

Member Advisory

Energy Supplier Survey (ESS)

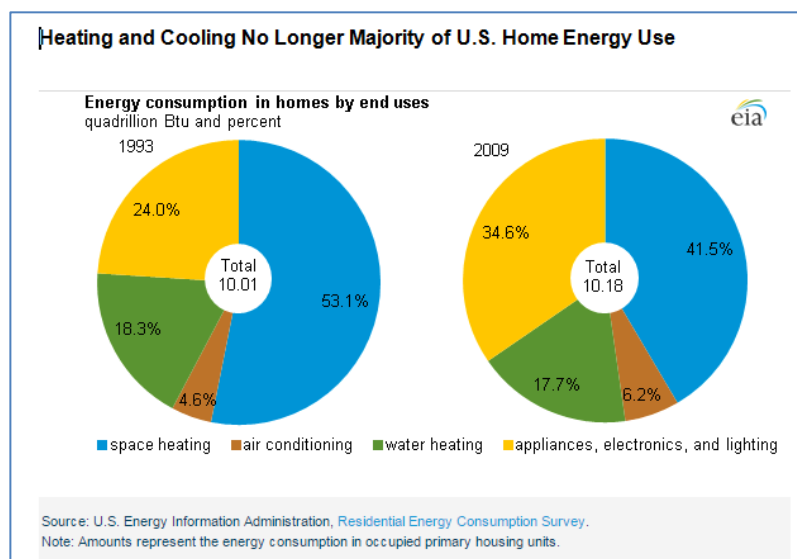
What has changed in the industry?

- Some electric cooperatives have been contacted by mail to complete the *Energy Supplier Survey* (ESS) conducted by the Energy Information Administration (EIA).
- The survey request is legitimate and part of the Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS).¹
- Co-ops who are contacted are required to complete the survey by September 30, 2016.
- Due to the nature of the survey, not all cooperatives will be contacted. If you do not receive a letter about the ESS, no action is required.

What is the impact on cooperatives?

Every four years, as part of the RECS, the EIA asks a sample of about 9,000 households nationwide to provide contact information for their energy suppliers.

Survey interviewers collect energy characteristics on the housing unit, usage patterns, and household demographics. This information is combined with data from energy suppliers to these homes to estimate energy costs and usage for heating, cooling, appliances, and other end uses.²



*Example of RECS
reporting from the
ESS data.*

¹ The RECS is authorized under the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-275) as amended, and the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

² Methodology for the 2009 RECS is available at:
<http://www.eia.gov/consumption/residential/methodology/2009/pdf/techdoc-summary010413.pdf>

What do cooperatives need to know?

As a supplier of energy to residential customers, some electric cooperatives will be contacted by mail to complete the *Energy Supplier Survey* (ESS) for those households that participated in the RECS. It is likely some electric co-ops will not be asked to submit data because no households in their service territories participated in the survey. When a cooperative is asked to complete the ESS, it is likely that billing information will only be requested for a handful of residential members, at the most.

The ESS collects energy billing data for a 20-month period from September 2014 to April 2016. Data elements include the specific amount of energy consumed or delivered and the total costs of each billing period. There are four distinct surveys within the ESS for different energy sources:

- Electricity (EIA-457E)
- Natural Gas (EIA-457F)
- LPG/Propane (EIA-457D)
- Fuel Oil/Kerosene (EIA-457G)

Depending on the services provided to members, electric cooperatives will be required to complete one or more of these surveys.

Data from the RECS and ESS are used to make projections of future residential energy consumption trends at the end-use level, including how much energy is used in the home for heating, cooling, appliances, and other end-uses and the associated energy costs. Note that the ESS data is not publically reported and the RECS does not provide any estimates at the utility or electric co-op level.

What should cooperatives do about it?

If requested, cooperatives are required by law to complete the ESS and return it by September 30, 2016.

Contacts for Questions

For questions concerning this Advisory, please contact Lauren Khair at: Lauren.Khair@nreca.coop or (703) 907-6845.

For specific questions concerning questions on the ESS, please contact:

- Westat, the contractor for the survey, at (855) 792-3213, or
- Chip Berry at James.Berry@eia.gov or (202) 586-5543.