

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, *Workshop Planning Committee Member*

Speakers:

- H.G. Chissell, Advanced Energy Group
- Suzanne Ogle, Southern Gas Association
- *Speaker TBD*

10:15 AM

BREAK

10:30 AM

Session 2: Fireside Chat - Residential Consumer Perspective on Changing Natural Gas and Electricity Costs

Moderator: TBD

Speakers:

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

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, *Workshop Planning Committee Member*

Speakers:

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

2:45 PM

Session 4: Mitigating Energy Cost Impacts – Policy and Technology Options

Moderator: Carlos Martín, Resources for the Future

Speakers:

- Suzanne Glatz, Glatz Energy Consulting
- Paula Glover, Alliance to Save Energy
- *Speaker TBD*

4:15 PM **Understanding and Addressing Energy Affordability in the United States - Workshop Summary**

5:00 PM **Concluding Thoughts**
Steve Comello, EFI Foundation, *Workshop Planning Committee Member, National Academies Forum on Energy Systems Transformations and Decarbonization Chair*

5:15 PM **ADJOURN WORKSHOP**

5:15 PM **Understanding and Addressing Energy Affordability in the United States - Poster Session**

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