



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Executive Council

STATE HOUSE ROOM 207

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TO: All District Three Constituents
FROM: Executive Councilor Janet Stevens

DATE: September 1, 2022

FUEL ASSISTANCE – ENERGY ASSISTANCE – WEATHERIZATION PROGRAMS FOR NH DISTRICT THREE RESIDENTS

On August 1, 2022, energy supply rates increased drastically in New Hampshire with costs per kilowatt hour (kWh) doubling from 10.669 c/kWh to 22.566 c/kWh with one of New Hampshire's largest suppliers. The spike in electricity costs is attributed to the benchmark U.S. price for natural gas doubling in price from the prior year to \$9 per million BTU. Gas is the largest source of electric power in the U.S. and gas prices help set the cost of electricity around the country" Source. **In all, gas fueled about 38 percent of utility-scale power generation in the country last year, according** to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. In New Hampshire, natural gas is used to generate 25% of our state's electricity with nuclear energy providing 56%.

New Hampshire Department of Energy attributes these higher energy costs to global volatility of energy markets. "The higher prices we are seeing are the result of an energy supply crunch brought about by increased energy usage as the economy recovers from the COVID pandemic, uncertainties in supply stemming from the ongoing war in Ukraine, and growing inflation." More specifically these rate increases come at a time residents are dealing with the highest inflation rate since the 1980's.

Heading into the winter months, I would like to inform all District Three constituents of various fuel and energy assistance programs, energy efficiency programs, weatherization programs available through Southern New Hampshire Services, Unitil and Liberty Utilities home heating assistance (gas) and NHSaves.

Please call me at (603) 436-1645 if I can assist you and your family with these services.

SOUTHERN NH SERVICES (SNHS.com)

Southern New Hampshire Services is the Community Action Program for District Three/Rockingham County. District Three constituents can apply online or visit one of the five SNHS offices for **electric assistance, fuel assistance, weatherization assistance.**

Rockingham County Locations:

- **Derry** (603) 965-3029: (Derry toll free 1-855-295-4105)
- **Salem** (603) 893-9172 (Salem toll free 1-800-939-9172)
- **Portsmouth** (603) 436-3896 (Portsmouth toll free 1-800-639-3896)
- **Seabrook** (603) 474-3507 (Seabrook toll free 1-800-979-3507)
- **Raymond** (603) 895-2303 (Raymond toll free 1-800-974-2303)

Income Eligibility for all three programs is 60% Average Median Income:

- For a family of 1, a maximum gross annual income of \$38,969
- For a family of 2, a maximum gross annual income of \$50,959
- For a family of 3, a maximum gross annual income of \$62,950
- For a family of 4, a maximum gross annual income of \$74,941

Electric Assistance Program (EAP)

<https://www.energy.nh.gov/consumers/help-energy-and-utility-bills/electric-assistance-program>

- ❖ **Deadline:** No deadline. The program is offered year-round to those who meet eligibility.
- ❖ **Details:** EAP provides a discount for the first 750 kWh on electric bill.
 - Discount ranges from 8%-76% depending on gross household income, household size and electricity usage.

Fuel Assistance Program

<https://www.energy.nh.gov/consumers/help-energy-and-utility-bills/fuel-assistance-program>

- ❖ **Deadline:** Pre-Applications available beginning July 1, 2022.
 - For priority families, elderly, disabled and families with young children under the age of six The Fuel Assistance Program application deadline is April 30th, 2023.
 - Pre-Applications for all others September 1, 2022. The deadline is April 30, 2023.
- ❖ **Details:** FAP provides benefits from \$304-\$3024 for eligible homeowners and renters for heating purposes that do not have to be repaid.

Weatherization Programs via SNHS

<https://www.snhs.org/services/weatherization>

- ❖ **Deadline:** Services are available year round.
- ❖ **Details:** Services are free for those who qualify.
 - To apply – complete Fuel Assistance Program application which is also used for weatherization programs.
 - Qualified candidates will receive an energy audit with a follow up appointment to confirm compliance with auditors' recommendations. which may include –
 - Repairing, caulking, and weather-stripping doors and windows
 - Hard piping dryer exhaust vents to make drying safer and more efficient
 - Installing new bathroom exhaust fans
 - Metering of refrigerators to possibly qualify for FREE REPLACEMENT
 - Installing carbon monoxide and smoke detectors if needed
 - Reducing air infiltration and drafts by sealing areas throughout the home with the use of Infra-Red and Blower Door technology
 - Installing “low flow” shower heads and faucet aerators
 - Upgrading lighting to become more energy efficient
 - Ordering a one-time thorough cleaning, tuning, and evaluation which may include minor repairs of your primary heating system
 - Adding insulation to walls, attics, and basement areas of the home
 - Replacing or repairing primary heating system & water heater when funding permits

HOME HEATING GAS – ASSISTANCE FOR LIBERTY UTILITIES & UNIL CUSTOMER

<https://www.energy.nh.gov/consumers/help-energy-and-utility-bills/gas-assistance-program>

- ❖ **Deadline:** No deadline
- ❖ **Details:** Bill discount is offered November – April 30th Year round.

To be eligible for the program, customers must be residential heating customers of either Liberty Utilities or Unitil-Gas and receive, or be qualified to receive, benefits from one of the following programs:

- Fuel Assistance Program
- Electric Assistance Program
- Supplemental Security Income Program
- Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)
- Commodity Surplus Foods Program (for women, infants and children)
- Elderly Commodity Surplus Foods Program
- Temporary Aid to Needy Families Program (TANF)
- Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)
- Head Start Program
- Aid to Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD)
- Aid to the Needy Blind
- Old Age Assistance
- Food Stamps

For more information, contact your gas company directly at 1-800-833-4200 for customers of Liberty Utilities and 1-800-552-3043 for customers of Unitil-Gas.

NHSaves

<https://nhsaves.com/learn/service/energy-audits-weatherization/>

The New Hampshire electric and natural gas utilities, in consultation with the [NH Public Utilities Commission](#) and other interested parties, offer a variety of energy efficiency rebates. Detailed program information can be found on the [NHSaves](#) website. You may also contact your utility directly for more information on program offerings:

Eversource

Gordon Tuttle

Email: Gordon.tuttle@eversource.com

New Hampshire Electric Cooperative

Email: es@nhec.com

Liberty

Horizon Residential Energy Services

Email: nhsaves@horizon-res.com

Phone: 1-603-369-4834

Unitil

Horizon Residential Energy Services

Email: nhsavesunitil@horizon-res.com

Phone: 1-603-715-8938