



## **A Manifesto for Eradicating Fuel Poverty in Scotland by 2016 - Key Action Points for the Scottish Government from Energy Action Scotland -**

The Scottish Government has a statutory duty to eradicate fuel poverty in Scotland by November 2016 [Housing (Scotland) Act 2001]. The administration to take office following the Scottish parliamentary elections in 2011 will bear great responsibility in steering Scotland towards meeting that target. The level of fuel poverty has swung from a high of over 730,000 households in 1996 to a low of just over 250,000 in 2002 and has now soared to an estimated 800,000 households. While rising energy prices can largely be blamed for the recent increase, efforts to improve domestic energy efficiency and maximise household incomes are crucial in mitigating the effects. Without them the number of fuel poor would otherwise be much higher.

As the national charity with the mission to eradicate fuel poverty, Energy Action Scotland is calling on all Scottish political parties to commit to three key actions in their manifestos. While not an exhaustive list, we believe that by acting on these commitments, they will help set Scotland on course to reach the 2016 target.

### ***Action Point 1***

#### **Commit to tackling fuel poverty by delivering a single, well-funded and comprehensive fuel poverty programme**

The Energy Assistance Package should be expanded to incorporate the area-based energy efficiency programmes (the Home Insulation Scheme and the Universal Home Insulation Scheme) and so become both reactive and proactive under the one branding. The current multiple branding of the programmes is too confusing for the public and referral agencies and brings with it inefficiencies in operation and delivery.

### ***Action Point 2***

#### **Commit to providing warm, dry and affordable-to-heat homes for all**

A comprehensive strategy is needed to improve the energy efficiency of existing homes across all sectors. In the social rented sector, the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) should be reviewed as a matter of urgency in order to look beyond the current target of achieving an NHER score of 5 by 2015. Energy Action Scotland believes the next SHQS target should be to achieve NHER 8 by 2020. The SHQS should also be extended to the Private Rented Sector. In this way, no home in Scotland would be let unless it meets these energy efficiency standards as a minimum. These actions will also contribute significantly to Scotland's Climate Change targets.

### ***Action Point 3***

#### **Commit to a strategy that delivers an end to fuel poverty with strong links into health, housing, environmental and anti-poverty agendas**

Fuel poverty is a cross-cutting issue. Taking action on fuel poverty can also contribute to the achievement of many other Community Planning priorities, health and well-being, climate change mitigation and anti-poverty targets. Solutions to fuel poverty can also create and sustain local employment. By formally acknowledging these links and making smarter, more effective use of existing resources, it is possible to achieve multiple targets with one action.

For example, every Community Planning Partnership needs, in Energy Action Scotland's view, to include fuel poverty in its agenda. Ideally, each Partnership would benefit from having a fuel poverty representative to ensure specific action is taken locally and to liaise across departments and agencies.

\*\*\*

Energy Action Scotland believes that these key actions will contribute to meeting the target to eradicate fuel poverty by 2016 and create homes in Scotland fit for the future.

**For further information, please contact Norman Kerr, Director, Energy Action Scotland on tel: 0141 226 3064 or email: [norman.kerr@eas.org.uk](mailto:norman.kerr@eas.org.uk)**