how rising home energy and gasoline costs are impacting households by income on Wednesday, June 11 at 11:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) The report provides an understanding of the sacrifices and tradeoffs that low, moderate, and middle income households have made in response to rising gasoline and home energy costs.

State energy officials will also discuss actions that Congress can take to help households adjust to high energy prices, including increased funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Weatherization Assistance Programs and the State Energy Program.

The survey is being released by the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association and the Energy Programs Consortium. Please call Mark Wolfe at 202-237-5199 if you have any questions or would like a copy of the embargoed report.

Among the key findings of the report:

- All income groups have reduced discretionary spending, driving, and heating and cooling usage and have also made investments in more energy efficient heating, cooling, and appliances to bring down their costs.
- Increases in home energy and gasoline prices have led all income groups to conserve by reducing purchases of by purchasing less expensive products, reducing purchases of clothing, and eating out less frequently in restaurants, and reducing the use of their cars.
- Increased prices have also led all income groups to make investments in more efficient appliances and cars.
- Increased home energy and gasoline prices have had a large impact on households, especially those with low and moderate incomes.
- Low-to middle-income households were likely to report that they made compromises with their energy use, in some cases turning down the heat to a temperature they felt was unsafe or unhealthy.
- Low- to moderate-income households are likely to have missed energy bill payments and even have their service terminated.
- Low-income households made many sacrifices to make up for increased home energy and gasoline costs including reduced purchases of food, medicine and changed plans for their education or their children's education.
- Despite these sacrifices, many low- and moderate-income households were still unable to afford their energy needs. Middle and high-income households were much less likely to report that they faced these problems.
- Low- and moderate- income households were most likely to say that increased home energy and gasoline costs had a large impact on their confidence about the future.

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