



Energy Use and Poverty in Memphis, TN



- The average U.S. household spent 2.7% of family income on electricity and gas bills in 2012.
- In the Southeast, residents spent an average of 3% of their income on electricity costs alone.
- For low-income families, electric bills can be as high as 20% of household income.

CAUSE: Many low-income families live in homes or apartments that lack proper insulation, are poorly weatherized and are equipped with old, inefficient appliances, resulting in significant energy waste.

EFFECT: High electricity costs reduce the ability of low-income families to pay for food, housing, education, health care and other essential needs.

2012 Poverty Rate	Overall	Caucasian Alone	African American	Hispanic	Asian	Under 18	18-64	Over 65
Memphis	28.3%	11.9%	33.6%	43.1%	28.7%	44.3%	24%	15.9%
Shelby County	21.7%	8.1%	30.3%	35.6%	16.1%	32.8%	18.7%	12.7%
Tennessee	17.9%	14.9%	29.2%	35.2%	16.8%	25.8%	16.8%	10%
United States	15.9%	13.8%	28.1%	25.4%	13%	22.6%	14.8%	9.5%

Memphis Quick Facts

Population: 655,155
 63% African American
 26% Below Poverty Level

- Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW) provides electricity to a total of nearly 420,000 customers within Shelby County.
- MLGW is the largest customer of the Tennessee Valley Authority.
- On average, MLGW customers use 14,735 kWh per year.

Just Energy Memphis