

# MASSACHUSETTS ENERGY BURDEN

## WHAT IT IS

An energy burden is defined as the percent a household pays on its home energy bills.

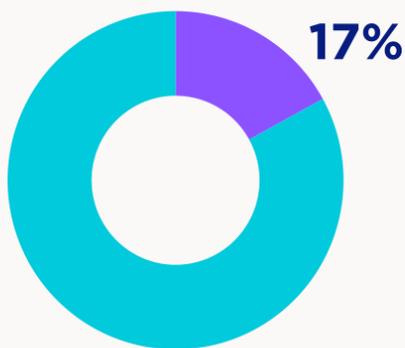
The energy burden looks different to many families across Massachusetts, as some families have to choose between paying their utility bills or having enough money to spend on food, medicine, or rent.

**23% of households reported having to go without expenses like food or healthcare to pay their energy bill in the last year.**



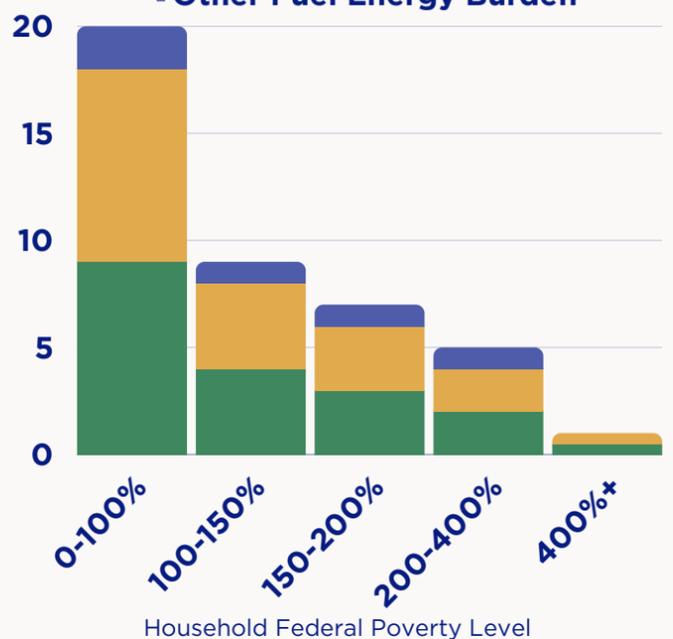
That's **1.3 million** residential ratepayers in the state.

**Over one million households** in Massachusetts reported facing some form of **energy insecurity** in the last year.



In the last year, **920k households** in MA were unable to pay their energy bill some months.

■ Electricity Energy Burden  
■ Gas Energy Burden  
■ Other Fuel Energy Burden



Low-and-middle-income households spend almost **one fifth of their income** on energy bills.

## WHY IT MATTERS

**No one should have to struggle with the choice between buying food or medicine and having to pay their energy bill.**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities wants to change this reality many residential ratepayers face.

DPU is investigating the energy burden here in MA to consider improvements to current energy affordability programs and if more resources are needed to help residents in paying their electricity and heating bills.



## HOW TO COMMENT

**If your budget is strained from paying your utility bill while trying to make ends meet send a comment to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities.** There is an open investigation to figure out how the state can make policy changes to address this issue.

Send your written comments by email to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov) before March 1, 2024.

*When sending your comments, please specify the docket number (D.P.U. 24-15) and your name.*