



Energy Outreach Colorado

Celebrating 20 Years Helping Coloradans Afford Home Energy

www.EnergyOutreach.org

UPDATE – December 2009 Energy Affordability in Colorado

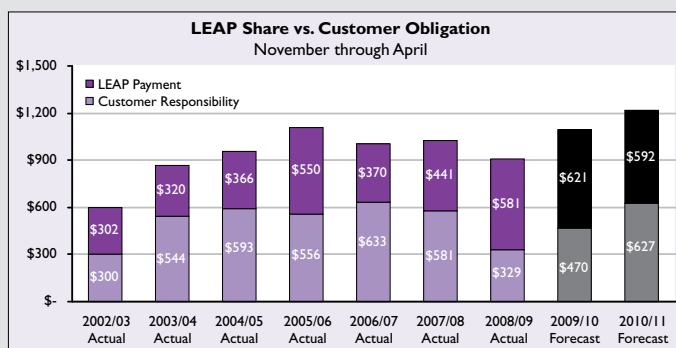
As the nation struggles to recover from the past year's economic collapse, thousands of Coloradans are struggling to afford energy for their homes. Many unexpectedly lost jobs and have never before had to ask for help. Others are seniors and families with children whose fixed incomes simply don't stretch far enough.

The 100 agencies that distribute Energy Outreach Colorado energy assistance funds have countless stories about people overwhelmed with overdue utility bills. They have worked tirelessly to distribute every dollar EOC has available for energy assistance.

Fortunately, we were able to help about 124,000 households keep their heat on during the 2008-09 winter months. But there are many more households needing assistance this heating season. In fact, recent news stories indicate the number of Colorado families sliding into poverty and homelessness is growing – an alarming trend.

This winter energy assistance recipients will have to pay more "out of pocket" for their utility bill – up from an average of \$329 last year to a projected \$470 this year -- because of limited funding, a greater number of households seeking help, and rising energy costs.

Energy Outreach Colorado was formed in 1989 by state leaders concerned about the growing gap between available public funding for energy assistance and Coloradans' need for help. EOC is the state's only nonprofit that raises funds for energy assistance.



This chart illustrates the variability in available federal funding for low-income energy assistance. Information is based on actual and projected November through April natural gas and electricity costs for Xcel Energy customers. Source: Energy Outreach Colorado

2009-10 Energy Affordability Programs

Energy Outreach Colorado plans to distribute millions of dollars for statewide programs to help low-income Coloradans afford energy for their homes between now and Oct. 31, 2010.

Energy Assistance

EOC is providing \$5 million in energy assistance grants to more than 100 Colorado emergency assistance agencies, including the state Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP). The funding is distributed by local agency case workers. Payments for overdue energy bills are credited directly to utility companies.

Energy Efficiency and Education

EOC is distributing more than \$3.5 million in energy efficiency grants to affordable housing organizations to install energy efficiency measures and educate residents about managing home energy. EOC also is working with the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships and Xcel Energy to increase the energy efficiency of nonprofit facilities that serve low-income residents. In addition, EOC is managing Demand-Side Management programs for Xcel Energy, Atmos Energy and Source Gas to install energy efficiency measures in affordable housing.

Governor's Energy Office Multi-Family Weatherization



Governor's
Energy Office

EOC is proud to have been selected to administer the Colorado Governor's Energy Office weatherization program to improve the energy efficiency of affordable multi-family buildings. EOC is overseeing the program's building selection, auditing, energy efficiency improvement installation, inspection, and verification of work. Part of the funding comes from the state's ARRA allocation. To request an initial energy efficiency evaluation for a multi-family facility, go to <http://energyoutreach.org/grants>. For more information contact Pam Packer, director of Long-Term Energy Solutions, 303-226-5057 or ppacker@energyoutreach.org.



Energy Assistance Helps Lamar Family Through Baby's Illness



When Angela and Jeff Leonard's six-month-old daughter, Jaylene, contracted a severe respiratory illness last winter, the young couple dropped everything to care for her. Both took unpaid leave from their jobs to take her to the doctor and respiratory therapy and nurse her back to health.

Fortunately, Jaylene completely recovered. But the Leonard family, which includes Jeff's 8-year-old son, fell behind on their home energy bill. They applied for energy assistance through Las Animas Helping Hands, a nonprofit funded through an annual grant from Energy

Outreach Colorado, and received a credit on their bill to cover the amount past due.

"It was such a relief," Angela Leonard said. "I was just so stressed out worrying about how to pay that bill."

Now expecting another child, Angela continues to work part-time for a health insurance company and hopes to someday complete her degree in nursing. Jeff is in the construction business and does projects on the side, pouring concrete for patios and driveways. He hopes to eventually establish his own business and spend less time on the road so he can enjoy more time with his family.

EOC Efficiency Grant Supports New Longmont Housing

Income restricted seniors in Longmont have a new, energy-efficient option for affordable housing thanks to a Longmont Housing Development Corp. project partially funded by Energy Outreach Colorado.

The 50-unit Lodge at Hover Crossing is fully leased with a waiting list after opening in July. The three-story, 42,000-square-foot apartment building includes energy efficient features such as radiant floor heating, Energy Star windows and appliances, increased insulation and multiple boilers that can turn on and off when needed. These were funded in part through EOC's energy solutions grant program.

"Energy Outreach Colorado's grant allowed us to install more energy upgrades than are typical for such a project," said Michael Reis, executive director of Longmont Housing Development Corp., a non-profit housing agency formed by the Longmont Housing Authority and the Longmont City Council. "They provide long-lasting safety and comfort for the many residents who will call The Lodge home."

Primary funding for the project came from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and



U.S. Rep. Betsy Markey, D-Fort Collins, cuts the ribbon at a dedication ceremony for an EOC-supported affordable apartment building in Longmont.

the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. Money from Longmont's affordable housing fund was used to purchase the land for the project. The new residents range in age from 62 to 92 and have incomes of 30% to 50% lower than the area median income.

"People should not have to choose between paying rent and buying food, or paying their utility bill or getting a prescription filled," said U.S. Rep. Betsy Markey, D-Fort Collins, who spoke at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the project.



Energy Outreach Colorado

Helping all Coloradans afford home energy.

225 East 16th Avenue, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80203
303-825-8750
www.EnergyOutreach.org



8th Consecutive Year

