

ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title:	Contributing Factors to Rural Energy Use, Costs, and Affordability		
Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB)	EIB		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Influential Scientific Information	
Agency:	Economic Research Service USDA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
Agency Contact:	Jeffrey Hopkins, jeffrey.w.hopkins@usda.gov		
Subject of Review:	Affordable access to energy is critical for economic and physical welfare. This report studies energy affordability in the rural United States, focusing on household costs, energy insecurity, and factors contributing to energy affordability. Rural households spend more of their income on home energy use than their urban counterparts. This disparity is driven primarily by differences in heating costs. Several factors explain the higher costs, including heating fuel type, the prevalence of mobile homes, and exposure to cold temperatures. Low-income rural households are particularly at risk of energy insecurity, tend to live in less energy efficient homes and spend more money per square foot on both heating and cooling.		
Purpose of Review:	The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.		
Type of Review:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Panel Review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual Reviewers
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):	
Timing of Review (Est.):	Start:	5/2/2025	Completed:
Number of Reviewers:	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 or fewer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 to 10 <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10
Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review:	Economists		
Reviewers selected by:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Designated Outside Organization
Opportunities for Public Comment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:			
How:			
When:			
Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No