Households to pay more than expected to stay warm this winter

Following a colder-than-expected November, U.S. households are forecast to consume more heating fuels than previously expected, resulting in higher heating bills.

Homeowners that rely on natural gas will see their total winter expenses rise nearly 13 percent from last winter, while users of electric heat will see a 2.6 percent increase in costs. That’s the latest forecast from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Propane users in the Midwest, the region of the country with the most propane-heated households, will see this winter’s heating bills jump almost 19 percent.

However, home heating oil users, mostly located in the Northeast, will get a break with an expected 0.3 percent drop in their heating costs compared to last winter. Still, that’s down from the 4.1 percent savings previously expected.

Jonathan Cogan, for EIA, Washington