

# American Community Survey

## Housing: Question on Housing Heating Fuel

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

**10** Which **FUEL** is used **MOST** for heating this house, apartment, or mobile home?

- Gas: from underground pipes serving the neighborhood
- Gas: bottled, tank, or LP
- Electricity
- Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.
- Coal or coke
- Wood
- Solar energy
- Other fuel
- No fuel used

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

### MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

The type of primary house heating fuel has long been used as a basic indicator of the adequacy of the American housing stock. Over the decades, there has been a dramatic shift in the fuels used to heat America's homes. The U.S. Department of Energy uses these data to provide information on energy supply and consumption. Also, the U.S. Department of Energy uses these data to design the Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS), a legislatively mandated survey required to provide information on residential and commercial energy use. These data are widely used by the Environmental Protection Agency for planning and impact assessment.

### COMMUNITY BENEFITS

#### Housing

Local planners use these data to identify areas that may be at risk for unhealthy air quality as a consequence of reliance on less efficient and clean home heating fuels.

State and local environmental agencies interested in promoting alternative fuels, such as solar energy, use these data to identify areas with favorable growth potential.

#### Energy

Utility companies and fuel oil distributors use these data to forecast the need for additional power facilities such as

generating plants, long distance pipelines for oil or natural gas, and long distance transmission lines for electricity.

The Environmental Protection Agency uses these data to assess the adequacy of energy resources to meet present and future needs of the general public.

#### Social Services

These data are needed to determine the type of fuel used by low-income persons and families who receive assistance under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

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