



PERTH and KINROSS

FUEL POVERTY STATEMENT

June 2011

Foreword

This is the Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement. It demonstrates Perth and Kinross Council's commitment to eradicate fuel poverty, as far as reasonably practicable, in our area by 2016. This Statement is linked to our Community Plan and Local Housing Strategy.

Our target reflects the Scottish Government's own, which was facilitated by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001, and taken forward in the Scottish Fuel Poverty Statement 2002. We have already done a lot of work in Perth and Kinross to tackle the root causes of fuel poverty. Information on recent and current work is included in this Statement.

This Statement has been developed in partnership and consultation with a range of local and national stakeholders and we learning from the good practice from other local authorities across Scotland. We would welcome any comments that you may have. The causes of fuel poverty, primarily the energy efficiency of the home, household income and the cost of fuel, mean that working together and sharing good practice is crucial to its eradication.

We look forward to working in partnership to implement this Fuel Poverty Statement and eradicate fuel poverty.

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Summary

Fuel poverty is the term used where householders are unable to afford the purchase of adequate fuel to maintain reasonable household warmth. It is caused by a combination of factors, such as:

- Low household income
- Fuel costs and lack of access to cheaper fuels
- The thermal quality of the building through poor insulation standards
- Poor energy efficiency through inefficient heating systems
- Household behaviour and under-occupancy of properties

The Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement outlines how Perth and Kinross Council and its partners intend to facilitate delivery of the Scottish Government's target of eliminating fuel poverty by 2016. This target was set out in the Scottish Fuel Poverty Statement published in 2002 to meet the requirements of section 88 (1) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001. Local Authorities have a responsibility to prepare Local Housing Strategies that ensure that, as far as reasonably practicable, that people do not live in fuel poverty. This Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement is part of the Perth and Kinross Local Housing Strategy (LHS).

" A person is living in fuel poverty if, in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime, they would be required to spend more than 10 per cent of their household income (including Housing Benefit or Income Support for Mortgage Interest) on all household fuel use."¹

A steering group involving Council Services, NHS Tayside, Save Cash and Reduce Fuel (SCARF) and voluntary sector was established to develop the Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement. Consultation was facilitated via a session of the Perth and Kinross Housing Forum with an invitation to comment on the Statement.

The steering group set four strategic objectives to assist fuel poor households in Perth and Kinross to decrease their domestic fuel costs:

- Identify levels of fuel poverty and measure progress towards its reduction
- Increase household income of 'fuel poor' households by delivering fuel poverty advice, information advice and referral services
- Maximise overall household incomes by providing benefits and money and debt advice
- Increase energy and fuel efficiency of the housing stock

Achieving these objectives will involve delivery of the actions in Section 10 and require working in partnership across key groups whose activities impact on fuel poverty, including:

¹ Source: Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/access/FP>

- Perth and Kinross Council.
- Save Cash and Reduce Fuel (SCARF) - Perth and Kinross Energy Advice Centre.
- Scottish Government.
- Citizens Advice Bureau.
- Fuel Companies.
- Energy Saving Trust.
- Perth and Kinross Community Health Partnership.

The many challenges to reducing fuel poverty:

- Fuel cost increases.
- Factors impacting on incomes levels.
- Difficulties in resourcing and delivering heating and insulation improvements, particularly in areas remote from the supply of mains gas and in poorly insulated older properties with non-cavity wall construction.
- Ability of the Council and all involved partners to adequately resource delivery of fuel poverty reduction measures.

The actions identified to deliver the objectives will build upon actions already being delivered by the Council and partner organisations in Perth and Kinross and will help counteract ongoing trends that could result in increased fuel poverty. Perth and Kinross Council will monitor progress towards the Statement's objectives and will revise approaches in response to changing legislation and funding opportunities. The Council will work closely with the Scottish Government and other relevant partners, to maximise progress towards the aim of eliminating fuel poverty by 2016.

1. Introduction

Fuel poverty is the term used where householders are unable to afford the purchase of sufficient fuel to ensure that they maintain comfortable household heating standards and the reasonable use of hot water, lighting and appliances. Fuel poverty occurs when a household cannot adequately heat their home to an acceptable standard at a reasonable cost. The accepted definition of fuel poverty is where a household's energy costs are more than 10% of its income. Extreme fuel poverty is where a household's energy costs are more than 20% of its income

Living in fuel poverty can have a serious impact on people's health and quality of life. Tackling fuel poverty has been recognised as a key element of achieving social inclusion. The Scottish Government's target is to eradicate fuel poverty, as far as is reasonably practicable, by 2016. Under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 and the Scottish Executive's Fuel Poverty Statement (2002), local authorities have a statutory responsibility to produce local fuel poverty statements, which will help meet the national target.

There are already many agencies working in partnership to alleviate fuel poverty in Perth and Kinross. Delivering high quality housing in safe and secure neighbourhoods and ensuring that Perth and Kinross is a place where everyone enjoys good quality housing in a pleasant and safe environment is a key priority for the Perth and Kinross Partnership and Perth and Kinross Council. This Fuel Poverty Statement:

- Demonstrates the Council's corporate commitment to eradicating fuel poverty;
- Provides an overview of the fuel poverty in Perth and Kinross;
- Provides the strategic framework for the future development of services to address fuel poverty operate, so that needs and demands can be met more effectively with available resources;
- Establishes a shared understanding of the issues and priorities where some form of intervention is required;
- Sets out objectives with an Action Plan on how these issues and priorities will be addressed; and
- Identifies how the Statement contributes to the achievement of the national fuel poverty priorities and the wider social objectives as identified in the Perth and Kinross Community Plan.

Feedback will be sought on a continuous basis. The document will be formally reviewed annually as part of the Local Housing Strategy.

How Can You Have Your Say on the Statement?

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How was the Statement produced?

This Statement has been overseen by a Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement Working Group consisting of Perth and Kinross Council Services, Perth and Kinross Community Health Partnership and Save Cash and Reduce Fuel. A variety of stakeholders are part of the ongoing participation and consultation process. A list of those involved is in Appendix 2.

Consultation on the Draft Statement

Consultation on a Draft Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement was undertaken between December 2010 and the end February 2011. Responses indicated that the Statement was well presented and easy to understand and the majority of respondents agreed with the objectives and priorities.

On Friday 21 January 2011 Perth and Kinross Council in association with 'Save Cash and Reduce Fuel' (SCARF) hosted a Fuel Poverty Event at Blackfriars Development Centre, Perth. 38 stakeholders representing a wide range of interests attended the event, the objective of which was to provide the opportunity to comment on the Draft Statement and to attend workshops on the four strategic objectives.

We have incorporated suggested additions from the consultation into this Fuel Poverty Statement, particularly the Action Plan, as far as is reasonably practicable. The following suggestions highlighted from the consultation are not included in the action plan, for reasons such as lack of resources, however the steering group will continue to monitor and make progress where possible on:

- The need to address potential solutions for solid wall insulation and floor insulation in difficult to treat houses.
- Raise awareness of any innovative technologies to reduce fuel poverty and ensure that relevant training is available to operate them.
- Continually assess and review the success of the current work undertaken by Perth and Kinross Council in reducing fuel poverty.

- Feedback and monitoring to advisors and consumers is required to encourage replication of success through annual updates.
- Energy companies could promote best tariff and heating solutions to customers.
- Enough advice and information available for people to make informed choices about best value fuel tariffs (partly covered in actions 2.2 and 2.3 of the Action Plan).
- Consider alternatives such as district heating schemes, eco-friendly schemes (e.g. wood chip burning).
- Improve consumer attitudes towards heating use.

2. What are the Causes of Fuel Poverty?

2.1 What is fuel poverty?

Fuel poverty is the term used where householders are unable to afford the purchase of sufficient fuel to ensure that they maintain comfortable household heating standards and the reasonable use of hot water, lighting and appliances. Households regularly move in and out of fuel poverty depending on circumstances and how the problem is defined. This Fuel Poverty Statement adopts the definition of fuel poverty from the Scottish Executive's Fuel Poverty Statement 2002.

"A household is in fuel poverty if, in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime, it would be required to spend more than 10% of its income (including Housing Benefit or Income Support for Mortgage Interest) on all household fuel use." A "Satisfactory heating regime", as recommended by the World Health Organisation, is 21 Celsius (C) in the living room and 18 C in other rooms for 9 hours in every 24 (or 16 in 24 over the weekend). For elderly and/or infirm people, this is 23C in the living room and 18C in other rooms for 16 hours in every 24 hours.²

Income is defined as income before housing costs, but net of council tax as well as income tax. Many organisations, including Energy Action Scotland, have argued that income should exclude housing costs (removing housing costs from disposable income). The Scottish Government has agreed to monitor the level of fuel poverty defined on this basis, but includes housing costs in its agreed definition of fuel poverty. Definitions of fuel poverty in the national Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS) are based on a theoretical calculation of how much it would cost to heat the dwelling to a specified heating regime. They do not address how much the household actually spends on heating their home.³

2.2 Causes of fuel poverty

A combination of the following three factors is the main causes of fuel poverty:

- **Low household income**

People on low income need to spend a higher proportion of this to heat their homes to a satisfactory standard. This means that mechanisms to give appropriate advice to those at risk of fuel poverty on how best to maximise their household income are required.

² Source: Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2002/08/15258/9955>

³ Source: Scottish House Condition Survey
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/155541/0041758.pdf>

- **High fuel costs**

Higher prices reduce the affordability of fuel. Measures are needed that help vulnerable householders reduce their fuel costs by giving them advice on alternative tariffs and suppliers.

- **Poor levels of energy efficiency in the home.**

The thermal efficiency of the building, the efficiency of the heating source and the effectiveness of its use all determine the amount of energy that must be purchased to heat the home adequately.

Other contributory factors can include:

- Household behaviour or consumption patterns.
- High levels of essential household expenditure for reasons such as debt, a drop in income and ill health.
- Under-occupation of properties.

It is acknowledged that a number of factors relating to the above causes are outwith local control. However, there are many factors that can be influenced at the local level.

2.3 The impact of fuel poverty

Many people are making the choice between heating their home and eating healthily. If they are victims of the contributory factors outlined above, many householders find that they must make tough lifestyle choices as a result of not having enough resources.

Illnesses, such as influenza, heart disease and strokes, are all exacerbated by cold, and cold homes can promote the growth of fungi and dust mites, often linked to conditions such as asthma.

The very old, very young and people with a disability or long-term illness are particularly vulnerable to fuel poverty and its effects.

Some people in these groups generally spend more time in the home and so need to heat their homes for longer and often to higher temperatures to remain comfortable. The inability to achieve this regime may lead to:

- Reduced resistance to respiratory disease amongst or raised blood pressure in those aged over 60 years.
- Increased deaths from coronary thrombosis and other circulatory causes in winter.
- Exacerbation of respiratory conditions such as asthma to which children are at particular risk.

Indirectly, fuel poverty can have wider effects on people and families such as:

- School absences due to ill health.
- Low or no disposable income reducing opportunities to play an active part in the economy or to participate fully in community life.
- Overcrowding as families congregate in heated areas of the home, possibly adversely affecting educational attainment.

3. The Strategic Planning Framework

3.1 Legislative and national policy context

The main national legislative and policy frameworks include:

- Housing (Scotland) Act 2001

The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001, details the obligations of local authorities to produce Local Housing Strategies which ensure “as far as reasonably practicable, that persons do not live in fuel poverty” (Scottish Government 2001: 88(1)). The Act required Scottish Ministers to publish a statement setting out measures, which they and local authorities are doing and will do to eliminate fuel poverty. The subsequent Scottish Government ‘Scottish Fuel Poverty Statement’, produced in 2002, reflects the earlier UK Fuel Poverty Strategy and sets a target of eliminating fuel poverty by 2016. Local Authorities must submit to Scottish Ministers a strategy (a ‘local housing strategy’) and ensure, as far as practicable, that people do not live in fuel poverty.⁴

- Housing (Scotland) Act 2006

Section 179 of the Act states that Scottish Ministers must prepare a strategy to set out measures for improving the energy efficiency of living accommodation. The strategy will include an assessment of the extent to which they consider that carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere would be decreased as a result of taking those measures.⁵

- Home Energy Conservation Act (1995) (HECA)

The Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) was introduced in Scotland in 1996. This Act designated all Scottish local authorities as energy conservation authorities, each with a duty to report on energy conservation in relation to residential accommodation in their area. Subsequent to the Act, local authorities agreed strategies and targets to achieve significant improvements in the energy efficiency of their respective housing stocks, across all tenures, over the ensuing 10 years to 2007.

The fifth progress report highlights that an estimated 257,651 Scottish households have benefited from energy efficiency measures during the period 2005-2007. These figures include measures delivered through energy companies’ Carbon Emission Reduction Target programmes and its predecessor the Energy Efficiency Commitment, local authorities’ own investment and Scottish Government programmes, such as the then Warm

⁴ Office of Public Sector Information
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2001/asp_20010010_en_8#pt5-pb1-l1g88

⁵ Office of Public Sector Information
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2006/asp_20060001_en_12#pt8-l1g179

Deal and the Central Heating Programme. The Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2010 reports that there will be no further data reporting under HECA, instead energy efficiencies will be addressed through the Local Housing Strategy.⁶

- The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy 2001 (7th Annual Progress Report in 2009)

The aim of the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations remains the eradication of fuel poverty, as detailed in the 'UK Fuel Poverty Strategy' published in November 2001; a commitment reaffirmed through measures set out in the 2003 and 2007 Energy White Papers. Separate targets exist in England and each of the Devolved Administrations, with the overall aim that by 2018 no household in the UK should live in fuel poverty. The Scottish Government has a target to eliminate fuel poverty as far as is reasonably practicable by November 2016. This was set out in the Scottish Fuel Poverty Statement published in 2002 to meet the requirements of section 88(1) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001.⁷

- The Scottish Fuel Poverty Statement 2002

The Scottish Fuel Poverty Statement indicates how the Scottish Government intends to work with public, private and voluntary organisations to tackle fuel poverty, largely by monitoring and raising awareness of fuel poverty, and promoting energy and heating efficiency improvement. The Scottish Government have produced guidance for local authorities on factors to be considered in the preparation of Fuel Poverty Statements. The overall objective is to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that people are not living in fuel poverty in Scotland by November 2016.

A Review of Fuel Poverty and progress towards the 2016 target was published on 22 May 2008. The Scottish Fuel Poverty Forum was then re-established to advise on the future of fuel poverty policy in Scotland. It produced its report in October 2008, the main recommendation of which was to replace the Warm Deal and Central Heating Programmes with a new Energy Assistance Package.⁸

- Energy Assistance Package

The Energy Assistance Package is funded by the Scottish Government and aims to cut bills, boost incomes and make homes warmer and more energy efficient by offering:

⁶ Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/05/05120455/1>

⁷ Source: Department of Energy and Climate Change http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/consumers/fuel_poverty/strategy/strategy.aspx

⁸ Source: Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/access/FP/Progtowtarg>

- ⇒ A free home energy check. This is available to everyone and can gauge how energy efficient the home is and suggest practical changes and improvements, saving money.
 - ⇒ Energy, benefits, tax credit and tariff checks for a wide range of people.
 - ⇒ Free insulation from an energy supplier to make the home more energy efficient. To be eligible must be a home-owner or a private-sector tenant and receive benefits or are aged 70 or over.
 - ⇒ Enhanced energy efficiency measures, (including central heating and insulation to make the home warmer and cheaper to heat). To be eligible you must be a homeowner or a private-sector tenant, have lived in the home for at least 1 year, and are either pregnant, have a child aged under 16 years, or are aged 60 years or over, receive the highest rate of the care component or the higher rate of the mobility component of disability living allowance or are terminally ill (in receipt of DS1500 certificate)⁹.
- Local Government in Scotland Act 2003

The Act gives local authorities, the power to advance well-being, which is defined as the “power to do anything which it considers is likely to promote or improve the well-being of its area and persons within that area or either of those.” This includes giving financial assistance and the provision of “staff, goods, materials, facilities, services or property to any person.”¹⁰

- Winter Fuel Payment

The Winter Fuel Payment is a UK initiative directly impacting on fuel poverty. A Winter Fuel Payment is a yearly tax-free payment for people of 60 or over to help with fuel costs, depending on individual circumstances.

People may be eligible for a cold weather payment if they are paid any of the following benefits:

- ⇒ Income Support or Jobseeker’s Allowance (which include a disability, severe disability, enhanced disability; disabled child, pensioner or higher pensioner premium), Pension Credit or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (which includes the pensioner, severe disability, enhanced disability premiums or the work-related activity component or the support component).
- ⇒ Or if you are in receipt of any of these benefits and are responsible for child under five or you are in receipt of Child Tax Credit which includes a disability or severe disability element.¹¹

⁹ Source: Energy Saving Trust <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/Scotland-Welcome-page/At-Home/Energy-Assistance-Package/What-is-offered-and-who-is-eligible>

¹⁰ Source: Her Majesty’s Stationery Office <http://www.hmso.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2003/30001--d.htm#20>

¹¹ Source: Direct Gov http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Pensionsandretirementplanning/Benefits/BenefitsInRetirement/DG_10018657

- Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and Fuel Company Initiatives

The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) requires all domestic energy suppliers with more than 50,000 customers to make savings in the amount of CO₂ emitted by householders. To meet this target suppliers promote the uptake of low carbon energy solutions to households, assisting them to reduce the carbon footprint of their homes.

The primary aim of CERT is to make a contribution to the UK's legally binding target under the Kyoto protocol (to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5% below 1990 levels by 2008-2012) and the Climate Change Act 2008 requirement (to cut emissions of greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050). However, CERT will also help reduce energy demand; enhance the UK's security of supply; reduce energy bills for those receiving measures; reduce fuel poverty; and, secure jobs in energy efficiency industries. Funding under CERT will be available until December 2012.¹²

Preferred supplier agreements are another funding source offered by fuel companies whereby social landlords receive a fee for allocating new property supplies and switching energy supplies of void properties to the fuel company. These fees can be used to fund other fuel poverty initiatives.

- Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP)

CESP is a £350 million programme that will target households in designated areas of deprivation across Great Britain. CESP will promote a whole-house approach to energy efficiency and will be funded by the energy suppliers and generators.¹³

- Extending the Gas Network

The 2002 Fuel Poverty Statement highlighted the opportunity that existed to extend the Gas Network in Scotland, but few projects have been undertaken due to the financial barriers that existed in funding such projects. Scottish Gas Network's Assisted Connections scheme offers free or significantly reduced price connections to the gas grid to potential customers in existing housing who are in fuel poverty.¹⁴

- Communities and Renewable Energy Schemes (CARES)

This grant scheme replaced the communities' stream of the Scottish Community and Householder Renewables Initiative (SCHRI). It provides funding for the installation of renewable energy technologies, up to a

¹² Source: Department of Energy & Climate Change
http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/consumers/saving_energy/cert/cert.aspx

¹³ ¹⁴ Source: Energy Saving Trust Funding in Scotland
<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Business/Local-Authorities/Funding/Funding-in-Scotland>

maximum of £150,000. Grants of up to £15,000 are also available for feasibility studies, community consultation and capacity building.¹⁵

- Feed-in-Tariffs

Individuals, local authorities, community groups and other organisations who install low carbon electricity generating technologies up to 5MW will be eligible to receive Feed-in-Tariffs. The introduction of Feed-in-Tariffs aims to encourage the installation of small scale, low carbon electricity generating technologies. Each installation will qualify for a payment for each kW they produce and a further payment for each kW exported to the grid.¹⁶

- Renewable Heat Incentive

The UK Government announced its intention to introduce Heat Generating Tariff in April 2011. The level of the tariff is still to be finalised but given that it is more difficult to measure 'heat generation' the tariff will be based on a calculation of the estimated level of heat generated based on boiler size etc. It is proposed that the tariff will be paid in a single annual payment. The tariff will be paid for the following renewable technologies, Biomass, Solar Thermal and Heat Pumps.¹⁷

- Energy Saving Trust (EST) Initiatives

The Energy Saving Trust is a non-profit organisation that provides free and impartial advice on how to reduce energy wastage. The Trust in Scotland provides free, impartial advice on how to reduce a household's carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and save money. They can also help householders access funding to make their home warmer and to generate their own energy.¹⁸

- Home Insulation Scheme (HIS)

Local councils, COSLA and the Scottish Government are working to deal with fuel poverty and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to tackle the threat of climate change. In 2009-10, the Scottish Government provided £15m for an area-based Home Insulation Scheme (HIS) and this funding continued in 2010-11.

HIS takes a street-by-street approach to make contact with every household in selected areas across Scotland. The aim is for a high take of up of energy assessments, benefit checks and/or tariff checks in those areas, with these households being offered free or discounted loft or cavity wall insulation, where their homes are suitable. It is hoped that this approach will achieve

¹⁵ Source: Community Energy Scotland
<http://www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk/cares.asp>

¹⁶ Source: Energy Saving Trust <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Business/Local-Authorities/Funding/Funding-in-Scotland>

¹⁷ Source: UK Government http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_184735

¹⁸ Source: Energy Saving Trust, <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/>

economies of scale and offer householders an attractive deal in terms of free or discounted insulation measures and minimising installation difficulties.¹⁹

- Universal Home Insulation Scheme (UHIS)

£10m of Scottish Government funding in 2010-11 was allocated for the implementation of a universal access area-based insulation scheme offering free energy efficiency measures to around 90,000 households. This universal scheme offered energy efficiency measures free of charge regardless of household income. This differed from the Scottish Government HIS model which provided a mix of free and discounted measures.²⁰

- Building Standards and the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004

The Building (Scotland) Act 2003 gives Ministers the power to make building regulations to:

- ⇒ secure the health, safety, welfare and convenience of people in or about buildings and of others who may be affected by buildings or matters connected with buildings
- ⇒ further conserve fuel and power
- ⇒ further achieve sustainable development

The 2010 technical handbook which came into force on 1st October 2010 provide guidance on achieving the standards set in the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004. The intention of section 6 is to ensure that effective measures for the conservation of fuel and power are incorporated in dwellings and buildings consisting of dwellings. In addition to limiting energy demand, by addressing the performance of the building fabric and fixed building services, a carbon dioxide emissions standard obliges a designer of new dwellings to consider building design in a holistic way.²¹

- Energy Performance Certificates

As part of the European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive an Energy Performance Certificate or EPC will be required for homes for sale or rent in Scotland. EPCs provide an energy rating for a dwelling and are valid for 10 years and are an opportunity to highlight the potential improvements that could be made to a property²².

¹⁹ Source: Scottish Government

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/privateowners/his>

²⁰ Source: Scottish Government

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/privateowners/his/uhis>

²¹ Source: Scottish Government

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Building/Building-standards/about>

²² Source: Energy Performance Certificates Scotland

<http://www.energyperformancecertificatesscotland.co.uk/epc-energy-performance-certificates.htm>

- Energy Saving Scotland - Small Business Loans

Provides loans from £1,000 to £100,000 at 0% fixed interest to help businesses that fall within the European Commission definition of Small and Medium sized Enterprise (SME), private sector landlords, not-for-profit organisations and charities install measures that reduce energy consumption or to install renewable energy technologies²³.

- Climate Challenge Fund

The Climate Challenge Fund is a Scottish Government funded initiative which gives communities, through individual community groups and community planning partners, the ability to implement actions to reduce their carbon emissions. Operating since 2008 this has proved to be an effective way of engaging with householders and getting them involved in capacity building and subsequently being able to help themselves²⁴.

- The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 creates a long term framework that includes a statutory target to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050 and an interim target of at least 42% emissions reduction by 2020. There is a power to vary the interim target, and Scottish Ministers are committed to delivering the highest achievable emissions reductions based on expert advice from the UK Committee on Climate Change. The legislation also includes the establishment of a framework of annual targets.

Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act places duties on public bodies relating to climate change. The duties included in the Act (section 44) require public bodies to act in a way which will help reduce emissions and meet targets and deliver sustainable statutory adaptation programmes. The duties came into force on 1 January 2011 and apply to all 'public bodies'²⁵.

Energy Efficiency Action Plan

The Energy Efficiency Action Plan outlines actions to achieve the Scottish Government climate change, economic and social agendas and drives the cost-effective action required if Scotland is to meet its challenging statutory emissions reduction targets mentioned above. It seeks to create employment, promote new technologies, and secure wider economic benefits for the low carbon economy. By reducing energy consumption, it aims to reduce costs for

²³ Source: Energy Saving Trust Funding in Scotland
<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Business/Local-Authorities/Funding/Funding-in-Scotland>

²⁴ Source: Scottish Government
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/climatechange/ClimateChallengeFund>

²⁵ Source: Scottish Government
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/climatechange/scotlands-action/climatechangeact>

consumers whilst improving levels of comfort, and to improve Scotland's security of energy supply.

The key actions relating to energy efficiency include to:

- ⇒ improve the energy efficiency of all our housing stock to meet the demands of the future;
- ⇒ establish a single energy and resource efficiency service for Scottish businesses;
- ⇒ develop a public sector that leads the way through exemplary energy performance and provides the blueprint for a low carbon Scotland;
- ⇒ reduce our transport energy demand, transforming how we use our transport systems;
- ⇒ promote infrastructure improvements, e.g. by developing a sustainable heat supply; and
- ⇒ ensure that people are appropriately skilled to take up the opportunities.²⁶

- Scottish Biomass Heating Scheme

This £2 million programme provides grants for installation of biomass heating systems in small and medium sized enterprises. Funding was available until March 2011.²⁷

- Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS)

The SHQS is a set of criteria which all registered social landlords' housing must meet by 2015. To meet the standard the house must be:

- ⇒ compliant with the tolerable standard.
- ⇒ free from serious disrepair.
- ⇒ energy efficient.
- ⇒ provided with modern facilities and services
- ⇒ healthy, safe and secure.²⁸

²⁶ Source: Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Business-Industry/Energy/Action/energy-efficiency-policy/ActionPlan>

²⁷, Source: Energy Saving Trust Funding in Scotland <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Business/Local-Authorities/Funding/Funding-in-Scotland>

²⁸ Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/16342/shqs>

3.2 Local strategic context

The Scottish Government's vision of a Scotland that is greener, safer, smarter, healthier, wealthier and fairer is aligned with the Council's priorities. The Perth and Kinross Council's Corporate Plan and Community Plans align with the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).

The Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan 2009-12 identifies as a major priority that individuals and communities have the right to live in good quality, affordable homes, suited to their needs, in safe and secure communities.

In particular this Statement contributes to the SOA national outcome number 10 'We live in well designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need'. Additionally our proposals contribute to Perth and Kinross Council Council's SOA which highlights as priority a local outcome number 14 of 'our people will have better access to appropriate and affordable housing of quality'.

The Council has also made a priority in local outcome 8 'Our communities and people experiencing inequalities will have improved quality of life, life chances and health' with the percentage of households experiencing fuel poverty as a relevant indicator. This is in relation to National Outcome 7: We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society'.

The Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement is part of the Local Housing Strategy, aligned with the Community and Corporate Plans, which sets the strategic vision, aims and objectives and actions to support them for Perth and Kinross for housing and related matters. The Statement plays a significant role in delivering locally on the Scottish national performance indicators in relation to fuel poverty especially:

- Reduce the proportion of individuals living in poverty.
- Increase the percentage of adults who rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live.
- 50% of electricity generated in Scotland to come from renewable sources by 2020 (interim target of 31% by 2011).

Dealing effectively with fuel poverty impacts upon many policy areas. It is important that this Fuel Poverty Statement facilitates links with local strategies and policies. For example, joint working will help identify the most vulnerable groups, poorer quality housing and target resources. This Statement complements, and is consistent with, other Perth and Kinross Council plans and strategies such as the:

- Community Plan
- Corporate Plan
- Local Housing Strategy
- Scottish Housing Quality Standard Delivery Plan
- Community Care strategies
- Joint Health Improvement strategies

- Homelessness Strategy.

The Perth & Kinross Community Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan have overlapping key themes. These are outlined as:

- A safe, secure and welcoming environment.
- Healthy, caring communities.
- A prosperous, sustainable and inclusive economy.
- Educated, responsible and informed citizens.
- Confident, active and inclusive communities.

The objectives and actions in this Statement flow from the Council's priorities, particularly around improving health, and well being, social inclusion, community regeneration, improving housing, community safety and stimulating the economy.

4. Equalities

In recent years a range of legislation and policy developments have required public bodies to ensure that they deliver their services in a non-discriminatory manner and promote equality. All public bodies have been required to produce equality schemes. The planning and delivery of good quality housing, appropriate information, advice, care and support services in Perth and Kinross embraces the principle of equal opportunities.

Perth and Kinross Council's Housing and Community Care Services have an equalities action plan which sets out a detailed list of actions which for each of seven equality strands in order to:

- Tackle discrimination and harassment directed against minority groups.
- Promote equality of opportunities for minority groups.
- Promote positive attitudes towards minority groups.
- Encourage participation in public life by minority groups.
- Endeavour to meet the needs of our service users who may be a member of a minority group.

The action plan aims to ensure that all services, including this Statement and related actions, take positive steps towards the equalities agenda. This means that the Council will strive to encourage equal opportunities and diversity, responding to the different needs and service requirements of people regardless of gender, race, colour, disability, age, nationality, marital status, ethnic origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation or gender re-assignment.

The Fuel Poverty Statement as part of the LHS will undergo an equality impact assessment to review the effects of the Strategy. The Local Housing Strategy plays a significant role in promoting the equalities agenda and demonstrates that significant investment is being undertaken in housing for people with particular needs (e.g. older people) as well as addressing the needs of a range of individuals with community care needs.

The planning and delivery of good quality housing and appropriate information, advice and support services in Perth and Kinross embraces the principle of equal opportunities, following the lead of the Council's Corporate Equal Opportunities Policies and Equalities Schemes.

5. Our Vision, Aims and Objectives

5.1 Our Vision

'To make Perth & Kinross a place where everyone will have access to good quality housing that they can afford that is in a safe and pleasant environment. People will have access to services that will enable them to live independently within and participate in the communities in which they live.'

This reinforces the Council's vision of 'a confident and ambitious Perth & Kinross with a strong identity and clear outcomes that everyone works together to achieve. Our area will be vibrant and successful: a safe, secure and healthy environment and a place where people and communities are nurtured and supported'.

5.2 Our Aims

Our overarching aim of our Fuel Poverty Statement is to:

- Eradicate, as far as reasonably practical, fuel poverty in Perth and Kinross by November 2016.

Our supporting aims are to:

- Identify low income households at risk of fuel poverty and maximise their household income.
- Build better links with those agencies which are in contact with 'fuel poor' households and develop more robust referral mechanisms across agencies.
- Assist vulnerable households to maximise the efficiency of heating systems and other household appliances.
- Raise awareness of fuel poverty issues and how these may be addressed.
- Identify properties with poor thermal efficiency and put in place practical measures to improve them.

5.3 Our Objectives

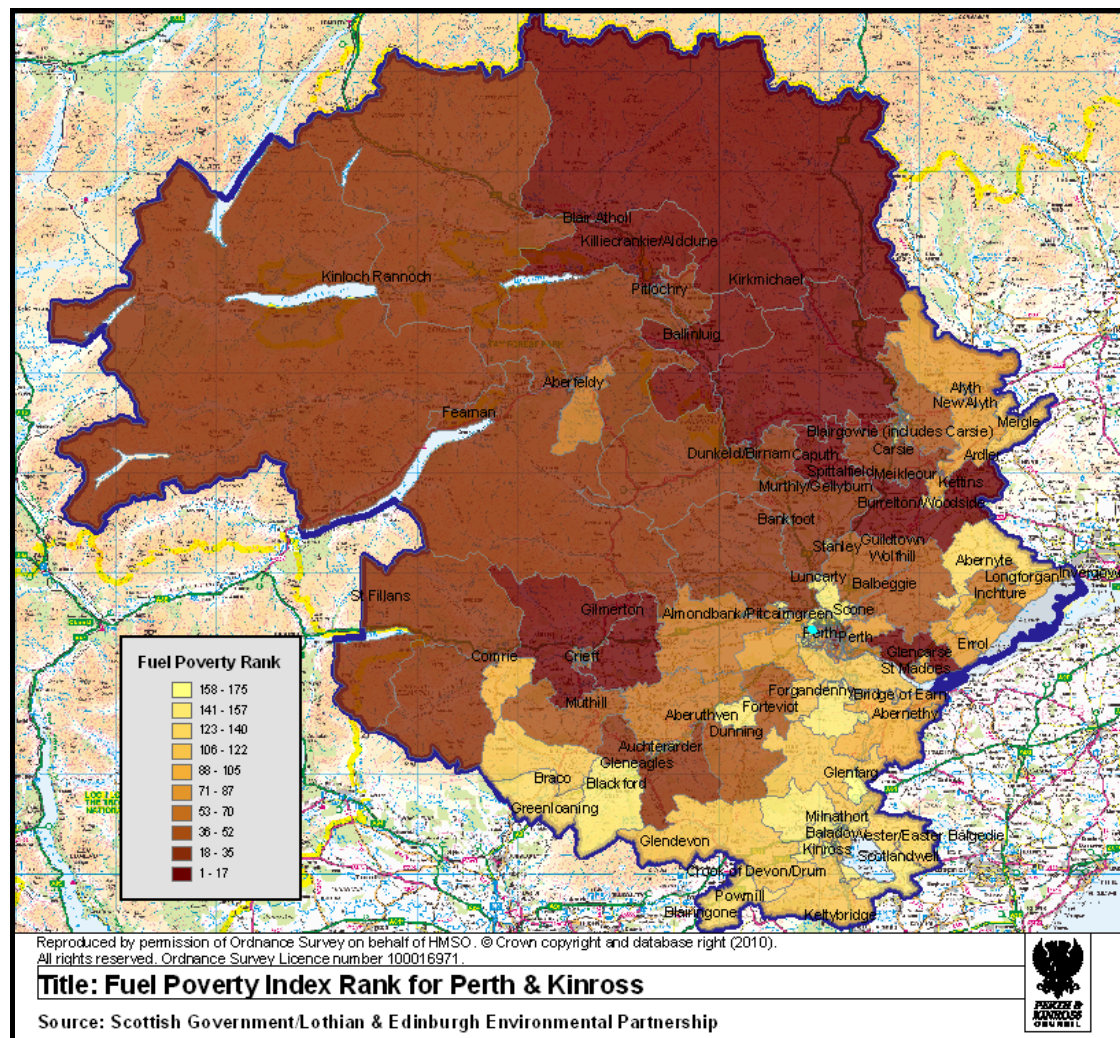
Our main objectives are to assist fuel poor households in Perth and Kinross to decrease their domestic fuel costs and to:

- Identify levels of fuel poverty and measure progress towards its reduction.
- Increase household income of 'fuel poor' households by delivering fuel poverty advice, information and referral services.
- Maximise overall household incomes by providing benefits and money and debt advice.
- Increase energy and fuel efficiency of the housing stock.

6. Fuel Poverty in Perth and Kinross

Map 1 below highlights that the Highland and Eastern Housing Market Areas of Perth and Kinross have the highest prevalence of Fuel Poverty. The areas that have a lower rank (darker shade areas) are in more fuel poverty than those with a higher rank (lighter shade areas).

Map 1: Fuel poverty rank index for Perth & Kinross



Fuel poverty is a dynamic concept. This Statement provides an overview of the profile of fuel poverty households in Perth and Kinross. The ability to measure fuel poverty accurately is limited, for the following reasons:

- Households will move in and out of fuel poverty as their income, and or fuel prices, go up and down;
- Householders will move house. Depending upon the attributes of the houses involved, they may move into or out of fuel poverty despite retaining the same income; and

- There are many people on the boundary of fuel poverty, which exacerbates the above scenario. They are vulnerable to being “defined in and out of fuel poverty” as a result of marginal changes in their circumstances.

The Scottish House Condition Survey (2008) highlighted that fuel poverty in Scotland had risen from 13% of all households in 2002 to approximately 27% in 2008. Furthermore, the number of households in extreme fuel poverty had increased from 3% to 8% over the same time periods.²⁹

The Scottish House Condition Survey Local Authority Report 2005 – 2008 reported that 31% of households in Perth and Kinross were ‘fuel poor’ of which 12% were in extreme fuel poverty.

The Council commissioned a Local House Condition Survey in 2009 which reported that 12,255 households (18.3%) were living in fuel poverty of whom 2,016 households (3%) were living in extreme fuel poverty. It should be noted that this survey was based on 2,110 households which is more robust than the Scottish House Condition Survey which had a much smaller base for Perth and Kinross of 254 paired cases therefore would be subject to larger error rate³⁰.

To target fuel poverty action most effectively, it is important to analyse in detail the characteristics of those households, and the dwellings in which they live. Further detailed analysis of the Perth and Kinross House Condition Survey is provided in Appendix 1.

6.1 Fuel poor households

The key findings from the 2009 Perth and Kinross House Condition Survey were:

- 26.9% of council tenants, 18.3% of private renters, 17.2% of owner-occupiers and 16.3% of housing association tenants were living in fuel poverty.
- Households with older people aged over 65 years were much more likely than all other types of household to live in fuel poverty as 33.4% of elderly households were living in fuel poverty.
- Unemployed (37.1%), wholly retired (35.5%), permanent sick/disabled (32%) and part-time worker (31%) households showed the highest incidences of fuel poverty. Around 9.6% of unemployed households were reported as living in extreme fuel poverty.

²⁹ Source: Scottish House Condition Survey 2008
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/11/23090958/4>

³⁰ Source: Perth and Kinross House Condition Survey 2009: David Adamson and Partners
 March 2010

- Households living in the Highland Housing Market Area were more likely to be living in fuel poverty accounting for 34.9% of all fuel poverty in Perth and Kinross. Around 9.6% were living in extreme fuel poverty.
- The average National Home Energy Rating (NHER) rating for households in fuel poverty in Perth and Kinross was 5.6 compared with 6.3 for households not in fuel poverty. The average NHER rating in Perth and Kinross was 6.2.
- Households with no central heating or partial central heating were more likely to live in fuel poverty.

6.2 Dwelling energy efficiency

- Across all tenures 1.4% of dwellings had a poor average NHER, with 37.4% having a moderate NHER, and 61.2% having a good NHER.
- 3.7% of private rented homes had a poor average NHER rating, compared to 1.5% of council homes and 1.2% of owner occupied homes. Housing association homes had no dwellings with a poor NHER rating.
- Only 29.5% of private rented homes had a good average NHER rating, compared to 63.4% of housing association homes, 65.1% of owner occupied homes and 67.1% of council homes.
- The Highland Housing Market Area displayed a poor average NHER rating of 5.5%, moderate NHER rating of 57% and good NHER rating of 37.5%. The other 4 Housing Market Areas have a good NHER rating of 60% and above.

6.3 Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) Energy Performance

To comply with the Scottish Housing Quality Standard dwellings should have effective insulation, effective heating including cavity, hot water tanks and pipe insulation, 100mm loft insulation, full house central heating system and a minimum NHER rating of 5.

- Overall 54.4% of dwellings in Perth and Kinross were compliant with SHQS energy requirements
- Cavity insulation is the key energy failing (24.5% of dwellings) followed by NHER rating performance (22.7%).
- Overall rates of non-compliance with SHQS energy requirements were higher in the Highland Housing Market Area (60.6%) and the private rented sector (70.7%)

7. Existing Services

A number of initiatives and policies within the council already aim to reduce levels of fuel poverty including:

7.1 Investment in the housing stock (hard measures)

Perth and Kinross Council has an extensive programme of energy efficiency improvements to its own stock property, such as:

- Central heating systems.
- Replacement boilers.
- Cavity wall insulation.
- Loft insulation.
- Hot water tank insulation.
- Draught-proofing.
- Low energy light bulbs and energy efficiency advice.
- Double-glazing.

These are delivered through the Energy Assistance Package and the Perth and Kinross Council Capital Improvement Programme as part of the Scottish Housing Quality Standards (SHQS) delivery plan.

7.2 Soft measures

The council with its partners provide a wide range of qualitative measures such as:

- Advice Work through the Perth and Kinross Energy Efficiency Advice project. A total of 923 individual cases were handled during 2009/10, a 54.6% increase from 597 in 2008/09. The number of energy saving advice home visits almost doubled from 217 in 2008/09 to 431 in 2009/10 with a further 148 enquiries about renewable energy.
- The Council works in partnership to identify and secure internal and external funding sources.
- Ferguson Park, Rattray Affordable Warmth Project delivered in conjunction with Scotland Gas Networks through the Fuel Poverty Scheme to install 195 efficient new heating systems in an area where there was previously no gas.
- Publicity through the distribution of awareness raising information to partner agencies and with benefits and council tax information.
- Council, NHS and voluntary sector staff awareness raising sessions.

- The Council has been successful in bids to the Scottish Government for both the Home Insulation Scheme and Universal Home Insulation Schemes, the aim of which is for a high take up of energy assessments, benefit checks and/or tariff checks in identified areas, with these households being offered free or discounted loft or cavity wall insulation, where their homes are suitable for the Home Insulation Scheme. The successful areas for the Home Insulation Scheme are Strathmore and Perth City Centre wards with approximately 15,400 households. The Universal Home Insulation Scheme will offer energy efficiency measures free of charge regardless of household income. The successful area is Highland ward, including Dunkeld, with approximately 6,000 households and was awarded a grant of £590,000. The scheme will link with a potential renewable energy programme the details of which still have to be finalised. The Energy Savings Trusts Home Energy Efficiency Database, together with the Local House Condition Survey was used to identify areas with under insulated homes.
- The Climate Challenge Fund 2008-2011 projects were created to identify barriers to individuals becoming involved in taking up energy efficiency measures and to develop effective solutions to overcoming them. The total investment figure is £1.92m with approximately £1.3m being energy related projects with groups currently active in Alyth, Comrie, Letham, Guildtown, Braco, Muthill and Muirton and development of a group in Kinross.
- The Council's welfare rights service seeks to maximise the incomes of its clients by ensuring they receive the benefits they are entitled to.
- The Council works in partnership to identify and secure access to potential funding sources for renewable energy schemes, such as wind farm and Solar PV.

8. Risks to Reducing the Incidence of Fuel Poverty

A number of factors could affect progress in eliminating fuel poverty.

8.1 Fuel costs

Recent fuel price and unemployment variations have countered other measures and factors that encourage reductions in fuel poverty. By the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 target date of 2016, several adverse factors could include:

- Increasing international competition for fossil fuels.
- Costs involved in updating the country's energy supply infrastructure, including the building of new power stations with low carbon emissions.
- Decommissioning costs for retired power stations and nuclear waste disposal costs may also impact on household fuel costs.

8.2 Income

Factors affecting the health of the economy (including fuel supply) could impact on household incomes and levels of unemployment, including:

- Recession and the current economic uncertainty.
- Potential UK Government initiatives to reduce the state welfare benefits of some recipients.
- Potential changes to the funding of pension schemes, may risk future increases in fuel poverty.

8.3 Dwelling energy efficiency

Funding availability to carry out the measures required to improve dwelling energy, such as installation of renewable energy heating systems, solid wall insulation and the extension of mains gas supply may be subject to reduction or technical difficulties such as access to mains gas supply networks. This could impact on continued fuel poverty risk for residents of these properties.

9. Monitoring and Reviewing the Statement

The Local Housing Strategy Steering Group will monitor the Statement and will report progress through the Perth & Kinross Council Housing & Health Committee. The key mechanism for measuring progress will be the national Scottish House Condition Survey.

10. Action Plan

The overarching aim of this Fuel Poverty Statement is to eradicate fuel poverty as far as reasonably practical by 2016. Our main objectives are to assist fuel poor households to decrease their domestic fuel costs and to:

- Identify levels of fuel poverty and measure progress towards its reduction.
- Increase household income of fuel poor households by delivering fuel poverty advice, information and referral services.
- Maximise household incomes by providing benefits and money/debt advice.
- Increase energy and fuel efficiency of the housing stock.

Our key actions are listed below.

NO.	ACTION	BY WHO	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	COMMENTS
Objective 1 - Identify levels of fuel poverty and measure progress towards its reduction					
1.1	Collate data from LHCS and HEED to identify localities of Fuel Poverty and hard to treat properties	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	Strathmore and Perth City Centre wards identified for HIS and Highland Ward including Dunkeld identified for UHIS. Funding Bids both schemes submitted and approved
1.2	Complete LHCS and HEED analysis to identify areas of deprivation and target areas with Fuel Poverty advice	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	Localities Identified. PKC revenues and Benefits to send EAP leaflets with approximately 11,000 review letters.
1.3	Obtain information from Scottish Gas Network and from Local House Condition Survey to identify properties that are likely to have high fuel costs (e.g. hard to treat due to lack of access to gas network).	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	Types of properties identified from LHCS. Awaiting SGN map of gas network.
Objective 2 - Increase household income of fuel poor households by delivering fuel poverty advice, information advice and referral services					
2.1	Public launch/ road shows of Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement and SCARF information	PKC HCC SCARF	Short	PKC HCC NHS SCARF	From June 2011 onwards.

NO.	ACTION	BY WHO	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	COMMENTS
2.2	Use Council publications (e.g. newsletters/ web/ tenant handbooks) to promote energy advice, including Consumer Focus website which compares suppliers.	PKC HCC SCARF	Short	PKC HCC SCARF	From June 2011 onwards.
2.3	Promote Energy Assistance Package by giving energy advice and delivering information to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perth and Kinross Council tenants. Registered Social Landlord tenants. Housing Benefit recipients. Everyone through the Council Tax Annual Bill. 	PKC HCC SCARF	Short	70,000 EAP leaflets sent out with 2011/12 Council Tax renewals and 7,500 to go out with PKC tenant's quarterly review.	01.04.08 to 31.03.09 – 1,139 enquiries, 683 actions, 597 clients Activities 46 1.4.09 to 31.03.10 – 2,096 enquiries, 1738 actions, 923 clients Activities 66%, enquiries 84%, actions, 154.5%, clients 54.6%, activities 43.5% all increased.
2.4	Distribute awareness raising information to partner agencies (e.g. CAB, PKAVS, RSLs and NHS) on fuel poverty issues	PKC HCC SCARF	Short	PKC HCC SCARF	SCARF awareness raising session to PKAVS conference. PKC continue to include voluntary sector in awareness raising sessions.
2.5	Undertake training needs assessment to identify the numbers of staff and the level of training required to enable frontline staff to signpost clients to services	PKC HCC SCARF	Short	PKC HCC SCARF	Awareness raising sessions held with service managers.
2.6	Produce training packages to deliver fuel poverty awareness training so as to improve Council and partner staff awareness (e.g. NHS). Rolling programme for all new staff.	PKC HCC SCARF	Medium	PKC HCC SCARF	Awareness raising sessions to be rolled out to frontline staff. Build into Homecare induction training programme.
2.7	Provide fuel poverty awareness /energy efficiency materials to private sector landlords	SCARF	Short	SCARF	SCARF to provide e-version of fliers/materials to pass to private landlords. SCARF attend landlords forum to give a presentation on EAP.

NO.	ACTION	BY WHO	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	COMMENTS
2.8	Maintain existing Perth and Kinross Energy Efficient Project as a 'One Stop Shop' able to deliver both proactive and reactive service.	SCARF	Short	SCARF	Project Annual Report highlights increased level of client contact and potential to deliver further increases if project funding support is forthcoming see 2.3.
2.9	Develop proposals for the development of community based advice initiatives.	PKC HCC SCARF	Medium	PKC HCC SCARF Climate Challenge Fund	Successful bids for HIS and UHIS. See 1.1. Total investment figure £1.92m with approx. £1.3m being Energy related projects Groups in Alyth, Comrie, Letham, Guildtown, Braco, Muthill and Muirton currently all active. Development of a group in Kinross.
2.10	Progress existing default energy supplier scheme with SSE and/or procure tender so as to provide extended scheme for all housing tenures.	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC SSE	New supply contract received from SSE, agreement renewed March 2008 for 4 year period.
Objective 3 - Maximise household incomes by providing benefits and money/debt advice					
3.1	Implement Income Maximisation/Debt Advice approaches.	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	Ongoing from June 2011.
3.2	Undertake Winter Fuel Payment campaign to target single men and men between the ages of 60 and 64 with a female partner under 60 as they may not be in receipt of a benefit administered by The Pension Service.	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC Welfare Rights service	Welfare Rights to work with benefits to identify men who fall in this category starting from October 2011.
	Improve carers lives by providing advice to reduce fuel poverty	Carers Strategic Group	Medium	Carers Strategic Group	To be developed through the Carers Strategy 2011-14
3.3	Continue to signpost/ refer clients to more specific energy and fuel poverty advice services – Perth and Kinross Energy Efficiency Advice Project	PKC HCC NHS SCARF	Short	PKC HCC NHS SCARF	Increase numbers of client referrals from June 2011.

NO.	ACTION	BY WHO	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	COMMENTS
Objective 4 - Increase energy and fuel efficiency of the housing stock					
4.1	Deliver Energy Assistance Package programme of insulation measures for Council owned housing	PKC HCC	Short	SG £57,600 for 2010/11	Programme for 2010/11 contained 50 houses. Update 1.4.09 to 31.3.10 Households enquiring about energy assistance package - 1691, Homes helped – 1,604, Income maximisation referral - 164, tariff check referral - 415, Stage 3 referral - 292, Stage 4 referral – 387.
4.2	Progress PKC Capital Improvement Programme as part of SHQS Delivery plan such as energy efficiency works to council houses between April 2010 and March 2015 - total budget of £7m.	PKC HCC	Long	PKC HCC £50,000 - 2010/11 £950,000 - 2011/12 £2M -2012/13 £2M -2013/14 £2M -2014/15 £TBC	Energy Efficiency works to council houses between April 2010 and March 2015 - Total budget of £7m.
4.3	Develop (Maintain) system to record and update NHER level of all Council homes on an ongoing basis.	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	Accurate record of energy efficiency levels established and better targeting of investment to be introduced.
4.4	Work in partnership with utilities companies to secure funding for energy efficiency improvements.	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	Additional energy efficiency improvement programmes to be introduced.
4.5	Access potential funding sources/programmes from renewable energy (e.g. wind farms/ feed in tariffs and renewable heat incentives).	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	Talks ongoing with SSE re Griffin Wind farm.
4.6	Develop pilot project in partnership to demonstrate the feasibility of schemes to improve the condition of mixed tenure stock.	PKC HCC	Long	PKC HCC	Pilot project to be introduced.
4.7	Progress Council Tax Energy Efficiency Discount Scheme.	PKC HCC	Short	SCG PKC HCC	Council tax discount scheme launched and publicised (based on Scottish Gas scheme) in 2011/12.

NO.	ACTION	BY WHO	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	COMMENTS
4.8	Maximise access to external funding sources in order to facilitate the installation of energy efficiency improvements.	PKC HCC	Medium	PKC HCC SCARF	Bids to be submitted to relevant agencies.
4.9	Home Insulation Scheme and Universal Home Insulation Scheme for owner occupiers and private renters and encourage uptake of the offer.	PKC HCC SCARF	Medium	PKC HCC SCARF	Successful bids submitted to Scottish Government August and September 2010 respectively. See 1.1.
4.10	Utilise Assisted Connections Scheme for fuel poor households to assist with gas mains extension and infill schemes	PKC HCC	Medium	PKC HCC	Assisted Connections Scheme introduced April 2009 to assist with gas infill schemes.
4.11	Research Innovative scheme by EAGA for Solar PV.	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	EAGA to deliver technical examples on council stock for solar PV system.
4.12	Encourage improving the energy efficiency of their stock in PKC and RSL new build	PKC HCC SG RSL	Short	PKC HCC SG RSL	Investigate Aberdeen Heat and Power - Seaton Plant - Arms Length company providing to a mix of social and private properties

Action Plan Key: Timescales: Ongoing, Short (0-1 year), Medium (1-2 years), Long (2-5 years)

HCC	PKC Housing and Community Care Services
HEED	Home Energy Efficiency Database
LHCS	Local House Condition Survey
NHS	National Health Service
RSL	Registered Social Landlords
SCARF	Save Cash and Reduce Fuel
SCG	Scottish Gas
SG	Scottish Government
SSE	Scottish and Southern Energy

Appendix 1 - Fuel Poverty - Perth and Kinross House Condition Survey 2009

- 1.1 Information on household income has been linked with information on annual energy costs produced by the energy audit to produce estimates of fuel poverty. The Scottish Government uses the following definition of fuel poverty as set out in the Scottish Fuel Poverty Statement (FPS) published in 2002:
- 1.2 'A household is in fuel poverty if it would be required to spend more than 10% of its income (including Housing Benefit or Income Support for Mortgage Interest) on all household fuel use.'
- 1.3 Furthermore, 'Extreme Fuel Poverty' can be defined as a household having to spend more than 20% of its income on fuel.
- 1.4 Using the above definitions 12,255 households in Perth and Kinross are in fuel poverty representing 18.3% of all households; 2,016 households, or 3% are in extreme fuel poverty spending in excess of 20% of annual income on fuel.
- 1.5 The Scottish House Condition Survey – Local Authority Report 2004-07 records the level of fuel poverty in the private sector in Perth and Kinross at the midpoint of 2006 at 31%. Local Authority wide all tenure results from the 2008 Scottish House Condition Survey indicates a rate of fuel poverty in Perth and Kinross of 38%. It should be stressed however that these figures are based upon significantly smaller sample sizes than the 2009 Local House Condition Survey and are therefore subject to larger errors. The base for the 2008 SHCS fuel poverty figure was just 81 households across all tenures compared with 2,110 households utilised in the 2009 Local House Condition Survey.
- 1.6 Patterns of fuel poverty and extreme fuel poverty follow the same distribution and are above average amongst Council tenants and in the private rented sector, pre-1975 housing and in the Highland and Eastern housing market areas.
- 1.7 Fuel poverty relates both to the economic circumstances of households and to the underlying energy efficiency of the dwellings they occupy. Average NHER ratings for properties occupied by households in fuel poverty are below the Perth and Kinross average; thus an average NHER rating for households in fuel poverty of 5.6 compares to an average NHER rating of 6.3 for households not in fuel poverty and a Perth and Kinross average of 6.2.
- 1.8 Income differentials for households in fuel poverty are significant. Average annual incomes for households not in fuel poverty are £27,689 compared to £11,377 for households in fuel poverty and £9,649 for households in extreme fuel poverty.

TABLE 1: FUEL POVERTY BY AREA AND HOUSING SECTOR

	FUEL POVERTY - FULL INCOME MODEL				EXTREME FUEL POVERTY				TOTAL ALL HOUSEHOLDS	
	Not in fuel poverty		In fuel poverty		Not in extreme fuel poverty		In extreme fuel poverty		hholds	%
	hholds	%	hholds	%	hholds	%	hholds	%		
HOUSING MARKET AREA										
Greater Perth	32600	86.2	5218	13.8	37232	98.5	585	1.5	37817	100.0
Eastern	6792	73.7	2426	26.3	8781	95.3	438	4.7	9218	100.0
Highland	3916	65.1	2104	34.9	5441	90.4	579	9.6	6020	100.0
Kinross	4085	79.9	1027	20.1	4946	96.7	166	3.3	5113	100.0
Strathearn	7271	83.1	1480	16.9	8502	97.2	248	2.8	8751	100.0
DWELLING TENURE										
Owner occupied	39801	82.8	8242	17.2	46584	97.0	1458	3.0	48043	100.0
Private rented	6240	81.7	1393	18.3	7351	96.3	283	3.7	7634	100.0
RSL	3163	83.7	614	16.3	3770	99.8	7	0.2	3777	100.0
Council	5460	73.1	2005	26.9	7197	96.4	268	3.6	7465	100.0
MAIN HOUSE TYPE										
Detached house/bungalow	18300	77.0	5480	23.0	22560	94.9	1219	5.1	23780	100.0
Semi-det. house/bungalow	10426	81.7	2329	18.3	12506	98.0	249	2.0	12755	100.0
Terraced house/bungalow	11825	81.8	2628	18.2	14139	97.8	315	2.2	14453	100.0
Four-in-block flat	4363	86.5	679	13.5	4936	97.9	106	2.1	5042	100.0
Tenement flat	8994	89.3	1075	10.7	9941	98.7	127	1.3	10069	100.0
Other flat	755	92.1	65	7.9	820	100.0	0	0.0	820	100.0
PRIMARY HOUSE TYPE										
Houses	40552	79.5	10436	20.5	49205	96.5	1783	3.5	50988	100.0
Flats	14112	88.6	1818	11.4	15697	98.5	233	1.5	15931	100.0
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION										
Pre - 1919	10409	78.6	2838	21.4	12339	93.1	908	6.9	13247	100.0
1919 - 1944	4333	80.2	1067	19.8	5252	97.3	148	2.7	5401	100.0
1945 - 1964	8435	73.3	3080	26.7	10988	95.4	527	4.6	11515	100.0
1965 - 1974	8598	77.9	2439	22.1	10802	97.9	235	2.1	11037	100.0
1975 - 1989	9259	85.6	1552	14.4	10672	98.7	139	1.3	10811	100.0
Post 1989	13629	91.4	1279	8.6	14849	99.6	59	0.4	14908	100.0
TOTAL ALL SECTORS	54664	81.7	12255	18.3	64903	97.0	2016	3.0	66919	100.0

TABLE 2: FUEL POVERTY BY HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS										
	FUEL POVERTY				EXTREME FUEL POVERTY				Table Total	
	Not In Fuel Poverty		In Fuel Poverty		Not In Extreme Fuel Poverty		In Extreme Fuel Poverty			
	hholds	%	hholds	%	hholds	%	hholds	%	hholds	%
AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD										
Under 25 Years	2028	97.2	59	2.8	2067	99.1	19	0.9	2086	100.0
25 - 34 Years	6472	93.6	443	6.4	6866	99.3	49	0.7	6915	100.0
35 - 44 Years	10650	92.7	833	7.3	11360	98.9	123	1.1	11483	100.0
45 - 54 Years	9272	84.8	1657	15.2	10816	99.0	113	1.0	10930	100.0
55 - 64 Years	10223	83.2	2063	16.8	12006	97.7	280	2.3	12286	100.0
65 Years And Over	13695	65.5	7199	34.5	19462	93.1	1432	6.9	20894	100.0
Unobtainable	2325	100.0	0	0.0	2325	100.0	0	0.0	2325	100.0
HOUSEHOLD TYPE										
Single Person Non Pensioner	7069	83.1	1441	16.9	8297	97.5	213	2.5	8510	100.0
Single Parent Family	3319	80.4	809	19.6	4024	97.5	104	2.5	4129	100.0
Two Person Adult Non Pensioner	10144	91.3	970	8.7	11041	99.3	73	0.7	11114	100.0
Small Family	12193	96.8	398	3.2	12488	99.2	103	0.8	12591	100.0
Large Family	2673	93.9	173	6.1	2841	99.8	5	0.2	2845	100.0
Large Adult	780	88.9	97	11.1	878	100.0	0	0.0	878	100.0
Elderly	16646	66.6	8366	33.4	23494	93.9	1518	6.1	25013	100.0
Unobtainable	1840	100.0	0	0.0	1840	100.0	0	0.0	1840	100.0
ECONOMIC STATUS HOH										
Full Time Work	31216	95.4	1519	4.6	32494	99.3	241	0.7	32735	100.0
Part Time Work	2130	69.0	955	31.0	3014	97.7	71	2.3	3085	100.0
Unemployed	1541	62.9	908	37.1	2212	90.4	236	9.6	2448	100.0
Permanently Sick/Disabled	1233	68.0	581	32.0	1766	97.4	48	2.6	1814	100.0
Looking After Home	732	72.1	284	27.9	976	96.0	41	4.0	1016	100.0
Wholly Retired	14497	64.5	7983	35.5	21100	93.9	1380	6.1	22480	100.0
Student	997	97.6	25	2.4	1022	100.0	0	0.0	1022	100.0
Unobtainable	2318	100.0	0	0.0	2318	100.0	0	0.0	2318	100.0
VULNERABILITY										
Not vulnerable	45494	86.1	7337	13.9	51759	98.0	1072	2.0	52831	100.0
Vulnerable	9170	65.1	4918	34.9	13143	93.3	945	6.7	14088	100.0
TABLE TOTAL	54664	81.7	12255	18.3	64903	97.0	2016	3.0	66919	100.0

Appendix 2 - Consultees

- Elected Members of Perth and Kinross Council.
- Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership.
- Local Housing Strategy Steering Group.
- NHS Tayside.
- Community Health Partnership.
- Registered Social Landlords (RSLs).
- Scottish Government.
- Perth and Kinross Council staff.
- Perth and Kinross Housing Forum.
- Private developers.
- Private landlords.
- Registered Tenant Organisations.
- Perth and Kinross Residents.
- Neighbouring local authorities
- Citizens Advice Bureau.
- Save Cash and Reduce Fuel (SCARF).
- Perth and Kinross Association of Voluntary Service (PKAVS).
- Age Scotland (Age Concern and Help the Aged).
- MPs.
- MSPs.
- MEPs.
- Climate challenge projects.
- Care and support providers.
- Community Councils.
- Chamber of Commerce.
- Relevant local National Parks.
- Equalities groups.
- Energy Action Scotland.
- Energy Saving Trust.
- Consumer Focus.
- Friends of the Earth Scotland.
- OFGEM.
- Scottish and Southern Energy.
- Scottish Gas.
- Scottish Power.
- Scotland Gas Networks.