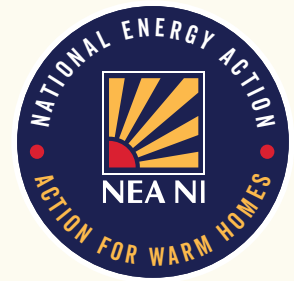


Fuel Poverty in Ards and North Down



In 2025, 39% of households in Northern Ireland were living in fuel poverty, spending more than 10% of their income on energy.



The median energy rating score for dwellings assessed between 2013 – 2023 was **EPC D**.



The seasonal increase in mortality in winter 2023/24 was an estimated **40 deaths**.



13% of residents in 2021 lived in the **private rented sector**, where there are currently no minimum energy efficiency standards.



The average rate of **relative poverty** after housing costs between 2021 and 2024 was **18%**.



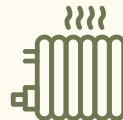
The **median weekly wage** in 2025 was **£506**.



In 2025, **9.2%** of the population were in receipt of **Universal Credit**, and **9.5%** were in receipt of **Personal Independence Payment**.



In 2023/24, **10%** of all **Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme (NISEP)** measures were installed here.



At the Census 2021, **40%** of occupied households had **'oil only'** central heating and **46%** had **'mains gas only'**.



At the Census 2021, only **5%** of households had any **renewable energy systems**.

Across Northern Ireland

- There is a lack of up-to-date data available in Northern Ireland. The most recent official estimate of fuel poverty was 27% in 2022, modelled using baseline data from the 2016 House Condition Survey. However, LucidTalk polling for NEA NI estimated the rate of fuel poverty in September 2025 at 39%.
- The NI Executive currently has no statutory fuel poverty target. This is unlike Great Britain.
- A Marie Curie report (2025) notes that almost 1 in 3 people in the last year of life (27%) are estimated to be in fuel poverty in Northern Ireland.
- Polling for NEA NI (2025) found that 1 in 4 of Northern Ireland households reported health and wellbeing impacts, and 7% of households cut back on food, due to rising energy prices and the cost of living.
- In Northern Ireland, around 61% of homes use oil for central heating – the highest share of any UK nation.