

## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY STUDIES

### 2001 Residential Energy Customers Paid More But Used Less Energy

The Department of Energy has published the 2001 Residential Energy Consumption Survey information on US averages for key indicators of 2001 energy use and expenditures for all households and for the lower income groups.<sup>1</sup> In that year of unusually high gas and oil prices as compared to previous years, the average consumer paid household energy bills that totaled 11% more than in 1997 when the last such survey was taken. They got 8% less energy. The Poor and near-poor spent 4% more than in 1997, but they used 15% less energy. The gap in purchasing power of about 19% is the same for both groups, but the lowest-income consumers cut their usage by nearly twice the national average rate. The table below shows the figures made available as of 5/1/04.

Household:	Below RECS Poverty (15 M.)	2001 v. 1997	RECS Eligible for LIHEAP (33.8 M.)	2001 v. 1997	All U.S. (107 M.)	2001 v. 1997
<b>Expenditures</b>						
<b>Avg. Annual Energy Bills</b>						
<b>1997</b>	\$1,088	<b>104%</b>	\$1,140	<b>111%</b>	\$1,338	<b>111%</b>
<b>2001</b>	\$1,135		\$1,267		\$1,488	
<b>Avg. Annual Nat'l Gas Bills</b>						
<b>1997</b>	\$476	<b>120%</b>	\$516	<b>123%</b>	\$579	<b>121%</b>
<b>2001</b>	\$571		\$636		\$702	
<b>Avg. Annual Electric Bills</b>						
<b>1997</b>	\$703	<b>100%</b>	\$728	<b>106%</b>	\$871	<b>107%</b>
<b>2001</b>	\$701		\$772		\$933	
<b>Natural Gas Prices per mcf</b>						
<b>1997</b>	\$7.04	<b>144%</b>	\$7.07	<b>141%</b>	\$6.90	<b>143%</b>
<b>2001</b>	\$10.14		\$9.99		\$9.84	
<b>Consumption</b>						
<b>million btu</b>						
<b>1997</b>	87.3	<b>85%</b>	90.1	<b>92%</b>	103.6	<b>91%</b>
<b>2001</b>	74		83		95	
<b>KwH</b>						
<b>1997</b>	8,229	<b>98%</b>	8,482	<b>104%</b>	10,219	<b>104%</b>
<b>2001</b>	8,081		8,832		10,598	
<b>mcf of Natural Gas</b>						
<b>1997</b>	68	<b>82%</b>	73	<b>88%</b>	83	<b>84%</b>
<b>2001</b>	56		64		70	

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