

Understanding and Addressing Energy Affordability in the United States

A Workshop



Increasing energy costs for American consumers are elevating the issue of energy affordability to the forefront of economic and policy debates. These consumers include individual residential/commercial customers as well as industrial facilities, data centers, and large institutions. Join the National Academies for a workshop that will identify key factors contributing to rising energy costs, and discuss potential policy and technology solutions to energy affordability challenges, including the geographic and sectoral (e.g., electricity or heating, residential or industrial) factors. Workshop sessions will consider geographic and sectoral (e.g., electricity or heating, residential or industrial) factors that impact energy prices, as well as lessons that can be learned from historical and international experiences. The workshop will foster cross-disciplinary discussions and interaction amongst state and federal policymakers, utilities, researchers, consumer advocates, and the interested public.

This workshop is hosted by the *National Academies Forum on Energy Systems Transformation and Decarbonization*. The Forum seeks to address critical issues arising from ongoing growth and changes in the energy system to meet increasing energy demands and respond to climate change, convening interdisciplinary set of experts to provide a strategic, rapid response capability for grappling with the dynamic nature of energy system transitions and serve as a venue for independent, high-quality advising on the future of nation's energy systems. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Forum.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

8:00 AM (ET)¹ BREAKFAST

8:30 AM Welcome & Workshop Goals

Steve Comello, EFI Foundation, *Workshop Planning Committee Member, National Academies Forum on Energy Systems Transformations and Decarbonization Chair*

¹ All Times in Eastern

8:45 AM	Session 1: Drivers & Patterns of Changing Energy Costs Increasing energy costs for American consumers are elevating the issue of energy affordability to the forefront of economic and policy debates. A moderated panel discussion will overview energy affordability in the U.S., considering international differences and the historical context of the challenges being experienced today. A Q&A session with the audience will follow.
	Moderator: Susan Tierney, Analysis Group, <i>Workshop Planning Committee Member</i>
10:15 AM	BREAK
10:30 AM	Session 2: Dimensions of Impacts and Responses to Changing Natural Gas and Electricity Costs – Residential Consumer Perspective
	Moderator: TBD
12:00 PM	LUNCH
1:00 PM	Session 3: Dimensions of Impacts and Responses to Changing Natural Gas and Electricity Costs – Industrial and Commercial Perspective
	Moderator: Latonia Batiste, <i>Workshop Planning Committee Member</i>
2:45 PM	Session 4: Mitigating Energy Cost Impacts – Policy and Technology Options
	Moderator: Carlos Martín, Resources for the Future
4:15 PM	Workshop Summary
5:00 PM	Concluding Thoughts Steve Comello, EFI Foundation, <i>Workshop Planning Committee Member, National Academies Forum on Energy Systems Transformations and Decarbonization Chair</i>
5:15 PM	ADJOURN WORKSHOP
5:15 PM	Poster Session: Understanding and Addressing Energy Affordability in the United States