



Energy Assistance Programs & Energy Saving Tips

Provided by
The Office of
Congressman El ij ah E. Cummings

Park Avenue Office

1010 Park Ave., Suite 105
Baltimore, MD 21201
(410) 685-9199
(410) 685-9399 (fax)

Catonsville Office

754 Frederick Road
Catonsville, MD 21228
(410) 719-8777
(410) 455-0110 (fax)

Ellicott City Office

8267 Main Street, Room 102
Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410) 465-8259
(410) 465-8740 (fax)

November 7, 2005

Dear Constituent:

I am deeply concerned that the coming winter is likely to bring significantly higher energy costs to households in our communities. I write today to make you aware of this developing situation and to inform you of the steps that you can take to conserve energy and to obtain assistance in meeting your home energy costs.

Alarming reports issued recently by the United States Energy Information Administration project that the cost of natural gas could rise nearly 50 percent – while the cost of heating oil could rise nearly 30 percent – over the prices that were charged just last winter.

The primary federal program available to help low-income residents meet the cost of heating their homes is the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which provided nearly \$2.2 billion in funding assistance during fiscal year 2005. Unfortunately, despite the significant increase we can anticipate in the need for such assistance this winter, the President has proposed cutting this program by nearly \$200 million.

I want you to know that I oppose these cuts and have joined my colleagues in Congress in urging that funding for LIHEAP be *increased* by nearly \$1.3 billion. I have also co-sponsored legislation that would expand the eligibility of seniors to receive assistance from the LIHEAP program.

To help our community prepare for the coming winter, I have assembled this guide to explain the concrete steps that you can take to lower your home energy bills. This document also provides information on the programs that are available to assist low-income Maryland residents meet their home energy costs.

Please do not hesitate to call my office at 410-685-9199 if you need help applying for assistance to meet your home heating costs or to obtain additional information about energy conservation programs.

Sincerely,

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

Weatherization & Energy Assistance Programs In Maryland

These programs can provide assistance to eligible households in Maryland to help them install energy conservation measures or meet home energy costs.



Weatherization Assistance Program

The Weatherization Assistance Program helps eligible households install energy conservation materials in their dwelling units.

To apply for assistance from this program, call the Baltimore City Department of Housing/Weatherization Assistance Program at 443-984-1068.

Electric Universal Service Program

The Electric Universal Service Program provides assistance to help households pay their electricity bills.

To apply for assistance from this program, call the Baltimore City Office of Home Energy Programs at 410-396-5555 or call the Maryland Department of Human Resources at 1-800-352-1446.

Maryland Energy Assistance Program

The Maryland Energy Assistance Program provides heating assistance grants to help households pay fuel suppliers and utility companies.

To apply for assistance from this program, call the Baltimore City Office of Home Energy Programs at 410-396-5555 or call the Maryland Department of Human Resources at 1-800-352-1446.

ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

- ▶ **SET** your thermostat at the lowest comfortable temperature, preferably between 68 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Every degree above 70 costs an additional 3% to 5% in energy costs.
- ▶ **DURING WINTER MONTHS**, health permitting, lower the thermostat to between 60 to 65 degrees at night. By keeping your thermostat 10 degrees lower at night, you'll save 10% to 20% in costs.
- ▶ **WITH A HEAT PUMP**, avoid large changes in thermostat settings.
- ▶ **CHANGE YOUR FILTER** regularly. Dirty filters increase heating and cooling costs.
- ▶ **A PORTABLE HEATER** may allow you to lower the temperature in the rest of the house.
- ▶ **INSPECT** and tune-up your residential heating system regularly.
- ▶ **DISCUSS** payment plan options with your fuel retailer. Many retailers have budget payment plans.
- ▶ **CAULK** and weather-strip leaky doors and windows.
- ▶ **TEST** smoke alarms. They are required by law.
- ▶ **INSTALL** a carbon monoxide alarm.
- ▶ **WHEN USING** a fuel-burning appliance in a bedroom, be sure there is proper ventilation to prevent a build-up of carbon monoxide.
- ▶ **HAVE YOUR** chimney or wood stove cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- ▶ **NEVER BURN** cardboard boxes, trash or debris in your fireplace or wood stove.