

# ***Tackling Fuel Poverty through Energy Efficiency Strategies***

***Noel Rice***

***Northern Ireland Housing Executive***

***Energy Conservation Unit***

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# FUEL POVERTY

"A household is in fuel poverty if, in order to maintain an acceptable level of temperature throughout the home it would have to spend more than 10% of its income on all household fuel."



# CAUSES OF FUEL POVERTY

- POOR THERMAL EFFICIENCY OF DWELLINGS
- LOW HOUSEHOLD INCOME
- HIGH FUEL PRICES

Energy Efficiency on its own cannot eradicate it for everyone – requires Action on all 3 causes

# LEVELS OF FUEL POVERTY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

- 2001 - 27%
- 2004 - 23%
- 2006 - 34%

# Fuel Poverty Changes 2001-2006

- Energy Efficiency - 19% reduction
- Income - 12% reduction in FP
- Fuel Prices - 38% increase
- NET INCREASE in Fuel Poverty 7%

# *Home Energy Conservation Act*

- *Target – improve energy efficiency 34%*
- *No statutory enforcement powers, additional finance or deadline specified*
- *Progress measured in reduced fuel use*
- *Average SAP in N.I. in 1996 was 35*
- *Solid fuel was main domestic fuel with oil growing steadily - no natural gas*
- *By 2006 there was a 20% reduction in energy consumption over 1996 figure*
- *Average SAP in N.I. in 2006 was 50*

# ***DOMESTIC FUEL MIX***

	<b>1996</b>	<b>2006</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
• <i><b>Mains Gas</b></i>	<b>0</b>	<b>11.9</b>
• <i><b>Solid Fuel</b></i>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>5.7</b>
• <i><b>Oil</b></i>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>70.3</b>
• <i><b>Dual</b></i>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>5.5</b>
• <i><b>Electricity</b></i>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>5.2</b>
• <i><b>Other/LPG</b></i>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>1.4</b>

# *Cavity Wall Insulation*

	1996		2006	
	No	%	No	%
<i>Full CWI</i>	219,600	36	434,000	62
<i>Partial CWI</i>	0	0	58,200	8
<i>Dry Lining/Ext</i>	0	0	56,400	8
<i>No Wall Ins</i>	<u>382,900</u>	64	<u>156,400</u>	22
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	<b>602,500</b>		<b>705,000</b>	

# ***LOFT INSULATION***

***1996***

***2006***

***No***

***%***

***No***

***%***

***Loft Ins***

***460,500***

***76***

***602,200***

***85***

***None***

***70,000***

***12***

***33,400***

***5***

***Not Applicable***

***72,000***

***12***

***69,400***

***10***

***TOTAL***

***602,500***

***680,000***

# Fuel Poverty Strategy

- Dept for Social Development – lead role
- 2004 Fuel Poverty Strategy
- Target to eradicate fuel poverty by 2016
- Work in partnership with statutory bodies, fuel utilities and charities
- Fund energy efficiency programmes
- Strategy under review in 2009

# Social Housing Heating Programme

- NI Housing Executive – over 100,000 dwellings converted from coal heating to natural gas or oil
- Further 20,000 programmed for new heating
- Installed Solar Panels in over 2,000 houses
- Testing wood pellet heating – 30 dwgs
- Housing Associations – all newbuild using gas, oil and in some cases wood pellets
- Both NIHE and Housing Associations upgrade insulation

# Private Sector

- Warm Homes grant for fuel poor owner occupiers in receipt of welfare benefits
- Provides both new heating and insulation
- Over 70,000 homes to date
- NIE Levy programme - £7m per annum
- Targets fuel poor who don't qualify for Warm Homes
- 90% of funds go to fuel poor for heating, insulation, low energy lighting, energy and efficient white goods

# Voluntary Sector Programmes

- National Energy Action – campaign and lobby on fuel poverty issues
- Run schemes in partnership with Health Service
- Energy Advice Centre – provide advice to householders on energy efficiency
- Welfare Benefits – health checks

# Future

AFTER ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORKS ARE COMPLETE , 17% OF HOUSEHOLDS WILL REMAIN IN FUEL POVERTY UNLESS ACTION IS TAKEN TO INCREASE INCOME AND REDUCE FUEL PRICES.

Energy efficient homes may remain cold homes if tenants have insufficient income to pay for the fuel they need