



Energy Insecurity in Rural Places

Our community here today

- **Name**
- **What communities do you live in and work with?**
- **Do you have stories of energy insecurity?**
- **What does energy insecurity look like to you?**

What Does Energy Insecurity Look Like?



What is Energy Burden?

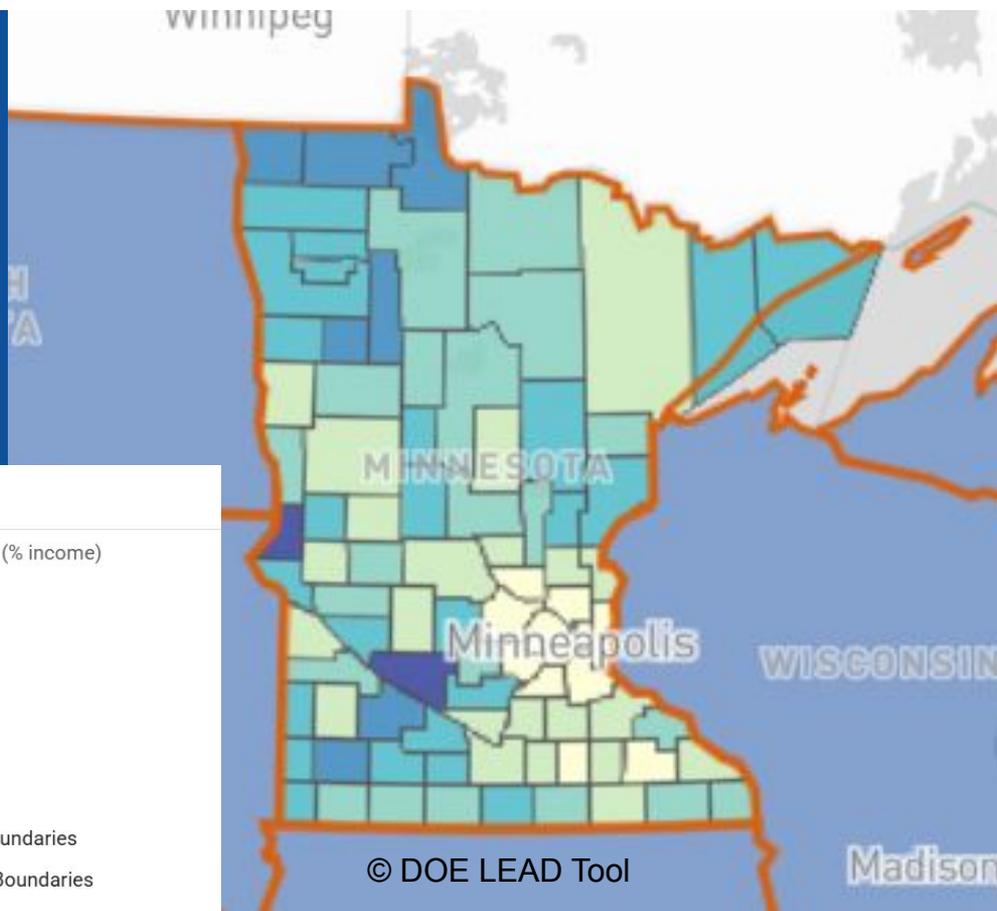
Percentage of household income spent on home energy bills.

The nation's average energy burden is 3.5%, but some Minnesotans spend 20-30% of their income on energy.



Energy Burden in Minnesota

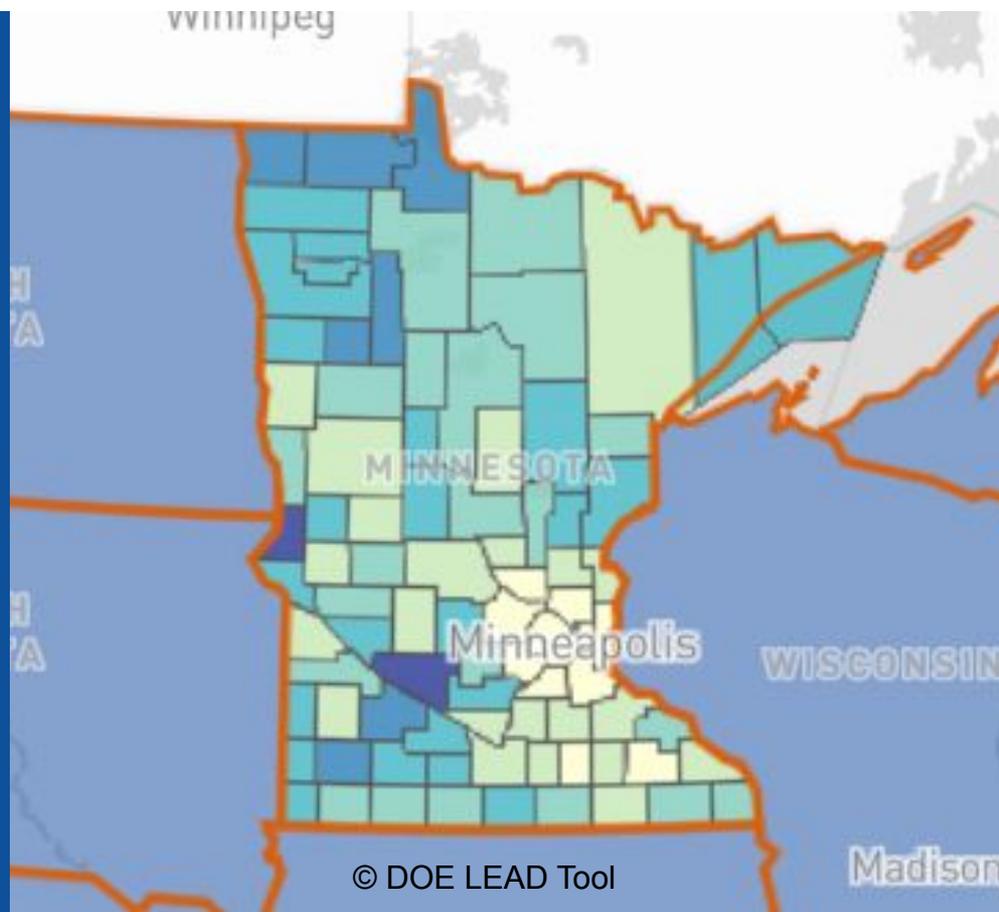
“We also find that nationally, regionally, and across all metro areas, low-income, Black, Hispanic, Native American, and older adult households had disproportionately higher energy burdens than the average household.”



Energy Burden in Minnesota

19% of households in Minnesota (423,983 households) have an unaffordable energy burden

Each year, the average energy burdened household in Minnesota spends \$906 more in utility bills than they can afford



How can we come together as communities to help?

It's about partnerships!

Local community-based organizations

Facility operators

Residents/Customers

Electric and gas utilities

Community Action Agencies



Growing Up Healthy

CONSEJO #3

AHORRA AGUA Y ENERGÍA EN LA CASA



apague la llave de agua cuando no la esté usando
(ej. use un vaso de agua cuando se cepille los dientes)



reemplace sus focos a focos de LED y apague las luces
si no las está usando

*Si necesita ayuda financiera para reemplazar sus focos, contacte Brian Kopack para inscribirse en el programa gratuito de energía, Home Energy Squad (solo para trailas)

Usando focos de LED



- focos de LED usan 75% menos energía que focos incandescentes
- puede ahorrar \$23 al año en su bil de electricidad

<https://www.flightcalculator.com/energy-research-led-light-bulbs/>

Si no califica para el Programa de Energía,
puede recibir un kit con focos LED sin costo.

Contacto:
Brian Kopack
(507) 222-9032

City Of
Northfield
Minnesota



Organizations like Growing up Healthy in Northfield, MN understand that the first step toward progress isn't always action, it's simply listening. In partnership with CERTs, Growing Up Healthy led a project that prioritized listening to local Latine community members concerns around climate change and energy efficiency.

“

“Community members on the front lines of experiencing an energy burden and climate change must be prioritized and engaged in the process of creating educational resources and solutions.”

- JENNYFFER BARRIENTOS, GROWING UP HEALTHY DIRECTOR

**Examples in your
communities?
and
Resources Available?**

Energy costs change

- Natural gas and delivered fuel costs can vary significantly year to year and are subject to fluctuations in the market.
- Many natural gas companies are recovering costs from the February 2021 gas spike.
- Utilities are able to request rate increases and do so often.
- There are recent pressures on our electricity costs with reduced incentives for renewables, and increased demand from expansion of data centers and electrification.





Sample Electric Rates: Local Utilities

	Minnesota Power	Brainerd Public Utilities	Crow Wing Power
Basic Service Charge	\$9.00	\$18.50	\$29.50
Energy Charge per kWh	\$0.10818 0 kWh to 600 kWh discount of \$.04329 for eligible customers	\$0.09232 (<i>year-round</i>)	First 2500 kWh: \$0.1145 Over 2500 kWh: \$0.1105 June, July, August: Additional \$0.25/kWh

Energy Assistance

Energy Assistance is a federal program to help pay bills, including past-due balances.

- Available to renters and homeowners
- Social Security Number required on application
- Based on most recent month of income
- First come, first served

Open **October 1**
through **May 31**



[shorturl.at/
hnm9F](https://shorturl.at/hnm9F)





Energy Assistance 2025 - 2026

Household Size	1 Month Max	Annual Income
1	\$3,119	\$37,439
2	\$4,079	\$48,959
3	\$5,039	\$60,479
4	\$5,999	\$71,999
5	\$6,959	\$83,518
6	\$7,919	\$95,038

Apply Here



Affordability Programs

Some utilities, such as Minnesota Power, offer affordability programs to make your bills smaller and forgive past due balances.

These programs are funded by other rate payers with a line item.



Weatherization Assistance Program

Just like there are programs to help pay your bills, **there are programs to make your home more efficient.**

If you qualify for Energy Assistance, **you qualify for Weatherization Assistance.**

Funds are available to weatherize your home and save on your energy bills.



Types of Incentives



Federal

*Nationwide rebates
and tax credits*



Utility

*Offerings from your
service provider*



State

*Minnesota-specific
programs and incentives*



Local

*City-specific
initiatives*



Make notes behind each category

**What are our next
steps?**



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