Fuel Poverty in Belfast

In 2025, 39% 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 April 2013 and March 2023 was 68 (EPC band D).



The estimated seasonal increase in mortality during winter 2024/25 was 200 additional deaths.



Across 2022/23 – 2024/25, 22% of households were renting in the Private Rented Sector.



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



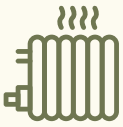
The **median weekly wage** in 2025 was **£662**.



In 2025, **14.6%** of the population were in receipt of **Universal Credit**, and **14.1%** were in receipt of **Personal Independence Payment**.



In 2024/25, **33.9%** of all **Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme (NISEP)** measures were installed here.



At the Census 2021, **20%** of occupied households had **'oil only'** central heating and **71%** had **'mains gas only'**.



At the Census 2021, only **3%** of households had any **renewable energy systems**.

Across Northern Ireland

- Health and wellbeing: LucidTalk polling for NEA NI in 2025 found that 1 in 4 households experienced health and wellbeing impacts, and 7% had cut back on food, due to rising energy prices and the cost of living.
- Child fuel poverty: Around 174,000 children are estimated to be living in fuel poverty (NEA).
- Dying in fuel poverty: Almost 1 in 3 people in their last year of life (27%) are estimated to be in fuel poverty (Marie Curie).
- Reliance on home heating oil: Around 61% of households use oil central heating as their primary heating method (Department for the Economy).
- Fuel poverty target: The NI Executive has a 10-year Warm Healthy Homes Strategy (2026-2036), but no statutory fuel poverty reduction target.

NATIONAL ENERGY ACTION
NORTHERN IRELAND

Who we are

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

Together with frontline practitioners, companies, regulators and governments, National Energy Action works to support vulnerable clients, raise awareness and achieve enduring change.

In Northern Ireland, we chair the **Fuel Poverty Coalition NI** and act as the secretariat to the **All-Party Group on Fuel Poverty**. We advocate for policy and regulatory reforms to protect the most vulnerable, and we deliver accredited training to improve standards in energy advice.

Through the **Belfast Warm and Well Project**, we provide advice and practical support to local people struggling to keep their homes warm.

Key policy recommendations

National Energy Action NI is calling on the NI Executive, Assembly, and local councils to:

- Deliver the Executive's **Warm Healthy Homes Strategy** (2026–2036) to tackle fuel poverty in Northern Ireland.
- Support an ambitious, properly resourced **Warm Healthy Homes Fund**, that delivers energy efficiency investment at scale for low-income and vulnerable households, including households with children.
- Set **statutory fuel poverty targets** to drive long-term delivery and monitor progress.
- Establish **minimum energy efficiency standards** and extend **Awaab's Law protections** to all rented homes in Northern Ireland.
- Introduce an **energy social tariff** to provide discounted, targeted energy bill support to low-income and vulnerable households.
- Support a **just and affordable transition to net zero**, including fair allocation of decarbonisation costs.
- Introduce **regulatory oversight of the heating oil market**.

For further information please contact:
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For statistical references
scan the QR code or go to:
http://qr.nea.org.uk/nistats