



# National RIGHT TO FUEL Campaign

*Campaigning for a warm dry well-lit home for all*

## **What is fuel poverty?**

*Fuel poverty arises when people have insufficient income to heat their homes to the standard required for comfort. Factors influencing this are the condition of the property, its location, its state of repair, type of heating system installed, cost of fuel and level of household income.*

*Fuel poverty causes untold suffering and ill health through poor heating and housing conditions. Unemployment, disability, age and incapacity condemn people to daily lives in cold, damp homes, unable to afford to warm their homes, cook food or provide adequate lighting.*

## **Funders and Sponsors**

**UNISON**  
**Energywatch**  
**NEA**  
**E.On UK**

## **Supporting Members**

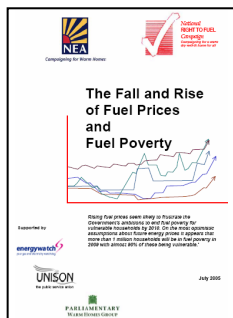
**Age Concern England**  
**Beat the Cold**  
**Centre for Sustainable Energy**  
**Child Poverty Action Group**  
**energywatch**  
**Help the Aged**  
**NEA**  
**National Housing Federation**  
**Warm Up Wearside**

## **REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2005-2006**

### **NRFC's National Conference**

This year's conference theme was "the Rise and Fall of Fuel Prices: what does it mean for the fuel poor" and was addressed by a wide range of speakers with interests across the social sectors, many asking whose responsibility is it to keep track of the effect of rising prices and to support those in fuel poverty. Mike O'Brien MP, then Minister for Energy, DTI, gave the keynote speech. The issues discussed raised considerable interest among the conference delegates.

The conference was held on March 16 2005 in London.



### **Fall and Rise of Fuel Prices and Fuel Poverty**

This paper was written by Dr Richard Moore, produced jointly with NEA and funded by energywatch, Unison and NEA. The research found that numbers of households in fuel poverty were increasing as a direct result of increasing

fuel prices.

The findings were reported at the national conference.

Copies of the paper can be obtained from the NRFC Administrator or from the NEA website, [www.nea.org.uk](http://www.nea.org.uk).

### **Fuel Poverty And Fire And Home Accidents – Briefing Paper**

Based on information from Dr Richard Moore's work for the Housing Health and Safety Rating System and for the EU, this paper highlights the dangers for households who use portable heating appliances.

Statistics show that there are higher numbers of accidents and fatalities in these households than in those with central heating.

The paper was written in 2005 and will be produced shortly.

*Continued over >>>*

## **Steering Committee 2005-2006**

### **Chair**

Michael King

### **Vice-Chair**

Dick Barry, *Unison*

### **Secretary**

Ron Campbell, *NEA*

### **Treasurer**

Dave Steckles, *Warm Up Wearside*

Sarah Allen, *Luton BC*

William Baker, *CSE*

Richard Bates, *energywatch*

Hugh Bown

Martin Chadwick, *Beat the Cold*

John Crowe, *CPAG*

John Green, *Oxford City*

Gretel Jones, *Age Concern  
England*

Norman Kerr, *Energy Action  
Scotland*

Dr Richard Moore

Dr Janet Rudge

## **Support**

Hugh Bown to October 2005

Caroline Heijne from October  
2005

## **Fuel News - the Campaign newsletter**

Four issues were produced in 2005-06. These keep members informed of Campaign activities and developments in the field of fuel poverty.

## **Representation**

Campaign representatives have had a further busy year ensuring that the interests of low income and vulnerable households are taken into account in new initiatives and regulation.

The Campaign's representation includes the Public Utilities Access Forum, Purge, the EST's Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes, the Parliamentary Warm Homes Group.

## **Campaign Staff**

Hugh Bown continued to act as Administrator to October 2005. His efforts were much appreciated for keeping the Campaign on track, producing Fuel News and supporting the Campaigns activities.

Caroline Heijne returned as Campaign Administrator from October 2005

The Campaign has been progressed by members of the Steering Committee, effectively led by the Chair, Michael King.

March 2006

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The National Right to Fuel Campaign is a membership organisation open to other agencies and individuals who support the Campaign's aims. Subscription rates vary and details can be obtained from the Administrator.

Current membership includes national and local charities, advice agencies, trade union members, local authorities, insulation businesses, energy organisations, welfare rights and housing agencies and environmental organisations.

## ***National RIGHT TO FUEL Campaign***

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