



NATIONAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Press Release: National Energy Assistance Directors Association

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Winter Heating Price Outlook Home Heating Expenditures Projected to Increase by 10.5% States Call on Congress to Increase Funding for Energy Assistance

Home heating costs this winter will remain unaffordable for millions of lower income families. The National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA), representing the state directors of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), today released its projections of home heating costs for the upcoming winter heating season. Prices for home heating this winter on average are estimated to increase by about 10.5% from last year's winter heating season due to expected colder winter weather in the Northeast and Midwest states from \$889 to \$982.

The largest change is for families using electricity to heat their homes increasing by 13.6% from \$1,063 to \$1,208. Electric prices are increasing due to continued high cost of maintaining and upgrading the grid and colder weather leading to increased consumption. In fact, electricity is the second fastest growing index in the September 2024 [Consumer Price Index](#). In addition, NEADA predicts higher prices for natural gas, one of the main fuels used in electricity production, primarily due to increased exports of liquified natural gas with the average cost increasing from \$601 to \$644.

For those using heating oil, prices are expenditures are estimated to increase by 6.1% from \$1,851 to \$1,963, reflecting increased usage due to colder weather in the Northeast. Households heating with propane can expect a 7.3 % increase in expenditures, from \$1,343 last winter to \$1,442 this year for similar reasons.

In order to help families pay their increasingly high home energy bills NEADA has asked Congress to [increase funding](#) for LIHEAP from \$4.1 billion to \$6.1 billion, the same level of funding that was provided in FY23. In addition, NEADA has asked Congress to provide an additional \$1 billion for emergency assistance, which would help to provide supplemental LIHEAP assistance for some of the nation's poorest families.

In the short-term, we need to support the millions of families across the country who are struggling to keep up with monthly utility payments," said Mark Wolfe, Executive Director of NEADA. "Long-term, it is critical that federal and state officials fund weatherization and retrofits for low-income households, so that low-income families are protected from—both from winter weather conditions and increasingly extreme summer temperatures and from the global energy market's price fluctuations.

Utility Arrearages Remain High: For those using electricity, arrearages increased from \$12.5 billion in June 2023 to \$13.5 billion in June 2024 while those using natural gas, arrearages declined from \$7.4 billion to \$6.1 billion, in part because of the decreased cost of natural gas during this period. About one out of six households are behind on their utility bills.

Tables illustrating average cost of home energy nationally and by region as well as arrearage data are shown as follows:

[The National Energy Assistance Directors Association](#) (NEADA) represents the state directors of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and serves as the program's representative to the Federal government as well as providing training and educational programs.

Table 1: Average Cost of Home Energy 2023-24 to 2024-25

Average Expenditure is a weighted average of all home heating sources, using the number of households by energy type.

Expenditures	Natural Gas	Electricity	Heating Oil	Propane	Average All Sources
2023-2024	\$601	\$1063	\$1851	\$1343	\$889
2024-2025	\$644	\$1208	\$1963	\$1442	\$982
Difference	\$43	\$145	\$112	\$99	\$93
% Difference	7.2%	13.6%	6.1%	7.3%	10.5%

Source: EIA, NOAA, and Market Data • Created with Datawrapper

Table 2A: Average Winter Heating Cost 2023-24 to 2024-25 Northeast Region

Expenditures	Natural Gas	Electricity	Heating Oil	Propane	Average All Sources
2023-2024	\$761	\$1465	\$1851	\$1696	\$1159
2024-2025	\$844	\$1604	\$1963	\$1816	\$1269
Difference	\$83	\$139	\$112	\$120	\$110
% Difference	10.8%	9.5%	6.1%	7.1%	9.5%

Source: EIA, NOAA, and market Data • Created with Datawrapper

Table 2B: Average Winter Heating Cost 2023-24 to 2024-25 Midwest Region

Expenditures	Natural Gas	Electricity	Propane	Average All Sources
2023-2024	\$581	\$1213	\$1294	\$873
2024-2025	\$621	\$1438	\$1403	\$996
Difference	\$40	\$225	\$109	\$123
% Difference	7.0%	18.5%	8.4%	14.1%

Source: EIA, NOAA, and market Data • Created with Datawrapper

Table 2C: Average Winter Heating Cost 2023-24 to 2024-25 South Region

Expenditures	Natural Gas	Electricity	Propane	Average All Sources
2023-2024	\$494	\$1001	\$1184	\$733
2024-2025	\$527	\$1116	\$1288	\$804
Difference	\$33	\$115	\$104	\$71
% Difference	6.7%	11.5%	8.8%	9.7%

Source: EIA, NOAA, and market Data • Created with Datawrapper

Table 2D: Average Winter Heating Cost 2023-24 to 2024-25 West Region

Expenditures	Natural Gas	Electricity	Average All Sources
2023-2024	\$590	\$1007	\$781
2024-2025	\$629	\$1237	\$905
Difference	\$39	\$230	\$124
% Difference	6.5%	22.8%	15.9%

Source: EIA, NOAA, and market Data • Created with Datawrapper

Table 3: Heating Degree Days, by Region

	Winter 2023-2024	Winter 2024-2025	Difference	% Difference
Northeast	4,128	4,336	208	5.0%
Midwest	4,305	4,868	564	13.1%
South	2,037	2,072	35	1.7%
West	2,820	2,837	17	0.6%
US	3,034	3,199	164	5.4%

The winter heating season is defined as November through March.

Source: NOAA • Created with Datawrapper

Table 4A: Electricity - Residential National Arrearage Estimates

	Percent Households in Arrears	Total Households in Arrears	Average Amount Owed	Total Utility Debt
June 2024	16.0%	21.0M	\$643	\$13.5B
June 2023	15.6%	20.4M	\$612	\$12.5B
Difference	0.5%	604.4K	\$30	\$1B
% Difference	3.0%	3.0%	4.9%	8.1%

Source: Utility Arrearage Reports • Created with Datawrapper

Table 4B: Natural Gas - Residential National Arrearage Estimates

	Percent Households in Arrears	Total Households in Arrears	Average Amount Owed	Total Utility Debt
June 2024	21.7%	17.4M	\$350	\$6.1B
June 2023	19.1%	15.2M	\$487	\$7.4B
Difference	2.7%	2.1M	-\$137	-\$1.3B
% Difference	14.0%	14.0%	-28.1%	-18.1%

Source: Utility Arrearage Reports • Created with Datawrapper

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