



Dr. Marilyn A. Brown, Facilitator
Regents and Brook Byers Professor

Mark Lannaman, Moderator
Student, Master of Sustainable Energy
and Environmental management

School of Public Policy
Georgia Institute of Technology

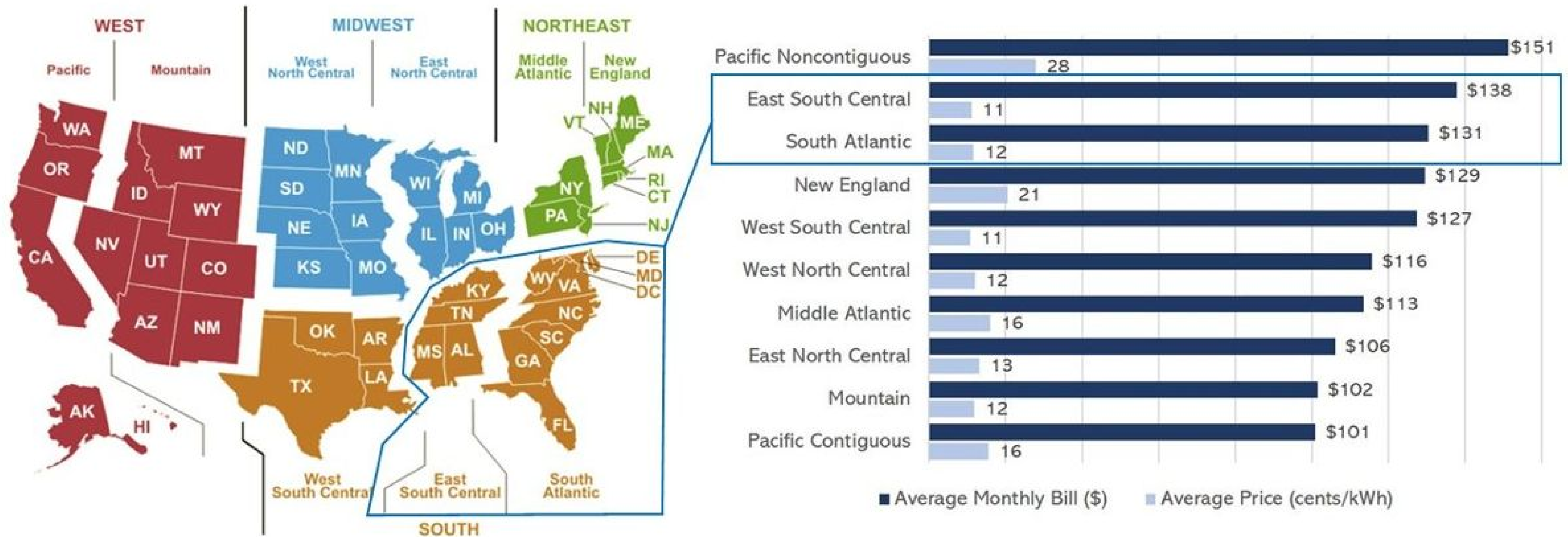
ENERGY BURDEN IN ATLANTA: A ROLEPLAY SIMULATION

An exploration of smart solutions and options for future engagement in energy consumption.

Atlanta Global Studies Symposium 2023
April 14, 2023

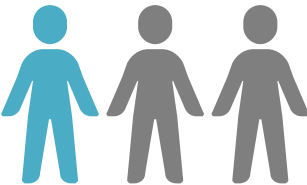


The **Southeast** has the lowest electric rates in the contiguous United States, but the highest residential bills.

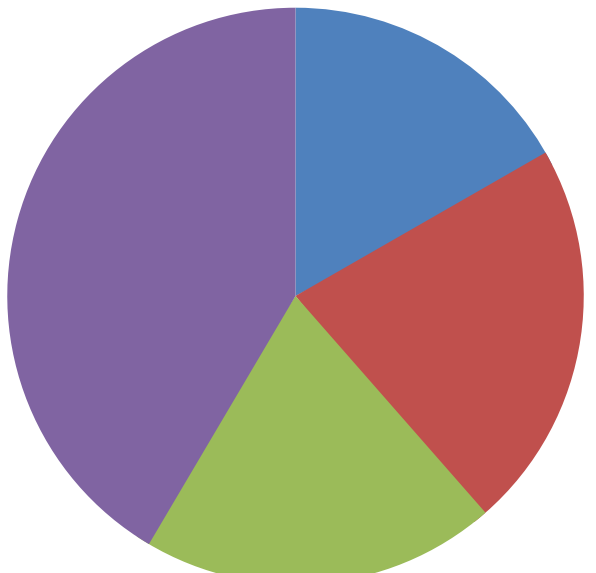


Data & Map: U.S. Energy Information Agency (EIA), Residential Energy Consumption Survey.

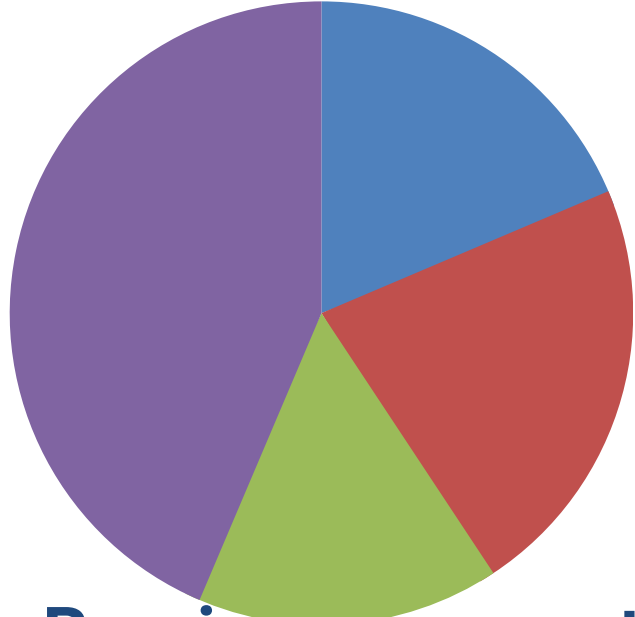
One out of every three people in the South faces **ENERGY INSECURITY**, “an inability to adequately meet household basic energy needs” including heating, cooling, and lighting.



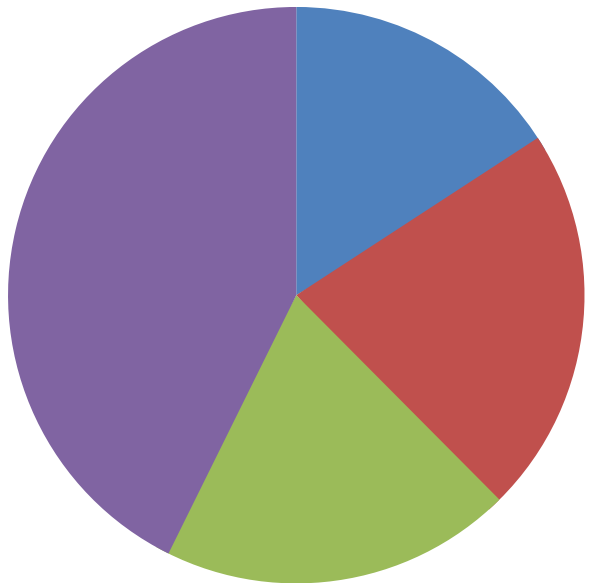
Units: households (in millions)



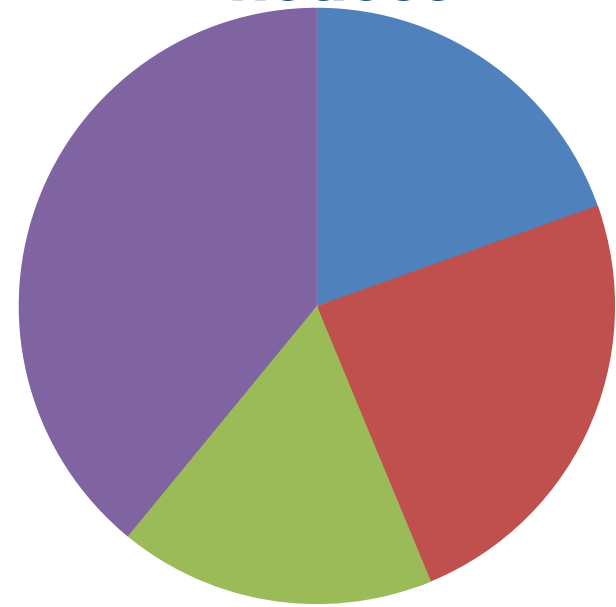
Experience any energy insecurity



Receive disconnect notices



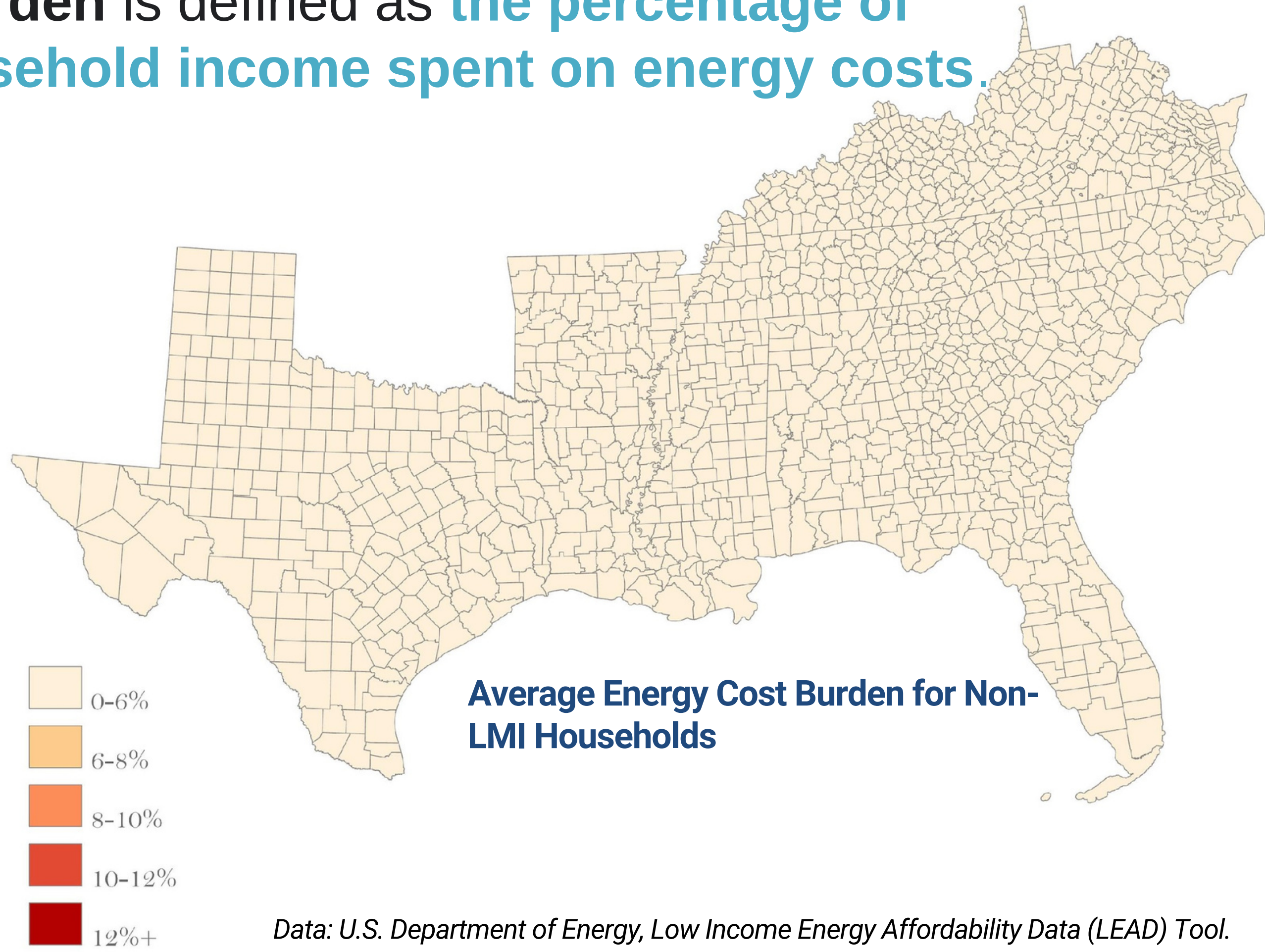
Reduce consumption of food or medicine to pay for energy



Struggle to maintain healthy indoor temperature

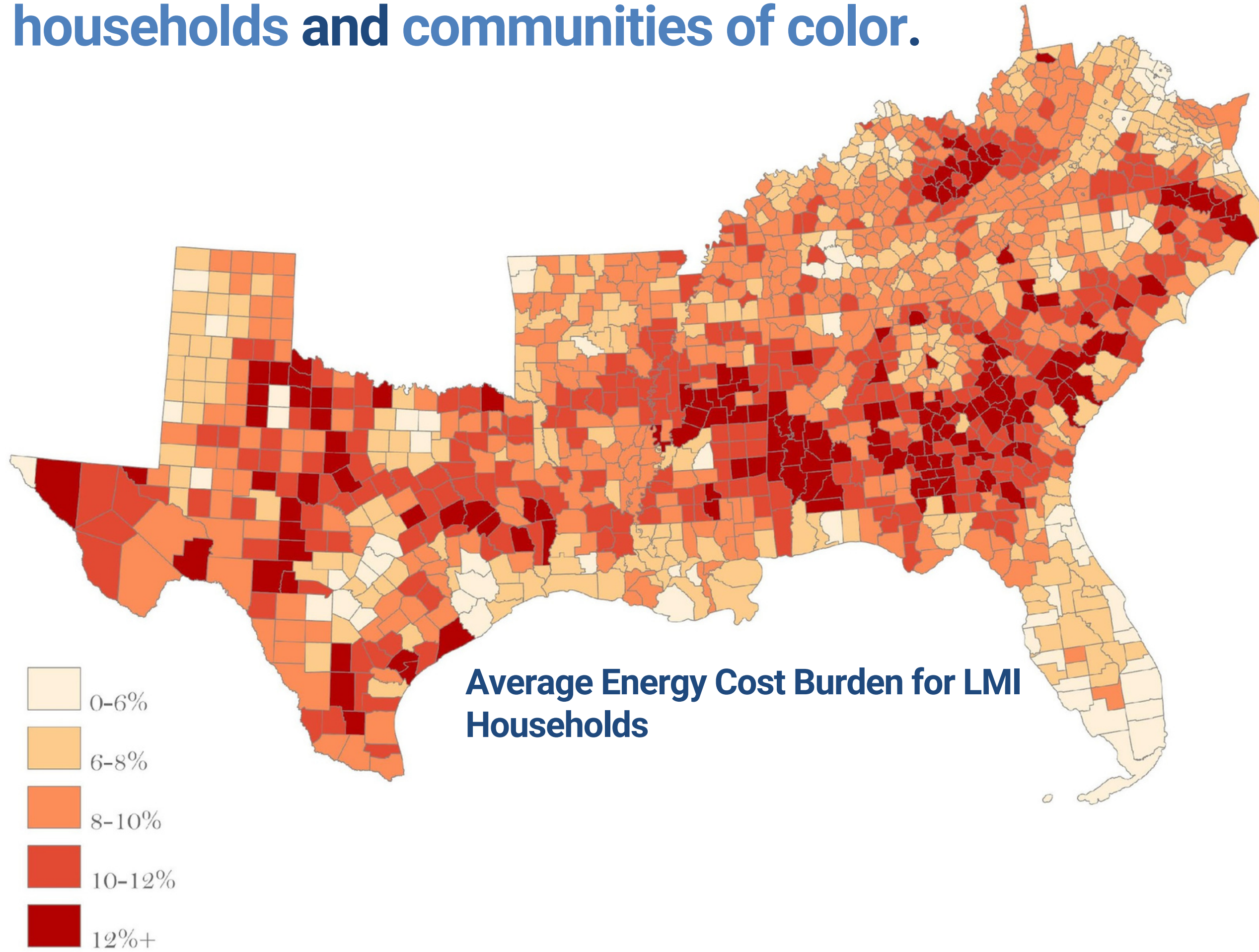
Data: U.S. Energy Information Agency (EIA), Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS)

Energy burden is defined as **the percentage of gross household income spent on energy costs.**

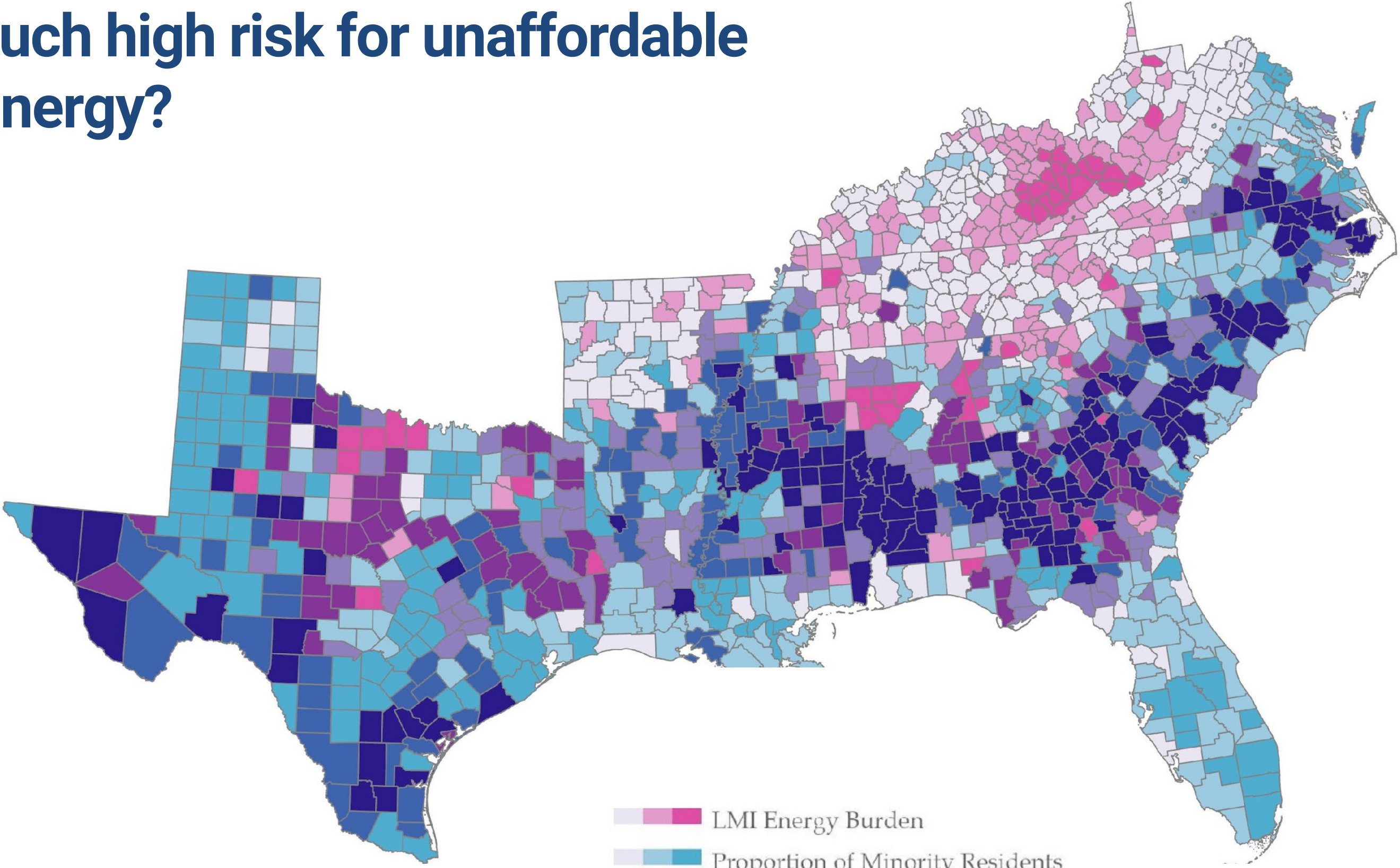


Data: U.S. Department of Energy, Low Income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD) Tool.

High energy bills disproportionately impact the region's low-income households and communities of color.



Why are communities of color at such high risk for unaffordable energy?



High energy bills disproportionately impact the region's **low-income**, **female-headed**, and **rural** households, as well as **renters** and **communities of color** in Georgia.

| <u>RACE</u> | Energy_Burden | Number |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------|
| Black | 6.18 | 323 |
| Other (Hispanic/Asian/Mixed) | 5.9 | 123 |
| White | 4.63 | 1048 |

| <u>COMMUNITY TYPE</u> | Energy_Burden | Number |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------|
| Rural | 6.78 | 376 |
| Suburban | 4.62 | 696 |
| Urban | 4.29 | 422 |

| <u>INCOME LEVEL</u> | Energy_Burden | Number |
|---------------------|---------------|--------|
| Low-income | 14.04 | 195 |
| Moderate-income | 7.46 | 290 |
| Middle-income | 3.71 | 452 |
| Uppermiddle-income | 2.02 | 400 |
| Affluent | 1.19 | 157 |

| <u>HOUSING STATUS</u> | Energy_Burden | Number |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------|
| Homeowner | 4.15 | 1048 |
| Renter | 7.11 | 422 |
| Other | 6.6 | 123 |

| <u>GENDER</u> | Energy_Burden | Number |
|---------------|---------------|--------|
| Female-headed | 5.95 | 212 |
| Other | 4.92 | 1282 |

Source: Energy burden: vulnerabilities, consequences, and policy challenges (2023)

Marilyn A. Brown, Snehal Kale, and Ryan Anthony (draft manuscript)

SOUTHFACE-GEORGIA TECH ENERGY BURDEN EXERCISE



Let's role-play these five archetypes of energy-burdened community members living in Georgia:

1. Black elderly couple
2. Grandparents raising grandchildren
3. Couple with children
4. Black female-headed household with children
5. A graduate student

Five Georgia Tech grad students in the School of Public Policy have offered to help you play this game and complete your “report out”:

- Aline Banboukian
- Mark Lannaman
- Jared Isaacs
- Snehal Kale
- Ryan Anthony



EXTRAS

IRA & IIJA : Lowering Energy Costs in Georgia

Over next five years, IIJA:

- Portion of [\\$3.5 billion](#) national investment in energy efficiency and weatherization programs to reduce energy costs for American families

IIJA investments that lower costs for Georgians [have already been announced](#):

- [\\$84 million](#) for Weatherization Assistance Program to reduce energy costs for low-income households
- [\\$4.5 million](#) for [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#) to help families stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer by providing assistance in managing costs with home energy bills, weatherization, and more



IRA & IIJA : Lowering Energy Costs in Georgia

IRA could lower energy costs for Georgia families ranging from [\\$300](#) to [\\$1,800](#) in annual savings:

- New consumer tax credit of up to [\\$4,000](#) for middle-and lower-income households to buy used clean vehicles and up to \$7,500 tax credit to buy new clean vehicles
- [\\$9 billion](#) in consumer home energy rebate programs, focused on low-income consumers, to electrify home appliances and for energy-efficient retrofits
- [10 years of consumer tax credits](#) to make homes more energy efficient, making heat pumps, rooftop solar, electric HVAC, water heaters, and electric appliances more affordable
- [\\$1 billion grant program](#) to make affordable housing more efficient