



FEBRUARY 2016



Committee on Fuel Poverty

NEA chief executive appointed to Government Committee on Fuel Poverty

We are pleased to announce that NEA's chief executive, Jenny Saunders has been appointed as a member of the government's Committee on Fuel Poverty. This new group, which is much smaller in size with six members, has an updated remit to the previous Fuel Poverty Advisory Group for England.

Jenny was appointed for three years following an open process conducted by DECC and the Committee on Public Appointments. Although Jenny will not be representing NEA, she will be drawing heavily on her experience and knowledge from working for NEA. And of course through NEA she has access to the views of a significant number of people who also have long experience of working on fuel poverty either as practitioners or campaigners.

All members of the committee have declared their interests and have agreed to comply with the Nolan principles of public life. Jenny will receive a fee which she will donate to the charity.

The remit of the group and minutes of meetings and reports will be placed on the committee's web pages on the government's website. It is very early days but the committee has an ambitious programme of work which they hope will help the Westminster government deliver effectively on its fuel poverty strategy for England.



HIP HIP HOORAY! NEA Health and Innovation Projects launch

We're delighted to announce that projects funded under our £26.2 million Health and Innovation Programme (HIP) are now underway. HIP will bring affordable warmth to over 6000 fuel poor and vulnerable households in England, Wales and Scotland via three distinct funds – the Technical Innovation Fund, the Warm and Healthy Homes Fund, and the Warm Zones Fund (delivered by WarmZones cic). In Scotland a Healthy Homes Fund is being delivered by Energy Action Scotland (EAS).

We will be updating our website with full details of each project delivered under the Warm and Healthy Homes Fund and Technical Innovation Fund on an ongoing basis. For further information visit www.nea.org.uk.



The Nation's Biggest Housewarming & Fuel Poverty Awareness Day

Friday 26 February is Fuel Poverty Awareness Day. We will be taking the opportunity to highlight the cost of cold homes on the NHS, as well as the range of excellent work that is being undertaken across the UK to tackle fuel poverty.

Many of you are holding your own events as part of the day, some of which are funded through our Warm Homes Campaign Award Scheme. We hope that many more of you will use the day to highlight your own work to tackle fuel poverty via Twitter or other social media channels (#fuelpovertyawarenessday / @NEA_UKCharity).

We also have a range of publications available to our members free of charge to help with any events and advice work that you

may be running over the winter. To order copies of these please go to the order form on our website.

NEA is also running the Nation's Biggest Housewarming on Friday 26 February to coincide with Fuel Poverty Awareness Day. The 'Housewarming' will raise funds for NEA to further assist people in fuel poverty. NEA members and supporters across the country are holding different fundraising events as part in the campaign. These include bake sales, coffee mornings and wear a onesie to work. You can also get involved on social media using the hashtag #neahousewarming. For more information or to receive a fundraising pack please contact laura.mcveigh@nea.org.uk.



Collaboration for Action on Fuel Poverty: NEA & DECC Seminars 2016

Limited places are still available for the five seminars that NEA will be delivering in February and March with the support of the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). The draft programme is available to view on our website.

The seminars will include the role of local partners in the delivery of home energy efficiency, including future obligation; establishing the evidence base for energy efficiency and health links; ensuring quality and innovation in schemes focused on fuel poverty, including the Bonfield review and an update on other initiatives that will assist the government in delivering on fuel poverty targets.

In the core cities of Manchester, Birmingham and Newcastle there will be reference to the opportunities and challenges facing each city.

To reserve your place please go to the NEA website and click the link for the seminar you wish to attend.



A new voice for local government energy professionals

On 1 February the Carbon Action Network became the Association of Local Energy Officers (ALEO) to more closely reflect our role as the voice of energy professionals working in local government across England and Wales. The federal structure of our network means that the English regions and Wales will discuss adopting the new name over coming months. ALEO welcomes the continued participation and support of social landlords, community energy organisations and private sector partners in our networks. The very current moves towards greater devolution within England and to Wales present significant opportunities for cross-sector local energy partnerships and the association will be making the case for these at the highest levels.

[ALEO website](#)



SEPD Resilient Communities Fund reopens for applications

Community groups across central southern England can apply for assistance through the £1 million Resilient Communities Fund, established by Southern Electric Power Distribution (SEPD) to help local people plan for and cope with power cuts caused by extreme weather events such as hurricane force winds, flooding or heavy snow.

Decisions on grants are made by an independent panel with representation from National Energy Action, British Red Cross and the Centre for Sustainable Energy. Since the fund launched in early 2015 the panel have awarded 49 community organisations a total of £336,982 for projects such as volunteer training and equipment including back up generators, flood defences, emergency weather kits, and rescue vehicles. The fund opened for its third round on the 18 January 2016.

The deadline for applications is 1 April 2016. Community groups across Southern Electric Power Distribution's network area in central southern England can apply for grants between £500 and £20,000. For more information on eligibility, please visit www.ssepd.co.uk/resiliencefund

Road to 2020: Delivering low carbon homes cost effectively – 24 February, London

Regulatory drivers seem to be falling down every week, but 'zero carbon' is not dead – it's merely sheltering from strong political headwinds. This national conference focus on the issues and approaches to achieve 2020's 'nearly zero' milestones, including the practical case studies from housing associations and the role that new technologies such as BIM play in driving quality up and costs down. Come along on the 24 February, learn more and register to attend by clicking the button below

[Sustainable Homes Conference](#)



HIA National Conference

The HIA National Conference aims to inspire the home improvement agency sector to embrace innovation and work collaboratively to improve services. Against a backdrop of scarce funding and increasing demand, our sector needs to find new ways of delivering quality services and forging productive new partnerships with the local health and care system.

The conference will be an opportunity for the housing support sector, social housing providers, commissioners and voluntary sector to get up to speed with the latest national policy updates and find out more about the role of housing support services within Manchester's devolution deal.

Our event will also provide the necessary practical tools for HIAs to tailor their services according to commissioners' requirements and the marketing insight and knowledge needed to redefine the offer while delivering increasing value for money.

[Register on the Foundations website](#)



Lord Ezra MBE

Lord Ezra MBE died just before Christmas and there were a number of obituaries reflecting on his amazing achievements.

Derek became Chairman of NEA's Council, moving to become President when the Executive Committee (Board) was established. He then served as Patron and only stood down when he decided to reduce a number of his public commitments around 16 years ago at the age of 80. He remained very interested in the issue of fuel poverty and would send me requests for briefings as he continued to raise matters of concern on energy efficiency and social aspects of energy policy in the House of Lords, and still attended occasional debates in the House up until last year.

I last visited him around a year ago when he instructed me on what level of detail he needed for a question he wanted to pose to the minister on the floor of the House – he was very disturbed by the level of fuel poverty and lack of a clear strategic plan that would make any impact. I shall remember him as a formidable champion for our cause and someone committed to fighting for warm and energy efficient homes for all.

I asked David Green and Gill Owen, Founder Members of NEA to reflect on his contribution to NEA during the early days of the charity and you can read their memories [on our website](#).

Jenny Saunders OBE, Chief Executive



