

Record Heating Oil Prices Projected State Low Income Energy Officials Call for Increased Energy Assistance (11/5/07)

Contact: Mark Wolfe/ Phone: 202-237-5199, Cell: 202-320-9046

The state low income energy directors today released their November winter home heating price projections. As shown in the table below, prices are projected to increase by 15.2% for all families and reach record levels for home heating oil, propane and electricity this winter. Expenditures for home heating oil, in particular, are projected to be almost 47.3% higher than last year's level. The average family is projected to pay about \$693 more for home heating oil than last year for a total of \$2,157.

According to Mark Wolfe, Executive Director of the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association, "the Congress and the Administration need to act to quickly to help families pay their winter heating bills this winter, the current funding level for energy assistance is seriously inadequate to meet the need to help poor families pay their home heating costs this winter and not have to choose between heating and paying for their medicine and other essentials."

NEADA Winter Home Energy Price Watch: U.S. Average

	Average 00-05	2005- 06	2006- 07	2007- 08	\$ Change (07-08)-(06-07)	% Change
Heating Oil						
Retail Price	\$1.48	\$2.45	\$2.48	\$3.48	\$1.00	40.3%
Consumption (gallons)	632	585	591	620	29	5.0%
Expenditures	\$935	\$1,431	\$1,465	\$2,157	\$693	47.3%
Natural Gas						
Retail Price (\$/mcf)	\$9.28	\$14.65	\$12.36	\$13.10	\$0.74	6.0%
Consumption (mcf)	69	65	66	68	2	3.1%
Expenditures (\$)	\$641	\$945	\$813	\$888	\$75	9.2%
Propane						
Retail Price	\$1.40	\$1.95	\$2.02	\$2.56	\$0.54	26.7%
Consumption (gallons)	692	657	669	690	21	3.1%
Expenditures	\$967	\$1,281	\$1,351	\$1,765	\$414	30.6%
Electricity						
Price (\$/kwh)	\$0.083	\$0.096	\$0.101	\$0.108	\$0.007	7.0%
Consumption (kwh)	8,371	8,103	8,158	8,283	125	1.5%
Expenditures	\$698	\$782	\$824	\$895	\$71	8.6%
All Households						
Average Expenditures	\$697	\$948	\$889	\$1,024	\$135	15.2%

1/ 06/07 projections based on spot and future prices; prior year prices based on those published by the US Energy Information Administration, Contact Mark Wolfe, NEADA, 202-237-5199.

Low income households pay a higher share of their income for home energy than other families. In FY 05, the mean energy burden for low income households was 14.6 percent as compared to only 3.2 percent for non-low-income households. For LIHEAP households, the burden was even greater - 20.2 percent. The average LIHEAP grant has been declining for the last several years and would be decimated under the President's Budget: FY 06 - \$454, FY 07 - \$314, FY 08 Pres -\$256, FY 08 House/Senate Conference Agreement - \$348. Under the President's budget states would only be able to serve 4.5 million households for a reduction of 1.1 million from the current level of 5.6 million served. End