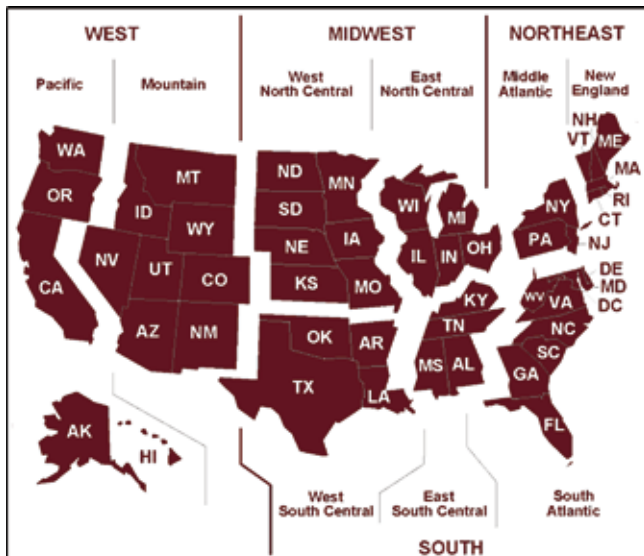


ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY STUDIES

Summary: Energy Use by Low-Income* Households By Census Division in Normal Weather

- There is no single “average” that represents true home energy use of Americans. The differences among US housing types and climates create a wide range of needs and demands, even among the households with low incomes. Average consumption data for regions and home types is a better indicator for targeting efficiency investments; it can be matched with information on fuel and their prices.
- Low-income households that **consume the most home energy** live in New England, the Mid-Atlantic, and East North Central divisions. Consumers in the Pacific and East South Central divisions **use the least energy**.
- In most regions, apartments in 5+ unit buildings use about **half as much energy** as single-family homes in the same region.
- Home heating** is the **single largest energy use** in all but the three southern divisions.
- Cooling** is **less than 10% of all usage** except in the three southern divisions.
- Energy used for **lighting and appliances** (including refrigeration) exceeds usage for space cooling and heating in the Pacific division.

Census Divisions in Four Regions



Data Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Residential Energy Consumption Survey, 2005. End usage is adjusted for normal weather.

*“Low-income” households are eligible for the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Energy measurements are in MBTU per year (1 MBTU = 1000 British Thermal Units).

Highest Annual Energy Use: 145 MBTU
Single-family detached house, New England

Lowest Annual Energy Use: 31 MBTU
Apartment (5+ unit building), Pacific division

Highest Use for Heating: 97 MBTU
Single-family detached house, New England

Lowest Use for Heating: 7 MBTU
Apartment (5+ unit building), Pacific division

Highest Use for Appliance & Lighting: 31 MBTU
Mobile home, Mountain division

Lowest Use for Appliance & Lighting: 9 MBTU
Apartment (5+ unit building), Pacific Region

Highest Use for Cooling: 16 MBTU
Apartment (2-4 units), West South Central division

Lowest Use for Cooling: 0.8 MBTU
Single-family attached house, Pacific division