



Low-Income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD) Tool

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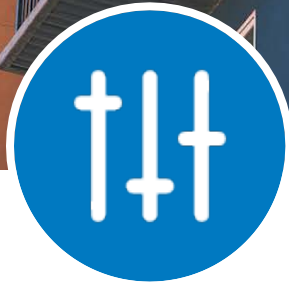
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What Is the LEAD Tool?



Discover

Details about states and communities



Modify

Inputs to match user needs



Understand

Low-income housing and energy characteristics



Create

Energy strategies and programs

Why Use the LEAD Tool?

- Geographic representation of energy burden and costs:
 - Quickly find areas where energy burden and costs are higher
 - Helps local governments know where to prioritize programs and other funding.
- Compare geographies:
 - See side-by-side comparisons of energy data for states, counties, census tracts, cities, and tribal areas
 - Compare different geographic types directly.
- See inequities in different regions:
 - Observe disparities in energy burden and costs across borders, income groups, demographics, etc.
- The LEAD Tool provides a starting point for local governments, nongovernmental organizations, companies, etc., to find areas with higher energy burdens and costs to inform decisions about funding distribution and program qualifications.

Why Was the LEAD Tool Created?

- The Clean Energy for Low-Income Communities Accelerator, a U.S. Department of Energy Better Buildings Initiative Accelerator, aimed to lower energy bills for low-income communities through a 2-year voluntary partnership between the U.S. Department of Energy and state/local governments.
 - The LEAD Tool was created to provide data, such as energy burden, to stakeholders to make data-driven decisions.



Photo by Pete Beverly, NREL/PIX 14164

What Information Is in the LEAD Tool?

- **National, state, county, tribal, and city (underlying data is at the census tract-level)**
- **Households broken down by Area Median Income (AMI) and State Median Income:**
 - 0%-30% AMI, 30%-50% AMI, 50%-80% AMI, 80%-100% AMI, 100+% AMI
 - Planned update for AMI 100%-150% and 150%+ to match requirements in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.
- **Households broken down by Federal Poverty Level:**
 - 0%-100%, 100%-138%, 138%-200%, 200%-400%, 400%+.
- **Number of occupied housing units and energy expenditures by:**
 - Tenure (owner and renter)
 - Building year of first construction
 - Number of units in the building
 - Housing unit primary heating fuel type.
- **Housing energy burden as the percentage of average housing energy expenditures to average household income**
- **50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and tribal nations.**

A Few Details

- LEAD Tool data:
 - U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2020 Public Use Microdata Samples (5-Year Average, 2015-2020)
 - Planned update with American Community Survey 2022 data when it is released in early 2024
 - Calibrated to the U.S. Energy Information Administration's electric utility (Survey Form-861) and natural gas utility (Survey Form-176) data.

LEAD Tool Demo

<https://www.energy.gov/scep/slsc/low-income-energy-affordability-data-lead-tool>

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