

# 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, and elevate household experiences and industrial responses to changing energy costs. 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)<sup>1</sup>**

**BREAKFAST**

**8:30 AM to 8:45 AM**

**Welcome & Workshop Goals**

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

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<sup>1</sup> All Times in Eastern

**8:45 AM to 10:15 AM**

### **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 provide an overview of energy affordability in the U.S. and the historical context of the challenges being experienced today. A Q&A session with the audience will follow.

**Moderator:** Susan Tierney, Analysis Group, *Workshop Planning Committee Member*

**Speakers:**

- Geoffrey Blanford, Electric Power Research Institute
- H.G. Chissell, Advanced Energy Group
- Suzanne Ogle, Southern Gas Association
- Ryan Wiser, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

**10:15 AM to 10:30 AM** **BREAK**

**10:30 AM to 12:00 PM**

### **Fireside Chat - Residential Consumer Perspective on Changing Energy Costs**

Energy costs affect household budgets directly, motivating the need to consider dimensions of energy affordability across regions, energy types, and income levels. This moderated conversation will elevate residential energy affordability research and what critical challenges need to be addressed.

**Moderator:** Evan Michelson, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

**Speakers:**

- Sanya Carley, University of Pennsylvania
- Destenie Nock, Carnegie Mellon University

**12:00 PM to 1:00 PM** **LUNCH**

**1:00 PM to 2:30 PM**

### **Dimensions of Impacts and Responses to Changing Energy Costs – Industrial and Commercial Perspective**

Commercial and industrial energy users are also affected by changes in energy costs. A moderated discussion will follow to explore how energy costs affect these customer classes, and how energy affordability considerations influence commercial and industrial investments and activities. Q&A with the audience will follow.

**Moderator:** Latonia Batiste, *Workshop Planning Committee Member*

**Speakers:**

- Wayne Blaylock, Dow
- Camille Pollan, Black Owners of Solar Services
- *Speaker TBD*

2:30 PM to 4:45 PM	<b>BREAK</b>
2:45 PM to 4:30 PM	<b>Mitigating Energy Cost Impacts – Policy and Technology Options</b> Energy affordability issues are affecting American households and businesses. This session will highlight potential policy and technology solutions to address energy affordability challenges. Q&A with the audience will follow.  <b>Moderator:</b> Carlos Martín, Resources for the Future
	<b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suzanne Glatz, Glatz Energy Consulting</li><li>• Paula Glover, Alliance to Save Energy</li><li>• Devin Hartman, R Street</li><li>• Charles Hua, Powerlines</li></ul>
4:30 PM to 4:45 PM	<b>BREAK</b>
4:45 PM to 5:15 PM	<b>Understanding and Addressing Energy Affordability in the United States - Workshop Summary</b> 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. Workshop sessions have considered geographic and sectoral factors that impact energy prices, and elevated household experiences with and industrial responses to changing energy costs. Session moderators will summarize their high-level takeaways from the workshop.  <b>Moderator:</b> Stephen Comello, EFI Foundation, <i>Workshop Planning Committee Member, National Academies Forum on Energy Systems Transformations and Decarbonization Chair</i>
	<b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Latonia Batiste, <i>Workshop Planning Committee Member</i></li><li>• Carlos Martín, Resources for the Future</li><li>• Evan Michelson, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation</li><li>• Susan Tierney, Analysis Group, <i>Workshop Planning Committee Member</i></li></ul>
5:15 PM	<b>ADJOURN WORKSHOP</b>

**5:15 to 6:00 PM**

**Understanding and Addressing Energy Affordability in the U.S. - Poster Session**

Participants may wander through poster hall in the National Academies' Great Hall to interact with poster presenters and mingle with workshop participants.

**Posters:**

- Maria Perez Arguelles, University of Houston
- Muhammad Jalal Awan, The Utility Reform Network
- Aparajita Datta, University of Houston
- Gabriel de Oliveira, Stokes School of Marine and Environmental Sciences
- Carolyn Dougherty, Johns Hopkins University
- Stacy Godfreey-Igwe, Carnegie Mellon University
- J. Michael Grappone, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- Yufan Ji, Ohio State University
- Eric Scheier, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Yutong Si, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health
- Madalsa Singh, Rochester Institute of Technology
- Alexandra Snell, PSE Healthy Energy

**5:30 PM to 6:30 PM**

**RECEPTION**