

FAMILY ENERGY COSTS 2001 – 2014

“Energy Cost Impacts on American Families”ⁱ analyzes the costs of energy (gasoline, natural gas, and electricity) between 2001 and 2014 for American households at different income levels. Using data from the Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Census Bureau, the analysis shows that family energy costs have increased while real household incomes have declined. Higher energy prices, including those caused by EPA policies, will continue to impact U.S. families, especially lower-income, middle-income, and fixed-income families.

- Since 2001, real energy costs for middle-income and lower-income families have *increased by 27 percent*.
- Over the same period, real after-tax income for these families has *declined by 22 percent*.
- Energy expenditures are consuming an increasingly large portion of household budgets. In 2001, lower-income households spent 16 percent of their after-tax income on energy. In 2014, these households will spend 26 percent of their budgets on energy (before taking into account energy assistance programs).
- Lower income families are especially vulnerable because energy costs represent a larger portion of their budgets and reduce the amount of income they can spend on food, housing, health care, and other necessities.

ⁱ Eugene M. Trisko, *Energy Cost Impacts on American Families, 2001 – 2014*, February 2014. Mr. Trisko, who is an attorney and energy economist, has conducted these studies for ACCCE since 2000.