

STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 36-2008
EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING A STATE OF ENERGY EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, in recent months, energy rates have reached record high levels and are predicted by major suppliers to increase by 54% or more during the winter months; and

WHEREAS, Canadian natural gas formerly destined for Montana is expected to be diverted for use in Canada, and the purchasing power of the US dollar has fallen by over 20% relative to the Canadian dollar; and

WHEREAS, use of natural gas for electricity peaking power is increasing demand and prices; and

WHEREAS, these increased energy rates will translate into extraordinary increases in home and business heating expenses in the coming winter months, causing further hardship; and

WHEREAS, transportation energy prices are now causing hardship on low and moderate income Montana families as gasoline and diesel costs escalate dramatically; and

WHEREAS, speculation in oil and gas markets is exacerbating energy price increases; and

WHEREAS, many low to moderate income Montanans live in housing that would benefit greatly from weatherization efforts; and

WHEREAS, now, during warmer months, when work is more efficient to perform and costly heat energy is not lost, is the time to prepare for the inevitable cold weather by weatherizing homes to mitigate, as much as possible, cold weather home heating costs; and

WHEREAS, many Montanans who would benefit most from weatherization efforts are unable to either perform the work themselves or afford to pay for contractors to do the work for them; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana is committed to heading off potential energy crises for our most vulnerable families; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 90-4-310, MCA, a situation exists that threatens to seriously disrupt or diminish energy supplies to the extent that the life, health or property of those Montanans in greatest need of financial energy assistance may be jeopardized; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 90-4-318, MCA, when an energy emergency is declared by the Governor and emergency expenditures are justified, the Governor may authorize expenditures from the general fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Brian Schweitzer, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor under the Constitution of the State of Montana, Title 90, chapter 4, part 3, MCA, and other applicable statutes, do hereby declare a state of energy emergency and do hereby, further, authorize expenditures from the general fund by the Department of Public Health and Human Services for Low Income Weatherization efforts. The Office of Community Service, Department of Revenue, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Transportation, and the Department of Labor & Industry are designated agencies that may assist with the Low Income Weatherization efforts.

This order is effective July 21, 2008.

GIVEN under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Montana this 21st day of July, in the year Two Thousand and Eight, A. D.



BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor

Attest:



BRAD JOHNSON, Secretary of State