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**Home Heating Costs Reach Highest Level in More than 10 Years
Families will Pay 17.8% More for Home Heating this Winter**

Home heating costs are becoming increasingly 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 updated projections of home heating costs for the upcoming winter heating season.

As shown in Table 1, the average cost of home heating is estimated to increase by 17.8% since last winter heating season from \$1,025 to \$1,208. This would be the second year in a row of major price increases. Between the 2020-21 and 2022-23 winter heating seasons, the cost of home energy has increased by 36%. As shown in Table 2, these are the highest prices in more than 10 years.

Of additional concern, arrearages have not come down over the past year as we head into a winter of high home heating prices. As of August 2022, the national arrearage balance totals almost \$16.1 billion according to NEADA’s estimates, nearly unchanged since August 2021. 1 in 6 U.S. households are in arrears (16.7 percent, equivalent to 20 million households).

Table 1: Estimated Winter Heating Costs: 2020-21 to 2022-23

Winter Heating Season	Natural Gas	Electricity	Heating Oil	Propane	All Fuels
2020-21	\$573	\$1,191	\$1,212	\$1,158	\$888
2021-22	\$709	\$1,242	\$1,876	\$1,587	\$1,025
2022-23	\$931	\$1,359	\$2,354	\$1,668	\$1,208
% Difference, 22-23 vs. 21-22	31.3%	9.4%	25.5%	5.1%	17.8%
% Difference, 22-23 vs. 20-21	62.5%	14.1%	94.2%	44.1%	36.0%

Table 2: Estimated Winter Heating Costs by Year

Winter Heating Season	Natural Gas	Electricity	Heating Oil	Propane	All Fuels
2012-13	\$567	\$1,071	\$2,113	\$1,368	\$894
2013-14	\$636	\$1,163	\$2,121	\$2,143	\$1,001
2014-15	\$601	\$1,159	\$1,668	\$1,612	\$928
2015-16	\$481	\$1,045	\$900	\$1,036	\$756
2016-17	\$533	\$1,056	\$1,128	\$1,139	\$803
2017-18	\$565	\$1,143	\$1,376	\$1,411	\$881
2018-19	\$586	\$1,174	\$1,570	\$1,604	\$914
2019-20	\$540	\$1,126	\$1,353	\$1,110	\$847
2020-21	\$573	\$1,191	\$1,212	\$1,158	\$888
2021-22	\$709	\$1,242	\$1,876	\$1,587	\$1,025
2022-23	\$931	\$1,359	\$2,354	\$1,668	\$1,208

Of even greater concern, the total cost of home heating nationally, as shown in Tables 3, 4 and 5 would increase from \$127.9 billion to an estimated \$151.6 billion. The additional costs will fall hardest on lower income households.

According to Mark Wolfe, Executive Director of NEADA, the rise in home energy costs this winter will put millions of lower income families at risk of falling behind on their energy bills and having no choice but to make difficult decisions between paying for food, medicine and rent. As a result, NEADA sent a [letter](#) last month to Congressional Leadership asking for a supplemental increase for LIHEAP of \$5 billion to cover the higher cost of home heating and cooling as a result of the increased number of summer heat waves.

Table 3: Est. Residential Heating Expenditures by Fuel Type, 2021-22

Fuel Type	Households (millions)	% of Households	Average Price	Total Expenditures (billions)	% of Total Expenditures
Natural Gas	60.8	48.7%	\$709	\$43.1	33.7%
Electricity	52.7	42.3%	\$1,242	\$65.5	51.2%
Heating Oil	5.1	4.1%	\$1,876	\$9.5	7.4%
Propane	6.2	5.0%	\$1,587	\$9.8	7.7%
Total	124.7	100.0%	\$1,025	\$127.9	100.0%

Table 4: Est. Residential Heating Expenditures by Fuel Type, 2022-23

Fuel Type	Households (millions)	% of Households	Average Price	Expenditures (billions)	% of Total Expenditures
Natural Gas	60.3	48.1%	\$931	\$56.2	37.1%
Electricity	53.9	42.9%	\$1,359	\$73.2	48.3%
Heating Oil	5.0	4.0%	\$2,354	\$11.7	7.7%
Propane	6.3	5.0%	\$1,668	\$10.6	7.0%
Total	125.5	100.0%	\$1,208	\$151.6	100.0%

Table 5: Est. Increases in Residential Heating Expenditures by Fuel Type, 2022-23 vs. 2021-22

Fuel Type	Increase in Expenditures (billions)
Natural Gas	\$13.1
Electricity	\$7.7
Heating Oil	\$2.2
Propane	\$0.7
Total	\$23.8

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