

Scotland's Response to the Climate Emergency: Buildings

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Energy Action Scotland is a charity that campaigns for an end to fuel poverty in Scotland. We seek to develop and promote effective solutions to the problem of cold, damp and expensive to heat homes to help the most vulnerable in society.

Fuel poverty has four main drivers

- poor energy efficiency of the home
- high energy costs
- low disposable income
- how energy is used in the home

The challenge is one of balance and priority

- Fuel poverty vs climate emergency
- Fuel poverty targets and climate change targets

Committee on Climate Change is clear on what we can do to reduce our energy use

- In your home:
 - Improve the energy efficiency of your home (or ask your landlord to) through draught-proofing, improved insulation, choosing LED light-bulbs and appliances with high efficiency ratings.
 - Set thermostats no higher than 19°C and the water temperature in heating systems no higher than 55°C.
 - Consider switching to a low-carbon heating system such as a heat pump, especially if you live off the gas grid; if you are on the gas grid consider a hybrid system.

However, the scale of the challenge is significant

- 25% of Scottish households are in fuel poverty
- 11.3% of Scottish households are in extreme fuel poverty
- £560 is the fuel poverty gap
- The Scottish Government's target is reduce fuel poverty levels to 5% of households by 2040

Scotland's targets for its building

- By 2040, all Scottish homes must achieve an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)
- Maximise the number of social rented homes achieving EPC B by 2032
- Private rented homes to EPC E by 2022, to EPC D by 2025 and to EPC C by 2030
- All owner occupied homes to reach EPC C by 2040
- All homes with households in fuel poverty to reach EPC C by 2030 and EPC B by 2040

Solutions: we ask the same two questions when we see new policies

- Are these measures (mitigation/adaptation) equally available to all of Scotland's population?
- Does the change increase or decrease the cost of the amenities provided by the energy?

Opportunities

- Scottish Fuel poverty strategy – 2020/21?
- HM Treasury review of net-zero – 2020/21?
- Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategies guidance & legislation – 2021?
- Energy Efficient Scotland legislation-?
- Energy Efficient Scotland revised routemap – autumn 2020?

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