



## A MANIFESTO TO END FUEL POVERTY

**Everybody has the right to a warm, dry home that they can afford to heat and power.** Yet, millions live in fuel poverty.

Fuel poverty means that a household is forced below the poverty line as a result of the cost of using energy in their home. According to the latest definition of fuel poverty, almost one in five households are in fuel poverty in England alone ([BEIS](#)).

Fuel poverty is caused by low income, high fuel prices, poor energy efficiency, unaffordable housing prices and poor quality private rental housing. It can lead to respiratory, circulatory and mental health problems ([PHE](#)) as well as c.15,000 winter deaths caused by cold homes ([NEA](#)). In children, it can lead to developmental problems and poor performance at school ([NCB](#)). It can also lead to people taking days off work ([IPPR](#)).

But it doesn't have to be this way.

**The End Fuel Poverty Coalition calls on all political parties to commit to a Manifesto that will end fuel poverty for good. To achieve this, the next Government must:**

### **1. Declare energy efficiency and eliminating fuel poverty a national infrastructure priority.**

Improve the homes of all low income households and the private rented sector to the energy standards required for homes built today (Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C) by 2030. This will result in dramatic improvements in comfort, health and quality of life and energy bill affordability for occupants.

Improving the energy efficiency standards of Britain's homes could cut household bills by around £370 a year, while reducing our reliance on gas imports by a quarter. It would also boost economic growth, create jobs in every constituency of the country and reduce pressure on health and social care services.

Improved winter warmth and lowered relative humidity have proven benefits for cardiovascular, respiratory, and mental health ([National Grid](#)). Hence, for every £1 spent on retrofitting fuel-poor homes an estimated £0.42 is saved in UK National Health Service spending ([T. Bailey, et al.](#)). The retrofit and building programme, delivered safely and under supervision of local authorities, will also bring improvements to lighting, damp, draughts, security, safety and community spaces.

### **2. Take immediate action to improve the standards of rented homes.**

This requires effective enforcement of the regulations on private renting, the standards required of social housing and the outlawing of dangerously cold homes from 2020 onwards. It should also form part of a wider programme to

improve renters' rights, security of tenure and affordability alongside empowering tenants' / residents' associations and protection for those who speak up and represent them.

### **3. Reform the domestic energy supply market.**

Retain the whole market price cap until it's proven that the problems that it addresses will not simply re-emerge. Put in place enduring and more targeted price protection for consumers in vulnerable situations if and when the price cap is removed. Extend the Warm Home Discount beyond 2020-21 and guarantee that all households that are both low income and vulnerable can receive support.

### **4. End the Benefits Freeze and address the chronic scale of unclaimed benefits.**

While the most enduring way to end fuel poverty is to ensure that every home is properly insulated, complementary measures are needed to ensure that households can adequately pay their bills. Major contributors to energy debt and energy affordability issues are the benefits freeze and extent of unclaimed benefits.

## **The End Fuel Poverty Coalition exists to fight for the abolition of fuel poverty.**

The End Fuel Poverty Coalition campaigns to influence government and other bodies to take action to end fuel poverty and thereby improve people's health and quality of life as well as seeking to reduce the cost of living, create jobs and negate carbon emissions in the process.

It is a broad coalition of over 20 anti-poverty, environmental and health campaigners, local authorities, trade unions and consumer organisations. It recently submitted evidence to the [recent Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy review](#) to end fuel poverty.

**For more information visit [endfuelpoverty.org.uk](https://endfuelpoverty.org.uk) or follow us on Twitter @EndFuelPoverty.**

*Members of the Coalition include: 1010, ACRE, Advice4Renters, AgeUK, ALEO, BLF, CFPT, Church Poverty Action, CIEH, CPAG, CSE, Disability Rights, E3G, EBICO, Energy Saving Trust, Friends of the Earth, Fuel Poverty Action, Generation Rent, Greenpeace, Hackney Foodbank, LB Camden, LB Lewisham, Macmillan, Mayor of London, National Pensioners Convention, National Union of Students, NCB, NEA, NfWI, Oxford City Council, Redcar & Cleveland Council, Sheffield Council, UNISON.*