

The Scottish Government's Energy Assistance Package

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Aim of this presentation



To help you understand what the Energy Assistance Package is about and why it is important.

To promote the key areas of the Energy Assistance Package to you.

To help generate awareness of the Energy Assistance Package and drive traffic to 0800 512 012.



Background information What is fuel poverty?



An estimated 1 in 4 Scottish households are classed as fuel poor*:

- Struggling with their energy bills.
- Spending over 10% of their income on energy bills.
- Rising energy costs, low incomes and the poor energy efficiency of property are the main reasons for fuel poverty.
- Can lead to cold, damp, draughty homes which can contribute to ill health and debt due to the lack of funds to pay for utilities.

*Source: The Scottish House Condition Survey 2007



What is the Energy Assistance Package and why does it exist?



What?

Provides impartial expert advice and different levels of support on improving energy efficiency, raising incomes and reducing bills.

Funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by the Energy Saving Trust through its 5 Energy Saving Scotland Advice Centres.

Scottish Government funding of £60 million a year, with additional funding from Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT).

A package of different levels of help, with advice and support tailored to circumstances.



What is the Energy Assistance Package and why does it exist?



Why?

Recommendation from the Scottish Fuel Poverty Forum because previous programmes were not targeted – therefore unlikely to reach overall 2016 target of eradicating fuel poverty.

Replaced former fuel poverty programmes Central Heating and Warm Deal in April 2009.

Aim to address all three factors in fuel poverty by maximising income, cutting fuel bills and making Scots' homes warmer and more comfortable.

Government grants now also available to new groups. Families with a disabled child under 16, pregnant women and families with children under 5 if they are in receipt of passport benefits and have homes with poor energy efficiency.



What could at risk groups be entitled to?



Benefits

- Higher income.
- Lower bills.
- Improved health for all of the family.
- Warmer home.
- Reduced damp.
- Reduced chance of falling into debt.



Stage 1

Advice on making your home as energy efficient as possible.

Who is eligible?

Everyone.



Stage 2

Referral for benefit and tax credit check and to energy supplier for a social tariff if we think you may be eligible.

Who is eligible?

Everyone may be referred depending on circumstances.



Stage 3

Insulation from an energy supplier.

Who is eligible?

- Homeowner or tenant of a private sector landlord and who receive a qualifying benefit.
- OR
- Aged 75 or over or someone in the household is aged 75 or over.
- OR
- Someone in the household aged 70 or over who have no central heating.



Stage 4

Measures funded by Scottish Government to make homes comfortable and cheaper to heat e.g. heating measures and insulation.

Who is eligible?

- Homeowner or tenant of a private sector landlord.

AND

- Aged 60 or over or with a partner aged 60 or over who have no central heating.

OR...



Continued...



Stage 4 continued...

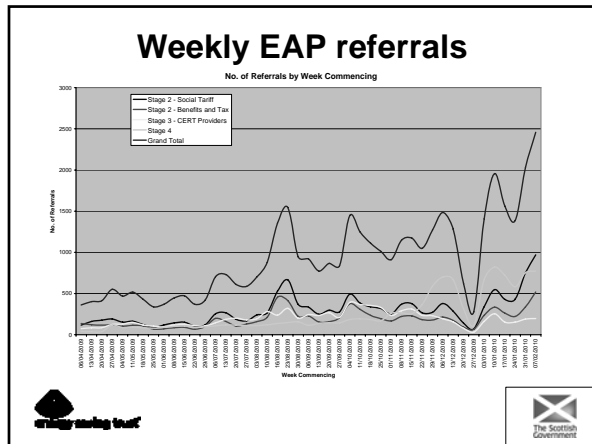
Who is eligible?

OR...

Home has a poor energy rating and in following group:

- Aged 75 or over or those with a partner aged 75 or over.
- Those with children under 5 and receive qualifying benefits.
- Those pregnant or with pregnant partners and receiving qualifying benefits.
- Those with a disabled child under 16 and receiving qualifying benefits.
- Aged 60 or over or those with a partner 60 and over and receiving qualifying benefits.





Outcomes to the end of December

| | TOTAL | AVERAGE (For those helped) |
|---|------------|-------------------------------|
| Increase in income, all households helped (£ per annum) | £1,184,061 | £1,432 |
| - Increase in income for Pensioner Households (£ p.a.) | £798,928 | £1,210 |
| - Increase in income for families & other non-pensioner households (£ p.a.) | £385,133 | £2,306 |
| Reduction in annual fuel bills from switch to social tariffs (£) | £172,733 | £129 |
| Reduction in annual fuel bills from switching payment types (£) | £23,416 | £164 |

Outcomes to the end of December

| | TOTAL | AVERAGE (For those helped) |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Reduction in fuel bills due to energy efficiency measures (£ over lifetime of measures) | £28,367,685 | £9,316 |
| Increase in energy efficiency of homes receiving stage 4 measures (SAP points) | | 43 |
| Reduction in carbon dioxide (tonnes CO2 over lifetime of measures) | 119,949 | 38 |

"I had heard about the Energy Assistance Package when it was launched ... and knew that they wanted to hear from people like me; someone with a young family.

"I contacted the helpline and, with some support from the advisor who guided me through the application process, we received a new boiler and new radiators.

"It has been brilliant and the whole process was flawless. The advisor and the company who installed our new system kept us updated so it was all really easy."

Tracy was also impressed by the Energy Assistance Package's inclusiveness. Everyone who calls the Energy Saving Scotland advice centre on 0800 512 012 or logs on to the Scotland section of the Energy Saving Trust website will benefit from tailored advice.

She said: "For me, one of the greatest things about this initiative is that **everyone can benefit** so it doesn't feel like a hand-out; it's more of a hand-up. My family and I have been given the equipment that will allow us to have a warm and comfortable home this winter.

Tracey Corrigan (35), mum

"The installation has completely transformed our home.

"I live in a house that was built in the 1800s so it didn't have the insulation properties of a modern development. We didn't even have radiators in any of the rooms.

"That was ok in the summer but in winter it was dreadful, and it is of some concern when you have two young children.

"The difference has been night and day. It is fantastic.

"It means that every room in the house is nice and warm so we can wander from room to room without shivering! It also means the bathroom is a nice temperature which makes a big difference when I'm getting the boys ready in the morning.

"I can't speak highly enough of the programme, I would recommend that everyone gets in touch to see if they are eligible for some form of assistance."

Elaine Colliar, mother of 2

Ms M was referred for Stage 4 as part of the Band E call-backs, she said that she was very grateful and for everything else the ESSac has done.

Since getting onto the social tariff, she saves £20 a month which has made a significant difference.

Case study – stage 4 ASHP

Mr Y lives with his wife in the Inch area of Aberdeenshire.

Mr Y is over 60 with no central heating and receives the Guaranteed Element of Pension Credit. They live in a 3 bedroom detached bungalow built 1976 – 1983 of timber frame construction.

Mr and Mrs Y's property had an open coal fire (which was not used) and 4 fixed electric heaters.

Air Source Heat pump and radiator panels installed

- SAP rating increased by 25 points
- Fuel saving of £686 per year

Mrs Y stated 'We are highly delighted with the new heating system I had to turn the valves down today because it was too hot'.



Why are we speaking to you?



- Most vulnerable people hardest to reach.
- You have access to the groups.
- Trusted source of information.
- You can make a difference.
- Aren't expected to know all of the answers – just to point them in the right direction.



Who should you speak to?



- People who are vulnerable to fuel poverty, e.g. who complain of having cold homes or unaffordable fuel bills.
- Those with ill health relating to being in cold and damp conditions e.g. coughing, breathing problems.
- Pregnant women.
- Families with children under 5 (16).
- Families with disabled children.
- Elderly people.
- Private tenants and homeowners.



How can you help spread the message?



Hand out brochures / brochures on display



Put up posters

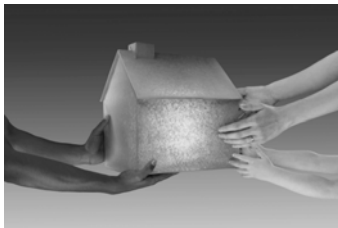


Distribute leaflets / place leaflets in key locations



Where can your contacts find more information?

www.energyassistancepackage.com



Your local Community Liaison Officer



- Highlands and Islands
- North East Scotland
- Strathclyde and Central Scotland
- South East Scotland
- South West Scotland

Sarah Bromley 0131 468 8682
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