

FUEL POVERTY

A guide to fuel poverty



EAST
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Fuel Poverty – What is it?

A household is said to be in fuel poverty if it needs to spend more than 10% of its income on fuel to keep the home warm. Around 4 million – that's 15% – of UK households are affected by fuel poverty.

Source: DECC, Annual Fuel Poverty Statistics, 2016. England. National Statistics

What Causes Fuel Poverty?

Low household income: the cost of heating a home accounts for a large proportion of total income for households on benefits or low wages

High energy prices

Poor energy efficiency: the quality of the building and its insulation affect how much energy is needed to heat the home

Fuel Poverty – Who's at risk?

Those most at risk from fuel poverty and cold-related illness are the most vulnerable members of our society. 78% of households in fuel poverty are classed as vulnerable, that is one containing children, the elderly, or someone with a long-term illness or disability.

Fuel Poverty – East Cambridgeshire

According to statistics provided by government the percentage of households in poverty in East Cambridgeshire is 8%. This equates to 2853 households.

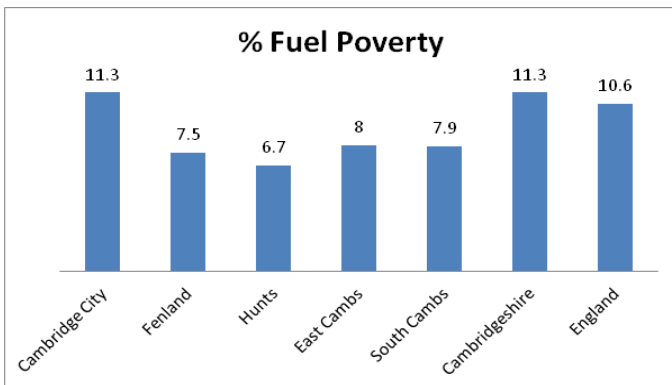


Chart Showing Fuel Poverty as a percentage across Cambridgeshire

Source: DECC, Annual Fuel Poverty Statistics, 2016. England. National Statistics

What we are doing to reduce Fuel Poverty?

- By dedicating resources to target and tackle fuel poverty.
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- Ensuring that those living on low incomes across the district have access to information and support to benefit from opportunities to reduce their energy.
- Identify and provide tailored support and advice to residents in fuel poverty. For example, signposting residents to relevant organizations and informing them of relevant grants and benefits.
- Work in partnership with other Local Authorities to tackle fuel poverty. For example East Cambridgeshire District is a member of Action on Energy.

Action on Energy is a Cambridgeshire local authorities' partnership set up to help residents access grant funding for home energy saving measures. Between November 2014 and October 2016, Action on Energy helped over 800 owner occupied or private rented households in Cambridgeshire to get solid wall insulation and other energy saving measures installed to their homes with generous grants from the government's Green Deal Communities fund.

The Green Deal Communities funded project has now finished. East Cambridgeshire will work with its partners to identify other sources of funding.

The new phase of the Energy Company Obligation (ECO2) was launched in April 2017 and is scheduled to last until September 2018. The council continues to assist local residents in access the funding and seek suitable partnerships to further exploit the ECO2 funding.

Useful Contacts for Help and Advice:

Nick Wyatt, Sustainability Officer, East Cambridgeshire District Council. 01353 616474, nick.wyatt@eastcambs.gov.uk.

Ofgem accredited price comparison sites

Website	Telephone
energyhelpline.com	0800 074 0745
energylinx.com	0800 849 7077
moneysupermarket.com	0800 177 7087
myutilitygenius.co.uk	0203 468 0461
simplyswitch.com	0800 011 1395
switchgasandelectric.com	0333 219060
theenergyshop.com	0845 330 7274
ukpower.co.uk	0800 320 2000
unravelit.com	0333 344 0031
uswitch.com	0800 688 824

Fuel Poverty:

www.nea.org.uk 0191 261 5677

Debt advice:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk 0344 245 1292

www.ageuk.org.uk 0300 666 9860

www.nationaldebtline.org 0808 808 4000

Energy Advice

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk 0300 123 1234

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www.eastcambs.gov.uk/customer-services

