



# Iowa Department of Human Rights

Governor Terry E. Branstad

Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds

San Wong, Director

Division of Community Action Agencies | Division of Community Advocacy and Services | Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning

Offices of: Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs | Deaf Services | Latino Affairs | Native American Affairs | Persons with Disabilities | Status of African Americans | Status of Women

## MEMO

February 7, 2012

TO: Dwayne Ferguson, LSA

FROM: Bill Brand, DHR

The following is in response to the request for information regarding the relative costs of heating bills this winter compared to last winter. While statewide data is not available from any source we are aware of, there is pertinent data available to provide a basis for analysis:

1) The MidAmerican Energy Co. Projected Heating Season report for small volume residential customers in Iowa, based on actual costs for 2010-11 heating season (October-April) and for the period of October 2011 through April of 2012 based on actual costs through January 2012 and estimated costs for February through April shows:

Total average actual heating bill for 2011- \$567.15  
Total average estimated heating bill, 2012- \$510.34

Net decrease in cost 2012 compared to 2011- \$56.81  
% decrease in cost 2012 compared to 2011- 10.01%

It should be noted that heating costs represent on average less than 50% of a customer's total monthly energy costs. The remainder is baseload non-heating electric costs.

2) Other useful indicators of the affordability of energy costs are reflected in the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) monthly Residential Customer Statistics Report, commonly known as the moratorium report. The most recent report showed there were 265,834 total residential accounts past due in December, 2011, for rate-regulated utilities in Iowa. This is the second highest monthly total on record. This compares to a total number of accounts past due in December of 2010 of 258,069, or a 3% increase. The report includes rate-regulated companies in Iowa that represent approximately 70-75% of all residential customers in the state, as it does not include customers served by municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives.

The IUB report further shows that the total amount owed by customers with past due accounts in December, 2011, was \$27,417,294. This is an increase in the total amount past due in December of 2010 of \$25,917,422, or a 5.8% increase.