

Fuel Poverty Mapping at Small Area Level

Output of Research

Changeworks has produced fuel poverty maps for Scotland at data zone level. Data zones are areas designed to contain between 500 – 1000 households. These maps can be represented either at nation-wide (as shown overleaf) or street level to allow for identification of fuel poor areas. They have been produced using data from the Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS)¹, which identified a number of factors that predispose households to fuel poverty (such as unemployed or single pensioner homeowners). These findings were then coupled to 2011 Scottish Census² and EPC register data³ to produce predicted levels of fuel poverty at small area level (a detailed methodology can be provided on request). The map was updated in February 2015 to include the latest SHCS data.

The Scotland-wide map shows that higher levels of fuel poverty occur in regions off the gas grid. This is likely to directly contribute to higher levels of fuel poverty due to increased heating costs, particularly for households using expensive fuel types such as heating oil or bottled LPG. The energy efficiency of the housing stock and household income in rural and urban settings are also key contributors to the fuel poverty maps. While the maps may raise questions about the effectiveness or otherwise of previous programmes to reduce fuel poverty, our main hope is the maps will inform future targeting of programmes to reduce fuel poverty via UK, Scottish and Local Government programmes or those led by the third sector.

Proposal for Local Authorities

Changeworks are happy to provide local authorities free of charge a pdf image file of their region along with the methodology utilised. Changeworks has provided more in depth analysis and reports for four local authorities; the City of Edinburgh, Fife, Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway, which have resulted in greater understanding of fuel poverty in these areas. This service is chargeable and includes the following outputs:

- Fuel poverty map images illustrating the percentage of households in fuel poverty and the total number of households in fuel poverty;
- An overall analysis of fuel poverty including general statistics and identification of problem areas at multimember ward and street level;
- Comparison with existing datasets including the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, off-gas maps and estimated fuel bills maps;
- Key recommendations for fuel poverty mitigation and energy efficiency provision;
- GIS .shp files and Excel files for incorporation into existing local authority data bases and services.

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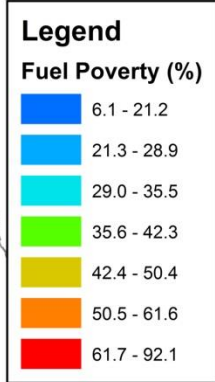
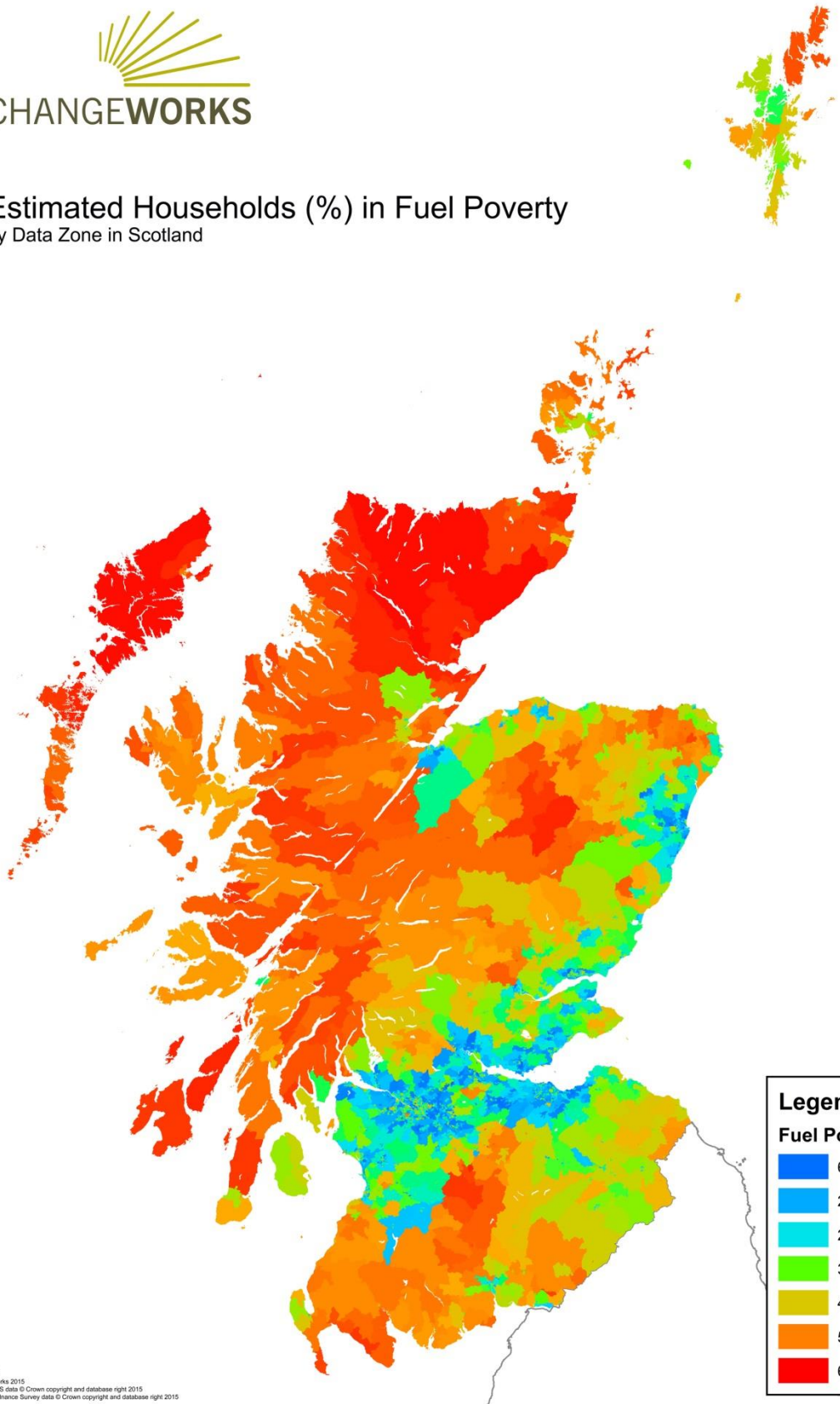
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¹ www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SHCS

² www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk

³ Source: The Energy Saving Trust

Estimated Households (%) in Fuel Poverty by Data Zone in Scotland



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