

## Strategic and Interagency Initiatives

### Overview

The Strategic and Interagency Initiatives (SI2) team within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) **Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Office** in DOE's **Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy** helps states and localities meet their energy objectives for underserved communities. The SI2 team does so through deep-dive initiatives, development of data, and creation of topic-specific resources. These efforts support a future where underserved entities can better afford their energy costs through efficiency and renewable measures.

### Promoting Cross-Agency Collaboration

Recognizing the need to make it easier to navigate federal resources, the SI2 team led a staff-level interagency collaborative to promote energy solutions for underserved communities through information sharing and alignment of practices. Available resources and tools from eight participating federal agencies can be found in the Low-Income Energy Library.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>This library does not contain resources developed by DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).



A strut-and-post titled plane array on a rooftop on a multifamily apartment building in Brooklyn. Photo by Bright Power, Inc.

### Advancing Strategies for Low-Income Communities

SI2 completed DOE's **Clean Energy for Low Income Communities Accelerator (CELICA)** and created the online **CELICA Toolkit**, which includes case studies, issue briefs, and tools for developing non-weatherization low-income energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. These materials are the product of CELICA's 2-year partnership with 37 stakeholders from state and local governments, community agencies, nonprofits, and utilities. These partners successfully leveraged resources to commit up to \$335 million to help 155,000 underserved households access the cost-saving benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

#### CELICA Local Partner Map

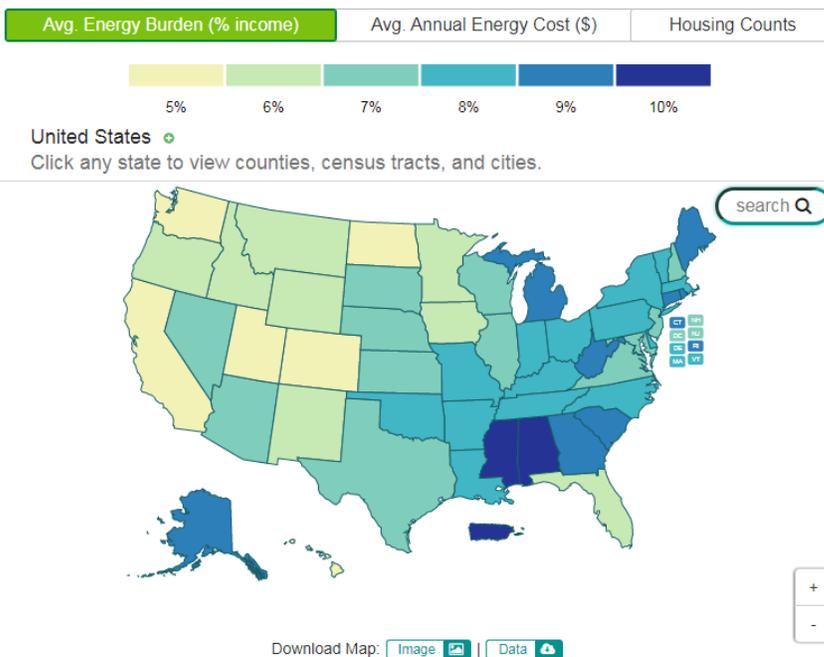


## Increasing Visibility of Energy Burden

The **Low-Income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD) Tool** was created to help energy stakeholders make data-driven decisions in the development of non-weatherization energy programs for low-income communities. Since its launch in 2019, the LEAD Tool's data, maps, and graphs have been accessed by over 7,000 users in 68 countries. The LEAD Tool provides energy stakeholders with access to low- and moderate-income household energy characteristic data across state, county, city, and census tract levels in the United States. With the tool, stakeholders can compare residential energy costs and energy burden, defined as the percentage of gross household income spent on energy costs. According to LEAD Tool data, low-income households (which represent 44% of all U.S. households) have an average energy burden of 8.6%—three times higher than for non-low-income households.

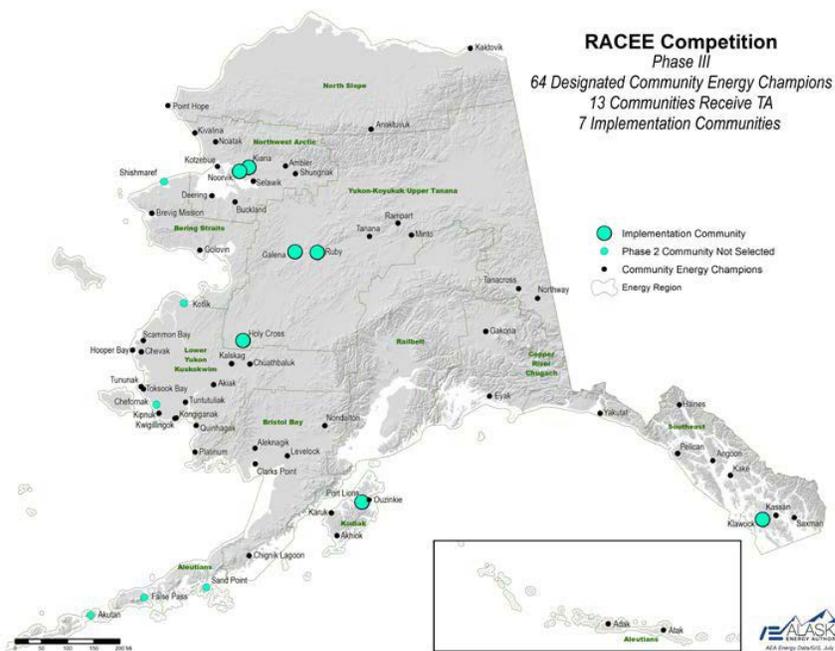
## Low-Income Energy Affordability Data Tool

Avg. Energy Burden (% income) for the United States ⓘ



## Creating Access to Energy Efficiency in Remote Communities

The **Remote Alaskan Communities Energy Efficiency Competition (RACEE)** is a \$4 million multiyear initiative launched in 2015 to empower remote Alaskan communities to develop reliable, affordable energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions. RACEE is structured to address challenges posed by Alaska's unique energy profile: rural Alaskan households pay 60% more on average for energy than other U.S. households and face extremely cold climate conditions much of the year. Energy-saving technologies can make a significant economic impact for remote Alaskan communities and free up household budgets for food, medicine, and other necessities. ■



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For more information, visit: [energy.gov/eere/wipo](https://energy.gov/eere/wipo)

DOE/EE-2127 · January 2021