



## *National Fuel Funds Network*

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### **Energy Safety Net Bulletin #124**

Dear Member: Former Colorado Senator Gary Hart will be the keynote speaker at the National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference next month in Denver. Senator Hart will discuss the implications of U.S. energy policy for the most vulnerable segments of the population.

The National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference merges the National Fuel Funds Network's annual conference with the National Low Income Energy Consortium conference to create the largest national gathering of the low income energy community. The conference will be held June 16 – 18 at the Sheraton Denver Hotel in Denver.

Other featured speakers include Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper; Ray Gogel, Chief Administrative Officer of Xcel Energy; Kateri Callahan, President of Alliance to Save Energy; Robert Greenstein, the founder and Executive Director of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; Rafe Pomerance, President of Clean Air –Cool Planet; John Howat, attorney with the National Consumer Law Center; Alan Noguee, Clean Energy Program Director of the Union of Concerned Scientists; Jim Sims, President and CEO of the Western Business Roundtable and attorney Carlos Fierro, of Alcalde & Fay, who has been counsel to both Senator John McCain and Representative Tom Udall.

More than 600 people are expected to attend the conference, which also showcase 62 workshops and 20 hot topic sessions, exhibits from a number of vendors, the NFFN Media Fair and awards from both NFFN and the National Low Income Energy Consortium. For more information on the conference, including on-line registration, visit the conference website at [www.energyandutilityconference.org](http://www.energyandutilityconference.org).

## LIHEAP

- The Senate passed a supplemental spending bill for the Iraq war on Thursday. It contained \$10 billion for domestic programs, including \$1 billion in funding for LIHEAP for this fiscal year. The legislation now goes to a conference committee, where there will be an attempt to add the amendment to the House bill and also include language that would split the funding equally between program and contingency funds with the contingency funds being released by the formula more friendly to warm weather states.

Once Congress approves the conference bill, it faces a possible presidential veto, even though the Senate vote was 75 – 22. See

[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=2&vote=00137](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=2&vote=00137) for the roll call.

**Request:** Please thank Senators who voted for additional LIHEAP Funds yesterday. Please contact Senators and Representatives, particularly at home offices over the Memorial Day recess. Stress the need for LIHEAP funding and urge that they support the Senate action.

## State Actions

- The 2008 Colorado General Assembly passed legislation that will provide \$13 million per year in funding for low-income energy assistance over the next three years. State funding will come from mineral and natural gas severance tax revenues generated primarily by natural gas production in the state.

The \$13 million annual allotment will be split evenly between energy efficiency improvements to low-income housing and direct cash assistance. The Governor's Energy Office will administer the funds for energy efficiency, and the funds for cash assistance will be distributed evenly to the state LEAP office and Energy Outreach Colorado.

## Utility Actions

- Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) and the Florida Department of Community Affairs announced the formation of the Florida Energy Affordability Coalition (FLEAC). The organization brings together public, private and nonprofit organizations to identify additional assistance funding, support energy conservation educational initiatives and improve the overall process of serving

the needs of those customers seeking assistance.

Other FLEAC coalition members include Tampa Electric Company (TECO), Gulf Power Company, Progress Energy Florida, Florida Association for Community Action (FACA), Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA), Florida Council on Aging (FCOA), the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) (advisory) and The Salvation Army.

Visit their website at [www.FLEAC.net](http://www.FLEAC.net) for more information.

### **Web Sites**

- The National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) has launched a web page dealing with issue of climate change policies and how they affect low income households. The web page can be viewed by going to the CLC website – [www.nclc.org](http://www.nclc.org) and clicking on the climate change icon.
- In England, a website designed to help consumers understand their utility bills has been launched. The site, Utility Charges, offers explanations of specific utility costs and provides tips on how to reduce energy costs. The website can be viewed at [www.utilitycharges.co.uk/home.htm](http://www.utilitycharges.co.uk/home.htm).

### **Campaigns and Partnerships**

- The NFFN is supporting the Alliance to Save Energy, the Wal-Mart Foundation and several other organizations in a new internet campaign designed to show drivers how they can save hundreds of dollars on gasoline.

The **Drive Smarter Challenge**, which the Alliance kicked off this week, provides motorists with information to help them lower their gasoline costs and usage through fuel-efficiency driving and maintenance tips tailored to their vehicle.

Motorists can take the **Drive Smarter Challenge** by logging on to the Alliance to Save Energy website at [www.ase.org](http://www.ase.org) and clicking on the **Challenge**.

### **Conferences**

- GIFT and the Grassroots Fundraising Journal are presenting “Raising Change, A Social Justice Fundraising Conference” in San Francisco July 25 and 26. The conference will center on fundraising techniques and their applications to social justice issues.

For more information visit the Grassroots Fundraising Journal website at [http://www.grassrootsfundraising.org/raising\\_change/](http://www.grassrootsfundraising.org/raising_change/).

## Reminder

- NFFNs' Victorine Q. Adams Institute is the first and only program focused exclusively on fundraising for charitable energy assistance. Online registration for the Institute, in Baltimore on September 16 -17, is now open.

The Network has convened a team of fuel fund development specialists and utility partners to plan the first in-depth forum for both improving current practices and developing new fundraising strategies in volatile times. The Institute's program addresses fundraising issues of both nonprofit and utility members and of both large and small fuel funds. It provides peer-to-peer training for those new to the field and for those with many years' experience, for mature programs and start up fuel funds.

To view the exciting program schedule and to register, please visit <http://www.nationalfuelfunds.org/Whatshappening/VQAIstitute.html>.