

Fuel Poverty in Antrim and Newtownabbey



In 2024, 40% of households in Northern Ireland were living in fuel poverty, spending more than 10% of their income on energy.



The median energy rating score for dwellings assessed between 2013 – 2023 was **EPC D**.



The seasonal increase in mortality in winter 2023/24 was an estimated **20 deaths**.



13% of residents in 2021 lived in the **private rented sector**, where there are currently no minimum energy efficiency standards.



The average rate of **relative poverty** after housing costs between 2021 and 2024 was **15%**.



The **median weekly wage** in 2024 was **£560**.



In 2024, **8%** of the population were in receipt of **Universal Credit**, and **10%** were in receipt of **Personal Independence Payment**.



In 2023/24, **9%** of all **Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme (NISEP)** measures were installed here.



At the Census 2021, **47%** of occupied households had **'oil only'** central heating and **38%** had **'mains gas only'**.



At the Census 2021, only **4%** of households had any **renewable energy systems**.

Across Northern Ireland

- There is a lack of up-to-date data available in Northern Ireland. The most recent official estimate of fuel poverty was 27% in 2022, modelled using baseline data from the 2016 House Condition Survey. However, LucidTalk polling for NEA NI estimated the rate of fuel poverty in 2024 at 40%.
- The NI Executive currently has no statutory fuel poverty target. This is unlike Great Britain.
- According to Marie Curie, more than 1 in every 4 people who died in Northern Ireland in 2022 were in fuel poverty.
- Polling for NEA NI (2024) found that 31% of Northern Ireland households reported health and wellbeing impacts, and almost 1 in 10 households cut back on food, due to rising energy prices and the cost of living.
- In Northern Ireland, around 63% of homes use oil for heating – the highest share of any UK nation.