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NATIONAL WEATHERIZATION DAY IS OCTOBER 30TH
Highlights Impact of Energy Bills on Families and Local Economic Development

LINCOLN -- Each year, October 30 is recognized as National Weatherization Day, highlighting that energy expenses can be an economic drain on low-income households. Often, energy bills account for more than 20 percent of a family's gross income.

Since 1979, more than \$137 million have been spent to make energy efficiency improvements in 69,700 Nebraska homes under the federally-funded Weatherization Assistance Program. At the state level, the Nebraska Energy Office administers the program and its non-profit providers.

“Our non-profits first conduct a home energy audit on the eligible family's home to determine how much energy the home consumes and evaluate what energy-efficient measures can be made,” said Ginger Willson, Director of the Nebraska Energy Office. “These improvements can include caulking, weatherstripping, insulation and replacement of a home's furnace.”

Who qualifies for weatherization is determined by a family's income level. Households with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible – \$47,100 for a family of four – and the income level rises based on the number of persons living in the home.

“Preference is given to persons over 60, persons with disabilities and families with children under six,” added Willson. “By reducing long-term energy costs, weatherization makes these housing units more affordable for lower income families.”

Weatherization can also have an impact on communities by stimulating the local home energy efficiency industry. Local service providers, community action agencies and building contractors, make the improvements in the homes thereby providing stable jobs. These jobs represent a significant source of local economic development.

Nebraskans seeking to determine if they are eligible, should contact their local providers. A list of these providers can be found at <http://www.neo.ne.gov/wx/wxindex.htm#contacts>, and additional information about the program can be found at <http://www.neo.ne.gov/wx/wxindex.htm>. The Nebraska Energy Office also has a series of home energy saving resources at <http://www.neo.ne.gov/tips/tips.htm> so all Nebraska can be find ways to save dollars and energy.

The Nebraska Energy Office was created in 1977 to promote the efficient, economic and environmentally responsible use of energy in Nebraska. In 2008, the Energy Office became a stand-alone agency within state government with the Director serving as a member of the Governor's Cabinet. Join the Energy Office on [Facebook](#). Follow the Energy Office on [Twitter](#).