



October 2016

NEWS



Warm Homes Campaign and Fuel Poverty Awareness Day

Our **Warm Homes Campaign** 2016-17 will launch on 29 November and continue until 17 February 2017 which is **Fuel Poverty Awareness Day**. The campaign will aim to raise awareness amongst decision-makers and members of the public of the problem of fuel poverty and the solutions available, and in particular focus on some of the health impacts of fuel poverty and the excellent work being undertaken to tackle this at a local level. As always we are keen to showcase the work that our members are doing to address fuel poverty, which could include the following:

- Arranging for a visit to your project or clients by local elected officials
- Promoting your work and the campaign on your media channels and in the local media
- Supporting us on Twitter or via other social media channels

More information will be provided on our website shortly. We are also running our popular **Warm Homes Campaign Award Scheme** which will provide grants of up to £500 for organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland who wish to hold their own events during the campaign period. [Further information can be found on the NEA website](#). **The closing date is 3 November.**

To register activities or discuss other ways in which you could support the campaign please contact [Sarah Wright](#).



NEA research team request for support for carbon monoxide project

NEA Research is looking for organisations to help us on a Gas Safety Trust-funded research project to understand carbon monoxide risk in homes. As part of Year 2 of the project (Winter 2016/17), we are seeking to distribute a short self-completion postal questionnaire to households. We are actively seeking stakeholders who have the ability to reach one or more of: private tenants (owner occupied or rented sector); AND/OR rural areas and can help distribute the questionnaire.

This help could involve posting out the questionnaire to service users (NEA will cover costs), distributing questionnaires at local events, services, home visits etc.

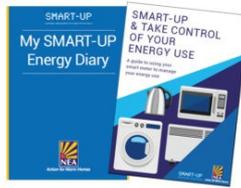
The questionnaire will capture key data on combustion appliances and related behaviours in the home, and is for self-completion by the household. There is a prize draw to incentivise household completion and return.

A report on the two-year research project will be launched early 2017 and your participation will be acknowledged. We hope the research will better inform government and policy makers on carbon monoxide risk in vulnerable households and the links between carbon monoxide risk and fuel poverty.

For more information or if you are interested in helping please contact NEA Research:

[Juliette Burroughs](#) or 0207 250 8319

[Andy Stephenson](#) or 0191 269 2912



SMART-UP

Through this three-year project NEA will work with partners in Malta, Italy, Spain and France to increase knowledge of and engagement with smart meters amongst 5000 vulnerable consumers.

Based on the premise that the more vulnerable customers are supported to understand and interact with their smart meter, the more likely they are to achieve energy savings and benefit from other related services, the project will train installers and frontline workers so they are able to offer enhanced advice to smart meter customers, and then monitor the impact of this. As well as ensuring that 1,000 vulnerable households in each country benefit from enhanced advice, a smaller scale pilot will also examine the impact of other interventions to help encourage interaction with the meter. The results from the project will be used to help inform smart meter roll out at both nationally and across Europe.

These resources have been developed to assist frontline staff deliver advice to vulnerable householders on how to use their smart meters and are available free of charge. To receive copies please [complete the form on the NEA website](#) and answer a few questions to help us monitor the reach of the project, you will then receive a link by email to download the documents.

For more information visit the project website at www.smartup-project.eu or contact [Sarah Wright](#).



Smart Energy GB in Communities

Smart Energy GB in Communities, led by NEA, forms a part of Smart Energy GBs partnerships programme. The programme has been active since March 2016, and has already worked with an extensive number of partner organisations. We have already trained over 300 individuals (from over 100 different partner organisations) to understand smart metering.

One strand of the programme is free training to organisations working with individuals in our [priority groups](#). There are limited remaining places on our upcoming courses, so please get in touch quickly if you would like to book a place.

Two different strands of training are on offer, they are independent of each other and you may want to opt to attend one or both of the sessions.

[Marketing and campaigns training](#). Please note this training is not designed to improve delegates' knowledge about smart meters, it aims to provide attendees with a foundation in marketing and communications skills. If you are interested in separate training to equip you to provide advice sessions on smart meters please read below for more information on the opportunities available.

[Smart meter champion training](#). This is about building knowledge and capacity about smart meters and the rollout.

NEA's one day accredited smart meter training course is an introductory course which will provide an overview of the campaign, smart meters, the roll out and available support for organisations and for individuals.



Action for Warm Homes

Vacancies

Non Executive Board Member

For over 30 years National Energy Action has been the voice on behalf of those, especially vulnerable, people who cannot afford to keep their homes warm.

The governance and strategic direction for National Energy Action is provided by its Board of Trustees. We are looking to recruit a new trustee, with a commitment to eradicating fuel poverty in Wales, to support the work of the charity.

We would like to hear from you if you have experience in the areas of health; poverty alleviation; energy industry; national or international networks; civil service (senior level) or charity management. We are also looking for those who are able to bring skills in health, working with local authorities and in the voluntary sector. As this post is specifically to advise and support NEA's Board of Trustees and the Director (Wales) on Welsh issues, you must have experience of working with the Welsh Government or other statutory bodies/agencies in Wales.

Please contact [Tracey Archer](#) for an application pack.

Closing date for applications is 5 December 2016.

Project Development Co-ordinator (East Midlands). Two year fixed term



Action for Warm Homes

£26,208 to £30,451 local authority scale points 29-34 plus 11½% non-contributory pension.

NEA is currently recruiting for an experienced, enthusiastic and self-motivated Project Development Co-ordinator to assist the charity to deliver innovative projects to tackle fuel poverty.

The post holder will also be responsible for the delivery of a range of projects which will demonstrate good practice in delivery of affordable warmth for low income and vulnerable householders.

The post has been identified as fixed term for two years as there is specific project funding for a new project aimed at bringing affordable warmth for low income and vulnerable householders to be delivered in the East Midlands and surrounding regions. Post holders will need to be proficient in giving energy advice.

Full job details and application form can be downloaded from the [NEA website](#).

The closing date for applications is noon on Thursday 3 November September 2016.

POLICY UPDATE

NEA conference key policy topics

NEA's annual conference in September allowed over 300 delegates to come together to discuss the latest developments on national and local policies that aim to tackle fuel poverty and many forthcoming policy changes were discussed in particular; Changes to the design of the Energy Company Obligation and the Warm Homes Discount to better target energy efficiency improvements and rebates to households in fuel poverty; The increasingly recognised role of different players in governance and the delivery of energy saving schemes and how some local councils and city regions are starting to embrace opportunities offered by devolution and proactive enforcement action of decent housing standards. Delegates also learnt about the impact of local and national approaches to data-sharing for public sector bodies; Revisions to the Renewable Heat Incentive; Understanding how Ofgem and the companies will implement recommendations made by the Competition Market Authority as well as the shift towards principles based regulation and the opportunity for a new Government department responsible for coordinating fuel poverty across Britain and for implementing the fuel poverty strategy for England.

[You can view the presentations on the NEA website here.](#)

Committee on Fuel Poverty first report

The first report of the Committee on Fuel Poverty was released at NEA's conference on the 23 September. The report sets out where they see early opportunities to make a difference and makes recommendations on these and gives their views on matters which are subject to current or imminent Government decisions. Beyond this, the report discusses some of the key issues in tackling fuel poverty and outlines their early views on these. Recommendations include providing additional funds for energy efficiency from National Infrastructure funds; improving the targeting of fuel poor households and strong support for new Data Sharing legislation; the need to target expenditure from the full suite of Government fuel poverty programmes and recommends private landlords improve homes to minimum standards out of their own funds and also strengthening HHSRS enforcement etc. The report also provides statistics on the shortfall of funding for meeting the 2030 target and interim milestones.

[Read the all the recommendations and the full report here](#) (gov.uk website).



Get Warm Soon? report

Also released at NEA's conference was a new NEA report "Get Warm Soon?". NEA assesses how far health and wellbeing boards (HWBs) in England are including relevant public health indicators in their joint needs assessments and strategies. NEA has also reviewed the extent to which relevant guidance by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is being applied locally. Whilst the results of our report highlight fuel poverty is increasingly being mentioned as a public health priority, the findings also show that only a small number of HWBs and local areas are developing or updating appropriate strategies or applying the NICE guidance. NEA also highlight the Department of Health and Public Health England must establish a new system of national oversight and develop frameworks which consistently replicate NICE's new related quality standards.

[Download the report from the NEA website.](#)

NEA's Top 10 policy priorities

Following NEA's annual conference NEA has updated our key policy asks. The briefing highlights how the UK Government and the devolved nations could mobilise relevant departments to deliver current fuel poverty strategies and reverse the decision to cut the delivery of home energy improvements.

The 10 priority areas highlighted for the UK can be [found on the NEA website here](#).

For more information contact [Peter Smith](#), Director of Policy and Research.

NEA at the 2016 political party conferences

NEA has attended all of the main party political conferences to engage MPs on our current key policy priorities. As well as directly meeting MPs NEA attended many events and highlighted the need to meet statutory targets and wider related commitments such as minimum energy performance standards in the private rented sector and tackling exclusion in the energy market. NEA met with the leader of the opposition, shadow chancellor, current and former DECC/BEIS ministers, current opposition BEIS Ministers, over 15 other MPs, leaders of new and emerging Combined Authorities, Leaders of Birmingham CC and Liverpool CC and engaged with new and existing industry and charity partners. NEA also provides the secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Fuel Poverty & Energy Efficiency Group and was encouraged many MPs were keen to help raise awareness of the problem of fuel poverty and the policies needed to eradicate it.

Digital Economy Bill

NEA has produced a detailed briefing on how the Digital Economy Bill could play an important role in supporting energy companies to identify and deliver help to struggling energy consumers. NEA's briefing highlights how these actions are in line with the Fuel Poverty Strategy for England. The report also provides amendments to secure greater involvement necessary from local authorities, energy network companies and local public sector health bodies. NEA also stresses that the new powers must be explicit that sensitive information regarding household income, benefit entitlements and energy costs should only be used for the purpose of directly improving the welfare of the individuals whose data is being shared.

For more information contact [Peter Smith](#), Director of Policy and Research.

ECO update

On 16 August NEA responded to **ECO: Help to Heat** consultation. NEA has consulted our supporters extensively before and during this consultation. Response captured feedback from NEA call for evidence and workshops at forums on the delivery of the current ECO programme. NEA also held a workshop with its supporters in early August 2016 to provide an opportunity to discuss supporter's views and review the consultation questions.

You can read the main points we make in our ECO response [here](#) and download the full response [here](#).

NEA is now awaiting the UK Government response for the transition year and the consultation on the longer-term ECO programme from 2018 will be released in Jan 2017.

Ofgem update

On the 2nd August Ofgem's released a CMA implementation plan. [See here](#) (*Ofgem website*). Within the document Ofgem have provided details of when the pre-payment meter price control will be introduced (by the start of April 17). In addition, current PPM installation charges under warrant can range from £200 - £900. On the 14 September Ofgem issued a proposals which seek to end PPM warrant related charges for the most vulnerable customers [see here](#) (*Ofgem website*).

Ofgem have also released draft proposals for a new vulnerability principle when moving towards introducing Principle Based Regulation (PBR) [see here](#) (*Ofgem website*).

Smart meter update

On the 2 October BEIS published statistics for smart meter installations from April to June 2016. More than four million smart meters have already been installed across Great Britain [see here](#) (*gov.uk website*). In addition, within the recent smart energy outlook it shows that 84 per cent of people with a smart meter have a better idea of their energy costs and 80 per cent taking at least one step to reduce their energy use at home. Eight in ten people with a smart meter would recommend them to others. The first round of large grant recipients Smart Energy GB in Communities was also announced on 4 October 2016.

Further details on the grants awarded can be [found here](#) (*CAF website*).

MEMBERS NEWS

Energy Impact Award Winners 2016



The Energy Impact Award Scheme recognises innovation and best practice amongst agencies running projects that focus on energy projects tackling fuel poverty by benefiting vulnerable people in the local area.

Our two winners were presented with their awards at the NEA Annual Conference in Manchester in September: a first prize of £10,000 and a runner-up prize of £7,500. Interest in the scheme was extremely strong with 77 applications received in total – the highest number we have experienced to date for one of our energy efficiency award schemes.

Winners

Beat the Cold were successful in being chosen as the 1st prize winner for their project “Saving Lives with Solar”- Community Energy Scheme. The project is a ground-breaking example of collaborative work and information sharing between the NHS, the third sector and private investors to accurately target and improve the health and wellbeing of those in fuel poverty, save the NHS and wider health economy money, and reduce the carbon footprint of a substantial hospital property portfolio. The model also has the potential to be replicated across communities in the UK. The prize money of £10,000 will be spent to achieve outputs with immediate short-term impact as well as much longer-term savings, support, and knowledge transfer. The money will be used for continued upskilling sessions during the lifetime of the project to frontline healthcare staff and for delivery of tailored one-to-one support in relation to fuel poverty for vulnerable households in their own home for approximately 4,000 households (6,000 individuals) over the lifetime of the project in its current form.

The runner-up is **Community Energy Plus** in Cornwall. Their project “Energy Fit Kitchens” was awarded the £7,500 second prize. This pilot project took the innovative approach of using slow cooking workshops as an engagement tool to encourage people who might not otherwise be interested in accessing energy advice to gain essential life skills in home energy management so that they can take control of their energy bills and enjoy warmer, healthier, homes. The prize money will enable them to deliver a second phase of the project, building on the achievements and learnings of the first, and trialling a more holistic approach of working with parents and their children to encourage entire families to cook and save energy together.

The project focuses on working with low-income households with children who are living in fuel poverty and are struggling with their energy costs. A total of up to 315 parents and children will be participating in workshops which means that 105 households will benefit from improved home energy management life skills, lower energy bills and warmer homes with less condensation and mould.

NEA and British Gas would like to congratulate both winners and we look forward to working with them both during the coming months to follow the progress and further success of their projects.



Community Action Partnership workshops and website

Community Action Partnership workshops and website
A new website has launched to provide community groups and frontline workers with resources and information about what fuel poverty is, what they can do to help people suffering from fuel poverty and where to find assistance.

Visit the Community Action on Fuel Poverty website at www.fuelpovertyresource.org.uk

Twenty workshops will be held nationwide (16 in England and four in Wales) to help introduce community groups and those interested in assisting people in fuel poverty to the new website and encourage them to utilise its resources. Contact [Lorraine Donaldson](#) if you are interested in attending or finding out more information about the workshops.



GMCA Green Deal Communities

Greater Manchester Combined Authority, recently completed its Green Deal Communities project and they've produced a film to share so that others can see the benefits of the project.

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The project, worth £8.8 million, was funded by BEIS, customer contributions, local authority monies and ECO funds. It delivered energy efficiency works in over 1,300 homes across the whole of Greater Manchester, in the owner-occupied and private rented sector, predominantly low-income households. Over 900 homes in the private sector received external wall insulation. The project was delivered by all 10 Greater Manchester local authorities, and local installers.

Greater Manchester's Green Deal Communities Programme recently won 'Large-scale project of the year 2016' at the National Energy Efficiency Awards, [check out this video about the project to see what made it so special](#).

DIARY DATES



Fuel Poverty Forums

To attend any of the forums below, follow the links and complete the online registration form.

01/11/16 - [London & South East Fuel Poverty Forum](#)

02/11/16 - [North East Fuel Poverty Forum](#)

03/11/16 - [East Midlands Fuel Poverty Forum](#)

08/11/16 - [Eastern Fuel Poverty Forum](#)

10/11/16 - [South West Fuel Poverty Forum](#)

11/11/16 - [North West Fuel Poverty Forum](#)

18/11/16 - [Yorkshire & The Humber Fuel Poverty Forum](#)



NEA conference 2017

Next year's annual conference will take place in Nottingham from 11-13 September.

[Book your place now](#) and get it at the early-bird rate and avoid any price increases when booking officially opens next year.

Don't forget that the delegate fee includes a **drinks reception and buffet** on Monday evening; **gala dinner** on Tuesday evening; **lunch** on Tuesday and Wednesday and **refreshments** at designated times throughout conference, making it extremely good value for money.

Once you have booked and paid for your place we will send you a voucher. We will contact you next year when booking officially opens for your catering and dietary choices.

[Book your place online here](#).



Exhibit at next year's conference

If you would like to exhibit at next year's conference you can [register your interest here](#) and receive information as soon as booking opens. NEA's Business Supporters Group members can exhibit free of charge.

TRAINING



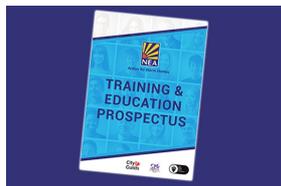
E-Learning from NEA

Did you know that NEA's [Fuel Poverty & Health](#) and [Fuel Bill Management](#) courses are now available as e-learning modules?

E-learning has been available within the training industry for a number of years and in recent years more and more individuals and organisations are recognising the possible benefits and opting for this form of delivery.

Our e-learning courses are PC, tablet and smartphone compatible allowing learners to study at a time and place that is convenient to them while keeping costs and time commitment to a minimum.

Organisation and individual licences are available, for further details please contact [Lynsey Thompson](#) or call 0191 261 5677.



Training from NEA

Have your staff been trained to be able to identify low income and vulnerable households living in cold damp homes?

Do they have the skills to signpost them into available assistance?

NEA has developed a range of innovative training courses to meet the needs of organisations working in the housing, environmental health, health, advice and energy efficiency fields keen to address the broader consequences of fuel poverty and cold damp homes for local communities.

[You can download our new 2016-17 training prospectus here.](#)

And don't forget that members receive a discount on training fees.

For more information contact [Lynsey Thompson](#) or telephone 0191 269 2931.

If you would like to submit a notice or short article for the next newsletter please send your copy to Brian Hart by Friday 18 November.

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