

ACEEE's Work to Support Energy Efficiency in Low- and Moderate-Income Communities

Low-income households face numerous disadvantages when it comes to energy affordability. These households typically have older and less-efficient appliances and heating/cooling equipment, and live in homes that are structurally less efficient. In spite of this need, low-income customers face numerous barriers, which lower the likelihood of their participation in utility energy efficiency programs. In recognition of these concerns, and the opportunity for greater energy efficiency, ACEEE has made it a priority to focus research and policy efforts toward improving and expanding energy efficiency services for low-income households.

RECENT RESEARCH AND EFFORTS

We are working to incorporate our low-income focus throughout the organization so that it permeates across research areas, such as the transportation, policy, buildings, finance, and behavior programs.

Recent low-income reports include:

- *Energy Efficiency in Southeastern Low-Income Households* (fact sheet series), August 2017:
<http://aceee.org/fact-sheet/southeast-low-income-series>
- *Low-Income Energy Efficiency Programs: A Baseline Assessment of Programs Serving the 51 Largest Cities*, July 2017:
<http://aceee.org/white-paper/low-income-ee-baseline>
- *Lifting the High Energy Burden in America's Largest Cities: How Energy Efficiency Can Improve Low-Income and Underserved Communities*, April 2016:
<http://aceee.org/research-report/u1602>
- *Building Better Energy Efficiency Programs for Low-Income Households*, March 2016:
<http://aceee.org/research-report/u1601>
- *Low-Income Energy Efficiency Programs: Best Practices and Clean Power Plan Compliance*, April 2016:
<http://aceee.org/white-paper/cpp-low-income>

LOW-INCOME RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

ACEEE is currently providing information and technical assistance to utilities, state and local governments, and other stakeholders with the aim of improving energy affordability by expanding energy efficiency in low-income communities. We are doing this by 1) conducting research to better inform planning and decision making regarding energy efficiency investments in low- and moderate-income communities, and

ACEEE'S ENERGY BURDEN RESEARCH FINDINGS

Low-income, African-American, Latino, affordable multifamily, and renting households experienced the highest energy burdens.

These households also paid significantly more per square foot for their energy costs.

Increasing the efficiency of the average low-income home to that of an average home would reduce energy burden by 35%.

2) providing technical assistance to help in the design of actual policies and programs that target low-income single and multifamily households.

ONGOING AND FUTURE EFFORTS

ACEEE will continue to expand our work in the area of community resilience, which will partially focus on making low-income and vulnerable communities more resilient through increased investment in energy efficiency.

In the coming year, we will expand our research in several areas, including: best practices in low-income energy efficiency programs, energy affordability in rural communities, and the integration of energy efficiency and healthy homes efforts.

SEE ALSO

Low-Income Programs Page Information on ACEEE's low-income energy efficiency research and technical assistance, relating to energy efficiency programs, energy burdens, health and safety, financing, and other relevant topics.

<http://aceee.org/topics/low-income-programs>

Multifamily Energy Savings Project A multi-year project to improve and expand utility energy efficiency programs that target multifamily housing. The majority of multifamily housing residents are low-income and experience higher energy burdens. This project includes a working group of utility members and research projects.

<http://aceee.org/multifamily-project>