



Energy Action Scotland

MANIFESTO



Our vision

In a nation as energy and resource-rich as Scotland, no one should have to endure fuel poverty. For over 40 years, Energy Action Scotland has worked to expose its devastating impacts and advocate for lasting change.

We believe that everyone in Scotland should be able to access safe, warm, and affordable energy year-round—not just to heat their homes, but to live with dignity. Energy is essential for health, wellbeing, and daily life—from cooking and cleaning to storing food and medicine, it is not a luxury.

Fuel poverty is a year round issue. With rising energy costs and mounting debt, it has become a persistent crisis that disproportionately affects the most vulnerable in our society.

Fuel poverty can be eliminated through collaborative action, targeted investment, and community-driven solutions—where lived experience informs policy, and where no one is forced to choose between heating and eating. People need us to work harder together.

MISSION OR CORE BELIEFS

Energy Action Scotland is the national third sector member-led organisation dedicated to ending fuel poverty. Since 1983, we have worked to address the structural drivers of fuel poverty and advocate for energy justice and sustainable, equitable solutions to cold, damp homes.

We are people first advocates for a fairer energy system.

Fuel poverty in Scotland is driven by four core factors:

- High energy costs
- Low disposable incomes
- Poor energy efficiency of housing
- Energy use within homes

The Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019 definition means that over one in three households are estimated to be in fuel poverty, with almost one in five experiencing extreme fuel poverty—unable to afford the energy required to maintain health and wellbeing.

Fuel poverty disproportionately affects rural and remote communities, where geography, climate, and health inequalities compound disadvantage.

OUR ASKS: SUPPORT

Income support, affordability, and financial assistance for households provided at a national, regional and local level by suitably qualified trusted intermediaries

Embed fuel poverty as a required consideration across Scottish Government strategies and plans in climate, health and social security

Call for the UK Government to introduce an energy cost reduction to low income vulnerable households through a social tariff/discount funded through general taxation

OUR ASKS: SECTORAL PRESSURE

Increasing demands on the third and support sectors, including the impact of rising costs and static funding, requires multi-year funding agreements for the vital services provided by charities

Scottish Government to lobby to ensure that energy companies provide accessible routes for advice organisations to help resolve customer issues

OUR ASKS: RETROFIT

Maximise incentives to ensure that all public funds supporting retrofit are fully spent where they are needed most

Establish a framework to enable advice services to develop skills and knowledge to help the most vulnerable through the retrofit journey specifically enabling training for local community retrofit advisors

Policy or Action Commitments

Fuel poverty crisis funding of £20million to be available for struggling households supporting access to warmth and securing debt write off from energy suppliers in equal measure

Area Based Scheme spending to become multiyear and support for blending with other public and private schemes such as the Energy Company Obligation to accelerate the rate of change whilst providing the highest level of quality assurance.

Extend energy protections through Scottish Government levers in areas such as park homes, temporary accommodation providers and, people without a direct relationship with an energy supplier

Evidence & Rationale

Fuel poverty blights the lives of more than 800,000 households in Scotland (Scottish House Condition Survey 2024)

It damages healthy life expectancy, impinges on health and wellbeing and affects mental health (National Records of Scotland, winter deaths data)

When people live in cold, damp homes for sustained periods of time it forces people into frontline services. For every degree the temperature drops below 5 degrees centigrade, there is a 19% increase in older people attending GP for respiratory infection (Marmot, 2011)

900 older people were hospitalised in December 2024 with hypothermia (Age Scotland, 2025)

Babies and children, disabled people, people with life limiting conditions, people self-managing long term conditions, older people, essential medical needs require to consume higher amounts of energy to achieve the same level of health and wellbeing protection as those without (Fuel Poverty Act, enhanced heating regime provisions)

The most affordable unit of energy is the one we don't need making retrofitting homes to be more energy efficient the only long term solution to reducing our reliance of energy production as energy costs are 68% higher than winter 2020/21 with £4.4bn of GB consumer energy debt (Ofgem data).



for a future without fuel poverty