

**NEA – Action for Warm Homes: Current Campaigns**

**Households in Fuel Poverty**

* The Government recently estimated that in 2011 the number of fuel poor households was around 4.5 million, representing around 17 per cent of all UK households. Fuel poverty levels in 2012 have not been released and are still unclear.
* However last year the Government estimated that price rises in the latter part of 2011 would have led to an increase of around 0.4m households in 2012 in England. This results in 3,900,000 fuel poor households in England in 2012, 18.5% of households
* **NEA estimates that due to increases in energy prices since then, this figure is nearer 6 million of all UK households.**

**Campaigning success in 2012/13:**

* NEA led the campaign to enhance the resources available to fuel poor households within the Energy Company Obligation. Following an intervention by the Deputy Prime Minister, the ECO will now target support, worth an estimated £540m every year, to fund energy saving improvements in the worst-off households.
* Following close engagement with Ofgem, NEA welcomes the fact that DNOs are to play an important role in supporting fuel poor and vulnerable householders. Ofgem has stated that the 14 electricity distribution companies (DNOs) will have a key role to play in identifying fuel poor and vulnerable customers and delivering solutions. They also note that this will require a major shift in delivery objectives and have set relevant outputs on DNO’s new social obligations.
* NEA successfully helped develop the objectives of the Energy Bill Revolution campaign and helped gain parliamentary and public support for recycling revenues from environmental taxes such as EU-ETS and the Carbon Floor Price back into energy efficiency programmes to tackle fuel poverty. This campaign continues.
* NEA have helped to accelerate work by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence’s (NICE) on developing an evidence base for excess winter deaths to aid commissioning and helped gather additional evidence on the impact and the direct financial costs of cold homes on the wider population to support the case for additional support or further policy interventions.

**Campaigning – Some key issues for 2013/14**

* To ensure the **ECO** is supplemented to fund a comprehensive energy efficiency programme for low-income households.
* To ensure that the Government commit, draft and pass a subsequent statutory commitment to eradicate fuel poverty (by prioritising the energy efficiency standards of fuel poor households by certain dates) as well as continuing to target support on poorer households with lower than average energy costs. Ensure that instruments such as the **Winter Fuel Payment** and **Cold Weather Payment** are retained, extended or reformed to support all groups at risk of fuel poverty (and the quantum of resources preserved for this purpose) in addition to other mechanisms such as the **Warm Homes Discount** scheme.
* To ensure **Health and Well-being Boards** (HWBs) and **Public Health England** (PHE) recognise fuel poverty reduction and the health impacts of cold homes as a priority issue and seek to support attempts to create a joint fund across Government (DoH, DECC and DCLG) to offer recurrent funding for public health initiatives that exploit the synergy between positive health outcomes and local or national attempts to reduce carbon emissions and fuel poverty.
* To ensure **private rented sector regulations** recognis the existing legal responsibly under the Housing Act and to ensure that all funding sources are considered by landlords (not just ECO and GD) and that ECO is effectively signposted.
* To Influence the formation of the **smart meter code of installation** and the consumer engagement strategy so that the customer journey for these groups is more tailored to their needs.

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