



Action for Warm Homes

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

June 2017

NEA NEWS



Fuel poverty levels continue to rise

On 29 June, new fuel poverty statistics for England were released by the UK Government and show an increase in fuel poverty levels; back to one of the highest levels we have seen since 1996. Fuel poverty now affects around 2.5 million households, representing approximately 11% of all English households compared to 2.38 million households (or 10.6% of all households) in England in 2014. The figures for 2014 were also a small increase from 2.35 million households in 2013, the level of fuel poverty prior to the fuel poverty strategy being passed in Parliament.

The fuel poverty gap – an estimation of the additional amount that those in fuel poverty need to pay to heat their homes adequately compared to average households – has not shown any real progress either, and remains at around £884 million. The average fuel poverty gap – the additional amount one average fuel poor household would need to spend – has decreased slightly and is now estimated for 2015 at £353 per year for low-income households living in the least efficient homes.

The news came on the same day the Climate Change Committee (CCC) urged the UK Government to increase support for energy efficiency to meet carbon and fuel poverty targets. In response, NEA and Energy Action Scotland called for adequate UK wide resources to stop tragic winter deaths and a joint ministerial summit on health and fuel poverty with representatives from across all four nations' governments.

- [View the fuel poverty statics report here.](#) (Gov.UK)
- [View the Climate Change Committee's report here.](#) (CCC website)
- [To read our press response visit the NEA website.](#)



New UK Fuel Poverty Monitor published

NEA and EAS have published the new edition of the UK Fuel Poverty Monitor. It has a special focus on the link between fuel poverty and health and provides the latest national fuel poverty statistics and an update on the key aspects of policy which impact on 4 million fuel poor households as well as the population at large.

The report claims there is no central government investment in UK-wide energy efficiency programmes. GB-wide resources that might help meet the costs of cold related morbidity are also declining. In England currently there is still no central government investment in fuel poverty and health related schemes or energy efficiency programmes overall. The report recommends that the new United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund and the National Productivity Investment Fund should support initiatives to meet fuel poverty commitments across the UK nations and more generally improve our unhealthy and inefficient housing stock. The report concludes there are over 12 million homes across the UK that are potentially damaging the health of their occupants and are less efficient than a modern home. Around 4 million contain households on the lowest incomes.

The full UK Fuel Poverty Monitor 2016-17 and executive summary are now available to download from the [NEA website](#).



Groundwork London's WARMTH programme saves energy and improves health outcomes

Groundwork London recently completed delivery of their Warm homes Agency Referral Method To Health outcomes (WARMTH) programme in 11 Boroughs across London. The programme delivered over 17,000 interventions in 2,600 in-home visits in order to reduce fuel poverty, prevent excess winter deaths, and improve health and wellbeing among vulnerable residents.

Each home visit provided a package of support, combining energy saving measures and advice, welfare benefits take-up advice, and a wide range of interventions and onward referrals. Training provided by UCL Centre for Behaviour Change enabled delivery staff to provide high quality interventions, linking behavioural habits and techniques to theory. 12,441 small energy efficiency measures were installed saving residents £53,396 annually with 217,777kg CO2. There were 764 households helped to switch energy supplier to reduce the cost of gas/electricity, saving a combined total of £92,805. Additionally, 416 vulnerable clients were helped to access the Warm Home Discount, providing an additional £58,240 worth of financial help.

Groundwork London will soon publish their service impact report, confirming that home visits went far beyond energy efficiency, and positively affected the health and well-being of individuals and communities. According to analysis from external evaluators MEL, 28% of beneficiaries reported an improvement in the severity of their depression or anxiety, and 36% reported a reduction in the number of GP appointments.

The above findings support the effectiveness of face-to-face interventions for priority groups, which is a key service innovation of the WARMTH 'wrap around' model project. The service continues in many boroughs and housing associations. To find out more or get in touch, visit the [Groundwork website](#).



Footprint Trust launches a power-full project to help the veteran community

Power Force is a new project from the Isle of Wight's Footprint Trust aimed at directly helping the ex-service community on the Island who are suffering the effects of fuel poverty.

A survey carried out by The Royal British Legion (TRBL), in 2014 found that two in ten of the ex-service community had turned the heating down or off, despite it being too cold (a measure of fuel poverty). TRBL state that there is a potential for greater poverty in the ex-service pensioner community than in the UK as a whole.

The Footprint Trust will outreach to veterans and their families through local TRBL branches, public events, cafes, social clubs etc. Anyone who has been in the services, or their family members or dependents can be assisted.

For more information please visit the [Footprint Trust](#) website.



Citizens Advice Gateshead

Citizens Advice Gateshead are aiding in the fight against fuel poverty through their local energy advice services. The charity is offering advice on getting the best deal possible with their energy supplier, helping people apply for financial support to cover energy costs and explaining how to improve homes' energy efficiency.

Whilst designed to help the most vulnerable consumers within society, such as pensioners and low-income families, these services are open to everyone. You can make an appointment or simply drop-in to meet specialist energy advisors who are available all day Wednesday, in addition to Thursday and Friday mornings.

For more information, please email:

darrenc@citizensadvicegateshead.org.uk



Energy Action Scotland's new videos demonstrate impact of tackling poor health and fuel poverty in tandem

With funding secured from the private sector, Energy Action Scotland provided support to some member organisations working on the ground to assist households who struggle to afford their fuel bills and to keep warm at home. The impact the support has had has been captured in two short films now available to view online.

In the two-year project called the Warm and Healthy Homes Fund, Energy Action Scotland used £431,455 of funding to support work in three areas of Scotland where there were on-going initiatives to tackle health and fuel poverty in tandem. Energy Action Scotland worked with THAW in Orkney, Tighean Innse Gall in the Western Isles and Glasgow City Council.

The initiatives engaged with local services such as Care and Repair, CABx, housing associations and the local councils to establish a referral pathway for frontline workers from a range of health and social services including social work, occupational health and Macmillan Cancer Support. Tailored energy advice and advocacy, energy efficiency measures and help in accessing income maximisation, relevant grants and other local support mechanisms were offered.

You can view the videos [here](#) and [here](#) and you find out more about the project [here](#).

NEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



NEA conference programme takes shape

NEA's annual conference and exhibition provides a national forum in which to debate key issues relating to domestic energy efficiency and fuel poverty to inform future policy and practice. The programme is taking shape and can be viewed below.

Early bird booking discounts are available until the end of July.

MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

- Exhibition opening and buffet reception
- Profiling 'Celebrating Inclusivity - Making affordable warmth accessible to all' awards and NEA's 'Full of Energy' schools programme

TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

Session 1: The energy policy landscape and implications for the fuel poor - panel discussion

- Chair: Derek Lickorish, Chair, NEA
- Lawrence Slade, Chief Executive, Energy UK
- Meghna Tewari, Head of Retail Market Policy, Ofgem
- Bill Purvis, Derbyshire Health Programme Manager, Derbyshire County Council
- Other speakers to be confirmed

Session 2: Making the fuel poor and carbon targets a reality

- Chair: TBC
- Claire Thornhill, Frontier Economics, co-author of Affordable Warmth, Clean Growth report
- Peter Smith, Director of Policy and Research, NEA
- Other speakers to be confirmed

Session 3: Treating customers fairly and acting on vulnerability

- Chair: Peter Sumbly, Director of Operations (Community Engagement and Demonstration), NEA
- Gill Furniss MP, Shadow Minister for Consumer Protection
- Meghna Tewari, Head of Retail Market Policy, Ofgem
- Victoria McGregor, Director of Energy, Citizens Advice
- Zoe McLeod, Association, Sustainability First Project Inspire
- Other speakers to be confirmed

Session 4: Innovation: Mainstreaming new approaches to tackling fuel poverty

- Chair: Danni Crosland, Director of Operations, NEA
- **Warm and Healthy Homes Fund:** introduced by Heather Critchlow, Project Development Manager, NEA
- David Bishop, Health Improvement Principal, Public Health East Sussex
- Tom Ruxton, Co-ordinator, Home Energy Efficiency Training
- **Technical Innovation Fund:** introduced by David Lynch, Project Development Manager, NEA
- George Phillips, Energy Initiatives Officer, Colchester Borough Homes
- **Warm Zones Fund:** William Gillis, Managing Director, Warm Zones

Followed by a networking reception promoting the Health & Innovation Fund to all conference participants.

WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

Session 5: Maximising income, improving housing standards and tackling inequalities

- Chair and speaker: Rob Howard, Consultant in Public Health, Leicestershire County Council
- Speaker from Resolution Foundation
- Other speakers to be confirmed

Session 6: Transforming our energy systems

- Chair and speaker: Dr Sara Walker, Senior Lecturer, Centre for Energy Systems Integration
- Charles Bradshaw-Smith, Chief Executive, SmartKlub Ltd
- Maxine Frerk, Grid Edge Policy and co-author of the Heat Decarbonisation report
- Tim German, Senior Stakeholder Manager, Energy Systems Catapult
- Other speakers to be confirmed

Closing address

- Penney Poyzer, Managing Director, Nourish Associates
- Final remarks from Jenny Saunders, Chief Executive, NEA



ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE

Early bird discounts are available until the end of July and, as always, additional discounts are available for NEA members.

NEA MEMBERS

- Not for profit / local authorities - £253 + VAT
- Private sector - £325 + VAT

NON MEMBERS

- Not for profit / local authorities - £343 + VAT
- Private sector - £424 + VAT

Booking fee includes:

- Access to the full conference programme
- Invitation to the exhibiton opening buffet reception on Monday evening
- Invitation to the conference gala dinner, hosted by Lord O'Neill of Clackmannan, on Tuesday evening
- Lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday
- Refreshments at designated times throughout conference

For more information and to book your place visit the [NEA website](#).

EXHIBITING AT CONFERENCE

As always, members of NEA's **Business Supporters Group** can exhibit at the NEA conference and exhibition free of charge. If you haven't booked your space yet please contact [Brian Hart](#) for a booking form and current stand availability.

NEA standard members are able to exhibit at conference at the discounted price of **£650 + VAT**, which buys you a shell scheme stand measuring 3m x 2m and **also includes one delegate place**. If you are interested in exhibiting please contact [Brian Hart](#).

Further information can be found on the [NEA website](#) alonge with [current stand availability](#).

National Energy Action

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