



Action for Warm Homes

Warm Homes Matter: Summary of our key recommendations

Target further action on energy prices alongside co-ordinated support to drive up low household incomes

- Ensure low income households that benefit from existing schemes like the Warm Home Discount (WHD) and wider support like the Priority Services Register (PSR) are on their energy supplier's cheapest tariff
- Expand access to the WHD to all energy suppliers with over 50,000 customers
- Act on new powers within the current Digital Economy Act to reduce administration costs of disbursing rebates and extend support for automatic energy bill rebates to working families
- Fund a co-ordinated campaign to reduce the number of unclaimed benefits and help passport households through to other support services

Accelerate current commitments by making energy efficiency a key national priority

- Meet the required investment to honour current fuel poverty commitments and accelerate delivery with a more ambitious aim to bring all low income households up to the standard of a new home by 2025
- Ensure the National Infrastructure Commission include energy efficiency as a key part of the upcoming Infrastructure Assessment
- Create a comprehensive and national energy efficiency programme linked closely to any new strategy for decarbonising the UK's heating supply

Urgently extend protections for vulnerable tenants and give landlords clarity on how they can invest in their properties to make them cheaper and easier to heat

- Provide urgent clarity to landlords on how they will be required to invest in potentially life threatening properties
- Ensure poorly converted flats and shared properties such as bedsits and hostels and other Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) are fully covered by new national standards

Extend and re-target current fuel poverty support and address gaps in provision

- Extend the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) for 10 years to create a £6.5bn fund and certainty to the heating and insulation industries and focus it on those in or at risk of living in a cold home
- Ensure all fuel poverty supplier-led schemes take account of the particular needs of vulnerable consumers

- Make immediate funds available for first time gas central heating systems to complete economic gas connections to fuel poor homes
- Retain the Winter Fuel Payment and if any reform is made, the existing budgets must be ring-fenced to help low income pensioners access lower energy bills and energy efficiency improvements to protect them from the cold
- Introduce a national Better Boilers scheme to replace or repair inefficient or broken boilers with A-rated ultra-low emission appliances. The full cost of these measures must be met for low income households to avoid ill health, cut £3.6m spent a day by the NHS treating the impacts of cold homes, reduce winter deaths, lower CO₂ emissions and improve air quality
- The planned roll-out of smart meters and in home displays (IHDs) must be completed to end estimated bills, estimated energy usage and give households accurate information and advice they understand

Investigate the impact of Brexit on energy consumers fully

- The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the regulators Ofgem and Northern Ireland Authority for Energy Regulation (NIAER) should run a call for evidence to clarify which elements of the Energy Union and related EU policies the UK should adopt
- The 2030 Energy Saving Target and all related energy efficiency requirements should be transposed in the UK

Work with the Devolved Nations

- A future UK Government must work much more closely with the devolved nations to mirror energy efficiency as an infrastructure priority consistently across the whole of the UK and unlock access to public and private investment
- An immediate priority is to build a UK-wide recognition of the impact of cold homes on health and establish a joint ministerial summit. This could lead to an ongoing UK-wide taskforce to review the key actions that must be taken across each of the nations to reduce cold related mortality and morbidity
- The next UK Government must provide adequate oversight and regulation of the heating oil industry to protect vulnerable consumers across the UK, ensuring they have similar safeguards to natural gas and electricity consumers

Build on local good practice and replicate consistent outcomes in all our towns and cities

- All local authorities must fulfil their current duties in relation to enforcing housing standards and the next UK Government should support and resource local authorities' activities under the Home Energy Conservation Act
- The next UK Government should encourage civic leaders and local authorities to produce Fuel Poverty Action Plans to meet fuel poverty commitments and put large towns and cities on a path to zero carbon by 2050