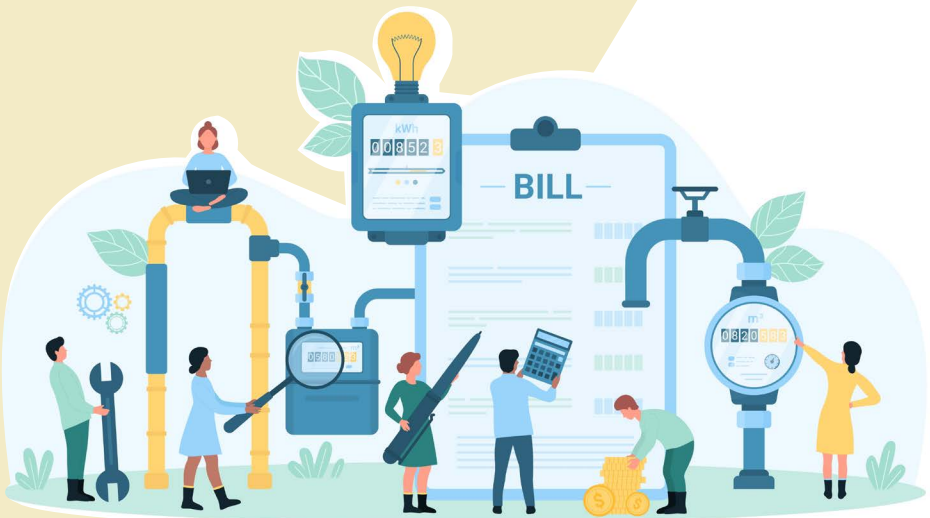




MANIFESTO FOR WARMTH

National Energy Action Northern Ireland's calls to all political parties and candidates ahead of the upcoming Northern Ireland Assembly Elections and the Local Government Elections.



PHOTOGRAPHY: SHUTTERSTOCK

National Energy Action (NEA) is the national fuel poverty charity. We've worked for over 40 years across England, Wales and Northern Ireland (as **National Energy Action Northern Ireland**), to ensure that everyone can afford to live in a warm, healthy home.

Around 39% of households in Northern Ireland are estimated to be living in fuel poverty¹.

A toxic combination of low incomes, high energy prices and energy inefficient homes leave many unable to afford the basics. Too many are living in cold, damp homes, rationing essentials, and worried about energy costs – with grave physical and mental health consequences. Children are growing up in conditions that can put their health, comfort and life chances at risk.

The **upcoming elections** to the Northern Ireland Assembly and Local Government provide a **vital opportunity** to focus collective efforts and drive fuel poverty out of our homes, ensuring that vulnerable people across Northern Ireland can afford to keep warm now and into the future.

This must be a **moment for all political parties to commit to enduring action to end fuel poverty in Northern Ireland** – preventing harm and delivering lasting societal and economic benefits across housing, health, the environment and social justice.

OUR PROPOSALS

Deliver the Executive's Warm Healthy Homes Strategy (2026-2036).

The Executive's new fuel poverty strategy sets out a long-term framework to deliver the vision of a warm, healthy home for everyone. Its success will depend on sustained political commitment across all parties, strong accountability, and investment aligned to the scale and urgency of fuel poverty in Northern Ireland.

All political parties should commit to delivery by:

- Supporting the introduction of **statutory fuel poverty targets** to drive long-term delivery.
- Backing **clear, outcome-focused action plans**, with named lead departments for each action.
- Ensuring the strategy is **adequately resourced**, with funding aligned to the scale of need.



¹ NEA NI, (2025). [LucidTalk – NEA NI: September 2025 – NI Attitudinal Poll.](#)

Significantly increase investment in energy efficiency to cut bills, tackle fuel poverty and make homes greener.

Increasing energy efficiency is an essential long-term solution to reducing fuel poverty and supporting climate targets. Retrofitting for decarbonisation must result in warmer homes.



All political parties should act by:

- Supporting an ambitious, well-resourced **Warm Healthy Homes Fund**, that delivers energy efficiency investment at scale for low-income and vulnerable households, including households with children.
- Backing a **fair and affordable transition to net zero**, including fair allocation of decarbonisation costs.

Improve protections for renters against cold, damp homes.



Stronger regulation is needed to protect renters from energy inefficient homes, and the consequences of living in cold, damp housing.

All political parties should commit to:

- Introducing **minimum energy efficiency standards** and extending **Awaab's Law protections** to all rented homes in Northern Ireland.

Provide additional financial support for fuel poor households.

Energy bills remain out of reach for thousands of households across Northern Ireland, with many telling us they ration their energy and forego other essentials to cut down costs.

All political parties should boost the incomes of fuel poor households by:

- Supporting the introduction of an **energy social tariff** to provide discounted, targeted energy bill support to low-income and vulnerable households.
- Advocating for the expansion of **Discretionary Support** to include grants for fuel, regardless of home heating type.
- Working to introduce the **Warm Home Discount Scheme** or similar in Northern Ireland.

Introduce regulatory oversight of the heating oil market.

More than 60% of households in Northern Ireland rely on home heating oil, yet consumers do not have the same protections as households connected to gas and electricity networks, as noted by the Competition and Markets Authority's 2026 market study².

All political parties should commit to:

- Supporting the introduction of a **new, proportionate regulatory regime** for home heating oil suppliers.
- Establishing a **register of vulnerable heating oil customers** to help target appropriate protections and support.

² Competition and Markets Authority (2026). [Heating Oil Market Study](#).

PRIORITIES FOR WARMTH

Deliver the Executive's **Warm Healthy Homes Strategy (2026–2036)**.

Significantly **increase investment in energy efficiency** to cut bills, tackle fuel poverty and make homes greener.

Provide **additional financial support** for fuel poor households.

Improve **protections for renters** against cold, damp homes.

Introduce **regulatory oversight of the heating oil market**.

If you would like further information,
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