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**Energy Action Scotland Policy Position Statement – Energy Efficiency Programmes and Funding**

Energy Action Scotland considers that there needs to be a publicly funded programme for those who cannot afford to pay for energy efficiency measures and energy advice. Energy Action Scotland believes that a free, accessible, single point of access service that is designed to fit the needs of this particular group should direct consumers to the right scheme, including those delivered by the energy industry, according to their needs and their ability to pay.

**Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland (HEEPS)**

Energy Action Scotland welcomed the launch by the Scottish Government in 2013 of the Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland (HEEPS) as we had long advocated that the worst areas should be prioritised through a national retrofit programme.

This scheme features and area based approach delivered in local authority areas to support low income households. This **Area Based Scheme** approach offers face-to-face delivery which is vital to get help to the most vulnerable.

In addition to this area based approach is a demand responsive programme, **Warmer Homes Scotland** which helps qualifying households, through a, now, whole house retrofit approach. This has the potential to transform the lives of those supported, genuinely lifting them out of fuel poverty.

The scale of investment remains significant yet is still too low to achieve the Scottish Government targets for reducing fuel poverty to no more than 5% in 2040.

**Energy Company Obligation (ECO)**

The GB-wide **ECO scheme** is determined by the UK Government and delivered as an obligation on energy suppliers, those that have retail relationships with households. This energy efficiency programme is now in its fourth iteration and has its main focus on low income, fuel poor and vulnerable households.

Scotland has typically received a higher proportion of the GB budget spend than its population would dictate. This is largely due to the motivation and capacity of those working to support households in Scotland and the availability and prevalence of both properties of low efficiency and qualifying households.

Energy Action Scotland believes that there remains considerable scope to improve the delivery of the obligation through more co-ordination with the Scottish Government programmes and their referral pathways. Changing installation compliance standards has had a detrimental impact particularly in rural areas which do not have installers/trades people who either met or wish to meet the changed standards.