



National Fuel Funds Network

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August 28, 2007

Energy Safety Net Bulletin #112

Dear Member: Searing summer heat in many sections of the country has resulted in more than 50 heat related deaths and soaring home energy bills. Record high temperatures have been recorded across the south, the east coast, the Midwest, the plains states and the southwest in the last few months.

Now that the energy bills are coming due, there has been an increased demand for energy assistance. In North Carolina, the Crisis Assistance Ministry reported that they were handling up to 100 interviews a day since July and were turning away dozens lined up outside their offices because there “aren’t enough hours in the day to see everyone,” according to director Patrick Graham.

Duke Energy reported that it had suspended disconnections for three days in August because the heat index had reached 105 degrees.

Please let us know what is going on in your area. Call, email, write or fax us with information about demand for energy assistance or the situation with disconnections. The information you provide to us can be used to help convince the Bush administration to release the remaining LIHEAP emergency funds.

State Government Actions

- Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher has made \$2.5 million available to provide cooling assistance to low income families and the elderly through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

“With the heat wave Kentucky has experienced in recent weeks, this is about far more than making people comfortable. It’s about taking steps to ward off serious health risks, especially among children and the elderly, and helping prevent the worsening of chronic illnesses.

The state is also making air conditioners available to households with members who are at risk for health problems related to excessive heat.

- The Maryland Office of Home Energy Programs will provide 100,000 compact fluorescent light bulbs to households receiving energy assistance as part of a statewide effort to reduce energy consumption.
- Indiana residents can now apply for energy assistance through LIHEAP by using a mail-in application. Applicants can pick up the new application at local community action agencies and then mail the completed form to Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority.
- Rhode Island residents are protesting actions by the state's General Assembly that stopped funding to a heating assistance program created last year to help people cope with record energy prices.

The \$15 million in funding for the program was diverted to help the state close its budget deficit. The heating assistance program is scheduled to be restored in January 2009.

Utility Actions

- In Illinois, the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance and Commonwealth Edison are offering compact fluorescent light bulbs to LIHEAP recipients at no cost.

During July and August, mailers were sent to Commonwealth Edison customers, who were registered for LIHEAP, offering two free compact fluorescent bulbs. According to the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance more than 250,000 light bulbs will be distributed through this campaign.

- The Florida Power & Light Company has launched an online store selling energy efficiency products. The proceeds from the store will be used to fund programs designed to aid the utility's low income customers.
- DTE Energy has announced plans to hold a series of energy efficiency seminars throughout Michigan this fall to help both residential and business customers learn how to save money on their utility bills.

The free seminars will provide information on how to reduce energy usage, on new technologies for increasing energy efficiency and on resources that provide energy assistance.

- In Dubuque, Operation New View Community Action Agency, Aquila and Alliant Energy have formed a partnership to weatherize the homes of 100 elderly, disabled or low-income area residents in one day.

The “Dubuque Weatherization Challenge 2007 is scheduled for Oct. 6 and will rely on teams of volunteers who will provide basic weatherization measures such as caulking, weatherstripping, window plastic, and door sweeps to the homes.

Operation New View will select the targeted homes and will conduct weatherization assessments to determine what measures are needed for each home.

NFFN News

- In the summer of 2007, the NFFN Board of Directors gained three new voting members and a new ex-officio member. NFFN members elected Kim Campbell, Manager of community Relations for TXU Relations, who began service at the June 4 Board meeting. In August, the Board appointed two new voting members to fill vacancies. They are Marsha Belcher, Director of Marketing, Community Economic Development Association in Chicago and Eva Pratt, Director of Finance and Personnel, Capital Area Legal Services Corporation of Baton Rouge. David Fox, Executive Director of the National Low Income Energy Consortium, joins the Board as an ex-officio member.

At the June meeting, the Board thanked the following members who rotated off after six years service: Valeria Bullock, Peco – An Exelon Company; Delia Perez, Bexar County (Texas) Department of Human Services, and James Wayne, Capital Area Legal Services Corporation, Baton Rouge.

NFFN Officers for 2007-2008 are Greg Sawyers, Citizens Gas (Indianapolis), Chairperson; James Jacob, New Jersey SHARES, Vice Chairperson; Nancy Udy, The Salvation Army – Golden State Division, Secretary; Janis Foreman, Sacramento Municipal Utilities District, Treasurer, and Executive Committee members Sue Montgomery Corey, Community Power Network of New York State, and Kansas City Councilwoman Jan Marcason.

- The National Fuel Funds Network is proud to announce the launch of its new website.

The new site is full of useful and accessible information on energy assistance, comments by our leaders and details on such exciting NFFN events as the National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference, co- presented with the National Low Income Energy Consortium in Denver, Washington Action Day for LIHEAP, and the Victorine Q. Adams Institute, the first ever national gathering solely on charitable energy assistance fundraising.

Please visit www.nationalfuelfunds.org, and check it out.