




**S E E A**  
SOUTHEAST ENERGY EFFICIENCY ALLIANCE

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The next step forward for affordable energy:  
Advancing the Southeast Energy  
Insecurity Initiative

Monday, May 16, 2022

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The Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA) promotes energy efficiency as a catalyst for economic growth, workforce development and energy security across 11 southeastern states including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

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# Our Core Services

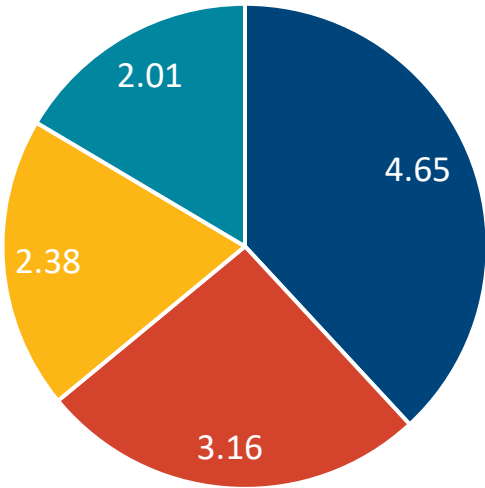


Energy insecurity was common in the South, even before COVID-19.

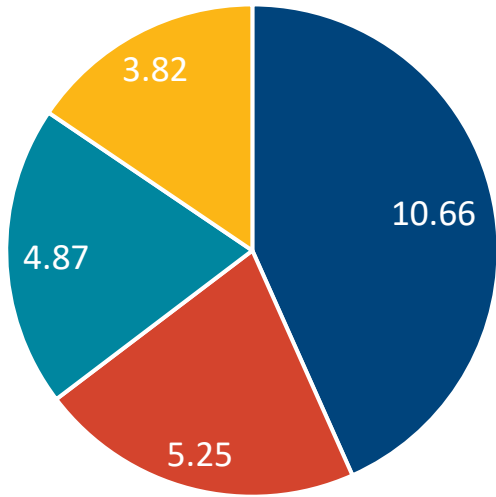
The **dark blue** section in these pie charts demonstrates the need among Southern households (millions of households.)

- South
- West
- Midwest
- Northeast

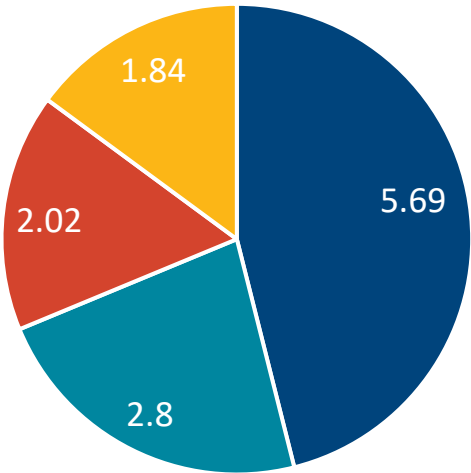
Home at Unhealthy Temperature



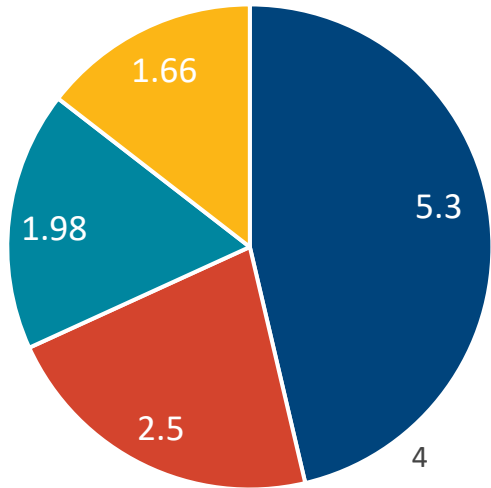
Reduce Food/Medicine



Disconnected/Stop Service Notice



Unable To Use Heat/Cooling Equipment

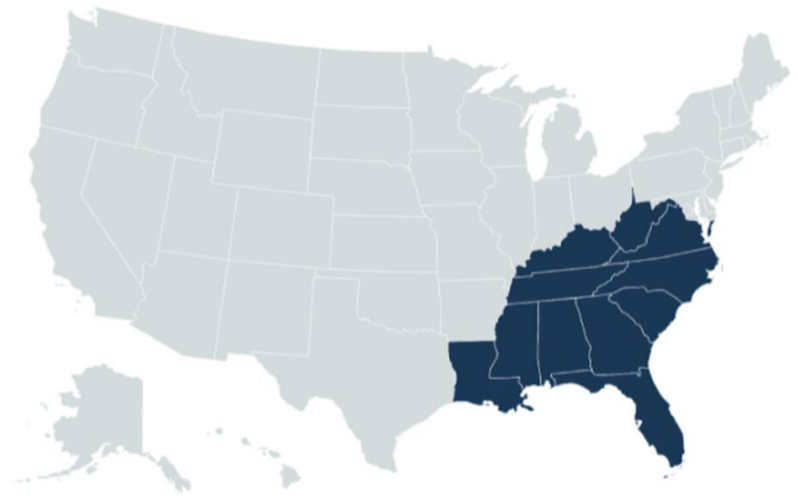


Data: U.S. Energy Information Agency (EIA), Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS)

# Stakeholder Initiative Phase I & II

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- Measure and characterize the causes and impacts of energy burden and insecurity in the Southeast;
- Devise sustainable, regional solutions to address energy insecurity; and
- Foster collaboration between leaders across sectors to address energy insecurity in the region.



# Timeline for Phase I & II

## Research & Data Analysis Jan. - May 2021

- Worked to understand gaps
- Completed household energy burden survey
- Started household energy burden mapping

## Launch May 2021

- Created a shared understanding of energy insecurity
- Identified challenges and solutions
- Worked to foster a community of stakeholders focused on reducing energy insecurity in the Southeast

## Working Groups June - Nov. 2021

- Six working groups met every 2 - 4 weeks
- Developed draft recommendations to address energy insecurity in the Southeast

## Final Workshop December 2021

- Reviewed, clarified and refined final recommendations
- Generated additional insights and data
- Began thinking through implementation

Energy Utilities – IOUs and Cooperatives



NGOs and Consumer Groups



Local, State & Federal Agencies



Financial Institutions





# Advisory Board Members

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**Duanne Andrade, MBA.**  
Florida Green Bank, Solar and Energy  
Loan Fund (SELF)  
Chief Financial Officer



**William Barber, JD.**  
The Climate Reality Project  
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**Carmen Bingham**  
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**Marilyn Brown, PhD.**  
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**William Bryan, PhD.**  
Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance  
(SEEA)  
Director of Research



**Chandra Farley**  
Partnership for Southern Equity  
Just Energy Director



# Advisory Board Members

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**Therese Griffin**

Dominion Energy South Carolina  
Manager, Energy Efficiency and Demand  
Side Management



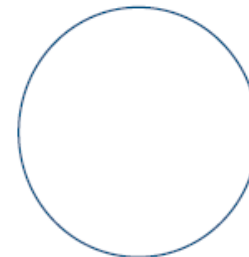
**Tori Griffin**

The Equity Alliance  
Organizing Director



**Lonnie Hannon III, PhD.**

Tuskegee University  
Associate Professor in the Department  
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**Louise Mack**

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Three Cubed  
Co-Founder and Vice President of  
Social Equity



**Michael Smith**

Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina  
VP, Business and Technology Strategy



**Stacey Washington**

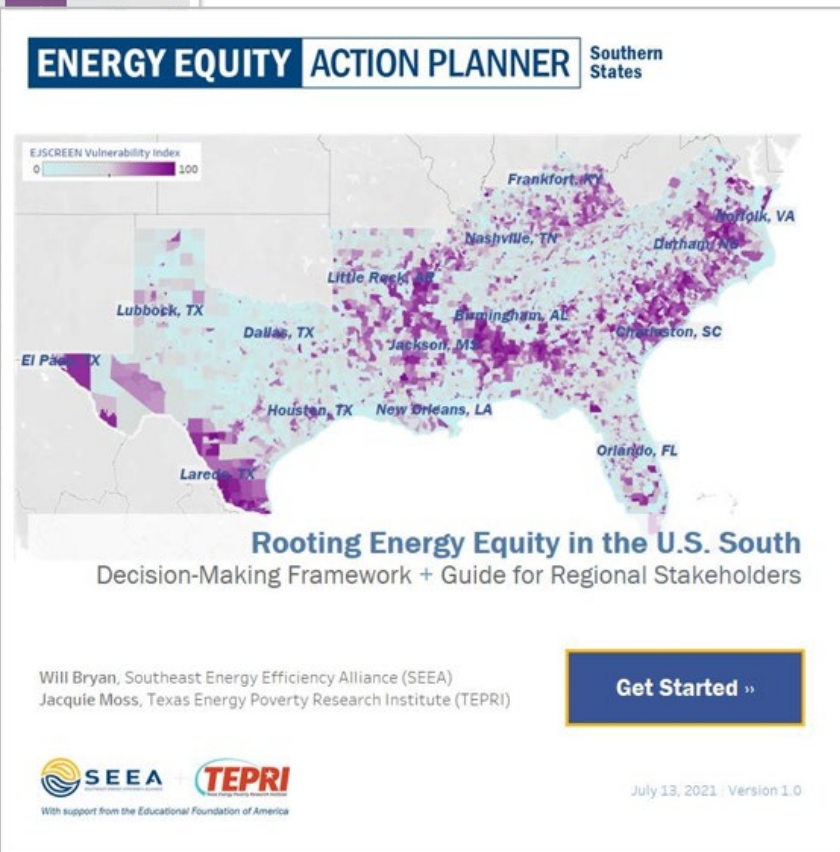
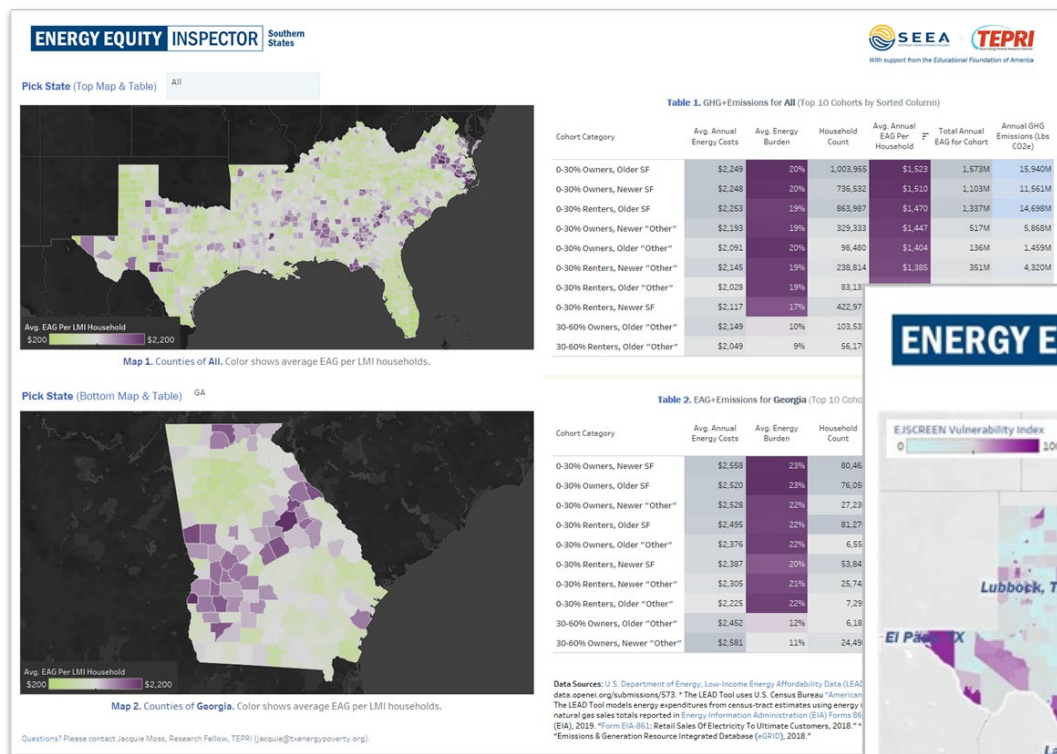
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff  
Energy Office  
Energy Specialist



**Chris Woolery**

Mountain Association  
Residential Energy Coordinator

# SEEA's Energy Insecurity Portfolio







## ENERGY INSECURITY FUNDAMENTALS FOR THE SOUTHEAST

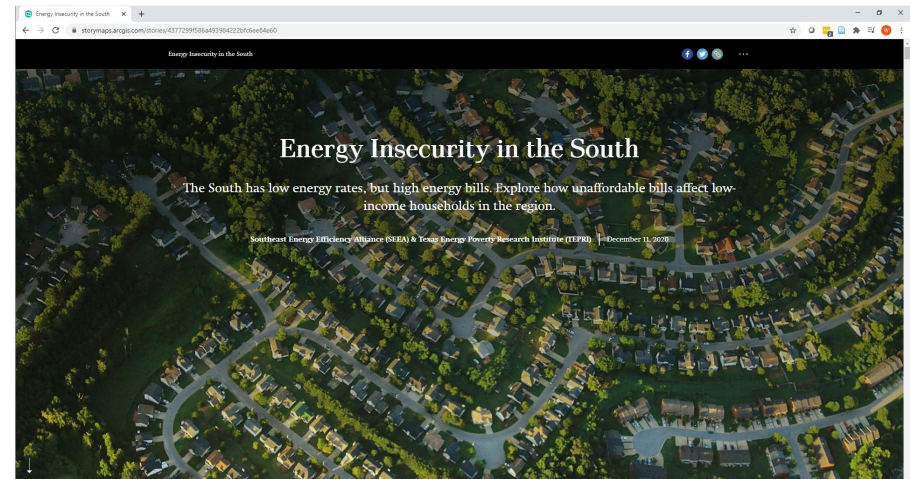
February 2021



### Key Findings

- Millions of Southerners struggle to pay their monthly electric and gas bills. More customers are cost-burdened in the South than in any other part of the country, and one out of every three people in the region has trouble paying their energy bills.
- SEEA believes “energy insecurity” is a vital framework for understanding how the benefits and burdens of generating, transmitting, and consuming energy are distributed across communities in the Southeast.
- Energy insecurity is the product of multiple factors, including the lack of access to efficient housing and advanced building technologies, low household incomes, high energy costs, and coping behaviors that can place residents at a higher risk of health and safety threats.
- The physical, economy, and behavioral dimensions to energy insecurity cannot be fully captured by a single metric like energy burden. Rather, energy insecurity is most accurately measured through a combination of metrics and approaches.
- Energy cost burden is a valuable metric to understand the economic dimensions of energy insecurity, but it has limitations and should not be used as a stand-in for energy insecurity.

**Energy Insecurity Fundamentals in the Southeast:**  
[https://issuu.com/seealliance/docs/report\\_energyinsecurity\\_02\\_15\\_2021\\_v1](https://issuu.com/seealliance/docs/report_energyinsecurity_02_15_2021_v1)



**Energy Insecurity in the South:**  
<https://arcg.is/1S1r510>



**The hidden costs of affordable housing:**  
<https://saportareport.com/the-hidden-costs-of-affordable-housing/columnists/david/>

# Recommendations

*\*The recommendations reflect input from a diverse group of stakeholders but may not necessarily reflect full consensus of all stakeholders.*

# Systemic Change

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- Develop a **regional coordinating committee** to facilitate cross-sector collaboration among stakeholders working to address energy insecurity.
- Identify and address **health and safety challenges** that prevent access to energy assistance and identify weatherization cost savings.
- Expand community engagement opportunities and **reduce barriers** to representation in energy decision-making processes.
- Create **workforce development plans** to ensure the clean energy transition provides opportunities for energy insecurity communities.

# Housing

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- Improve **housing codes** and renter programs to lower energy costs without harmfully raising the costs of affordable housing.
- Increase access to **weatherization and clean technologies** in rental properties through existing home energy programs.
- Utilize existing and encourage new electric **utility appliance programs** to overcome barriers to affordable energy efficient appliances

# Awareness and Community Engagement

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- Develop a public-facing **one-stop-shop** that outlines which programs individuals are eligible for, houses a centralized application for aid, and provides collaborative program implementation.
- Develop a **database of programs** addressing energy insecurity in the Southeast.
- Develop one **centralized application for aid** starting with weatherization and urgent repair programs.
- Launch an **awareness campaign** to educate energy insecure individuals and decision makers.



# Data Access and Improvement

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- Require electric and gas utilities to **collect, track, and report detailed data** such as arrearages, late fees, and shut-offs.
- Develop a **“data dictionary”** to facilitate data requests for uses addressing energy insecurity.
- Establish **data sharing** programs and develop a **standard practice manual** to guide/govern how data will be shared, what information can be shared, and how it will be used.
- Develop a **process for community participation** in identifying energy insecurity data needs.
- Require **utility data collection** and disparity gap analysis.

# Programs and Access to Financing

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- Review **existing financial programs** to make recommendations for revising or expanding.
- Follow existing **financial program best practices** to accelerate energy efficiency and security.
- Create programs specifically designed to **help renters** achieve energy security.

# Utility Solutions

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- Implement **inclusive energy efficiency utility investments** with robust consumer protections, such as Pay As You Save (PAYS).
- Implement strong procedural protections, seasonal shutoff moratoria, protections for the socially vulnerable, and payment **assistance programs to prevent disconnection** from essential utility service.
- Expand and implement **non-energy benefits** in energy efficiency cost effectiveness tests.
- Reduce future capacity needs through aggressive pursuit of **energy efficiency and peak demand reduction**.

# Next Steps

# Stakeholder Recommendations for Reducing Energy Insecurity in the Southeast United States

Allie Garrett, Stacey Washington, and Will Bryan



Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions

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## ENERGY INSECURITY

INFLUENCES ON THE ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY OF ENERGY



### Age of housing

Older homes are often less efficient and more costly to heat and cool. In the Southeast, more than half of all residential buildings were built before the sector's first energy codes.



### Advanced Building Technology

New housing and residential upgrades that include advanced building technologies can reduce energy costs, but are often out of reach for renters and low-income households.



### Health

Energy insecure households are more likely to be located closer to transportation corridors, industrial areas, and in urban heat islands, putting them more at risk for exposure to pollutants and higher outdoor temperatures.



### Economic

Energy cost burden is calculated by dividing all annual energy costs by a household's annual income. When a household spends 6% or more on energy, they are considered energy burdened and at risk to be energy insecure.



### Behavioral

People experiencing energy insecurity may rely on coping mechanisms like using an oven or space heater to stay warm or go without air conditioning to offset energy costs.

WWW.NICHOLASINSTITUTE.DUKE.EDU/ENERGYINSECURITY

**Energy Insecurity:** Sociologist Diana Hernandez defines energy insecurity as "an inability to adequately meet household basic energy needs," including heating, cooling, and lighting. Energy insecurity shows that there are many factors that can result in difficulty maintaining energy services. It also highlights key ways that vulnerable households are impacted by the compounding effects of unaffordable and inaccessible energy.

Energy insecurity has multiple dimensions. Economic energy insecurity encompasses all financial challenges households face to maintain energy services, especially the disproportionate costs carried by low-income households. Physical energy insecurity considers how the home structure impacts energy access and affordability. Low-income households have limited means to upgrade their home's structure or technology to increase energy savings, which can place them at a higher risk for health problems and high energy costs. Behavioral energy insecurity highlights the ways in which households adapt to meet their energy needs. While certain behaviors can help households cope with high costs and prevent utility shutoffs, strategies to heat or cool the home with nontraditional means—an oven or space heater, for instance—can put residents at risk of health and safety problems.<sup>1</sup>

2. Diana Hernandez, "Understanding 'Energy Insecurity' and why it matters to health," *Social Science Medicine*, Vol. 167 (October 2016) 1-10; William D. Bryan and Maggie Keller Higgins, *Energy Insecurity Fundamentals for the South* (Atlanta: Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance, 2021), 1-2.  
3. Hernandez, "Understanding 'Energy Insecurity' and why it matters to health," 1-10; Bryan and Keller Higgins, *Energy Insecurity Fundamentals for the South*, 1-3.

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## Recommendations

**Recommendation 1:** Develop a regional coordinating committee to facilitate cross-sector collaboration among stakeholders working to address energy insecurity.

<b>Summary</b>	Individuals working to address energy insecurity come from a wide range of organizations across many sectors. Given the diversity of stakeholders, efforts to achieve energy security in the region would benefit from a regional coordinating committee that will facilitate cross-sector approaches and work to ensure efforts are aligned and complementary. The regional coordinating committee will be focused on guiding and advising the implementation of recommendations for achieving energy security for all communities in the Southeast. It should be comprised of individuals who are or have been impacted by energy insecurity, as well as the various entities who work to address the issue, including, but not limited to: nongovernmental organizations (NGOs); public and private utilities; housing authorities; government officials; food banks; religious institutions; health centers; and more.
<b>Intended Outcome(s)</b>	As the Southeast Energy Insecurity Stakeholder Initiative moves into the implementation phase, this group will serve as key advisors to help move recommendations forward through engagement with decision makers.
<b>Feasibility</b>	High. Requires staff time for coordination. The working group should be housed at and facilitated by a neutral convener. Solutions would require funding from government and other stakeholders.
<b>Next Steps</b>	Determine leaders who will serve on the committee; determine convener. Create a framework to show the broad impacts of energy insecurity, including broadband access; charging infrastructure; community solar; air's property; health; COVID-19; microgrids; and more.



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# Q&A

# Southeast Energy Summit

October 3-5, 2022 | Atlanta, GA



After a two-year hiatus, the [Southeast Energy Summit](#) is returning to Atlanta for three days to reconnect with friends and colleagues, explore innovative efficient energy solutions, and plan for a brighter, more prosperous future in the Southeast.

Tickets and sponsor opportunities are available now! Learn more at [southeastenergysummit.com](https://southeastenergysummit.com)



# Thank you!

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We'd like to hear from you. Please let us know how you would like to be involved with the initiative. <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQfjxiNTM>

Take the survey!



Stay informed about future virtual and in-person events, including the Southeast Energy Summit, October 3-5, 2022 in Atlanta, GA

[Sign up for email updates](#)



Become a member! Contact us at [membership@seealliance.org](mailto:membership@seealliance.org) or visit [seealliance.org/membership](https://seealliance.org/membership) for more information.

# Thank You

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