

Press Release

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NEW FIGURES REVEAL 1.5M COLD HOMES ACROSS SCOTLAND

Full table of constituencies and links to cold homes map of Scotland available [here](#)

Thousands of cold homes found in every parliamentary constituency

- Political parties urged to commit to ridding Scotland of 'scourge' of cold homes by 2025

Political parties should commit to ridding Scotland of the 'scourge' of cold homes by 2025, said campaigners today.

The call by the Existing Homes Alliance Scotland, whose members include WWF Scotland, Changeworks, and the National Insulation Association, follows the publication of newly compiled data which revealed that there are up to 1.5million cold homes in the country - with tens of thousands in every single parliamentary constituency. [1]

Commenting on the new figures, Alan Ferguson, Chair of the Existing Homes Alliance said:

"These figures show that if the next Scottish Government set an objective to bring all homes in Scotland to at least a 'C' energy performance standard by 2025, they could end the scourge of cold homes currently affecting thousands of households in every single parliamentary constituency across Scotland.

"Not only did more than 50 business and civil society organisations welcome the cross-party commitment to making improved energy efficiency for Scotland's homes a National Infrastructure Priority, but the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence suggested a 'C' standard is the minimum energy efficiency level to reduce the risk of death and ill-health associated with cold homes." [2] [3] [4]

Dr Sam Gardner, Head of Policy at WWF Scotland said:

"Heating Scotland's buildings accounts for over half of our climate change emissions. Ensuring every home reaches a C Energy performance standard by 2025 is the minimum level of ambition required to allow our climate change targets to be met. A political commitment that no-one should live in a hard-to-heat, draughty home would be good for millions of households, and would drastically reduce emissions too."

Wilson Shaw, Chair of the National Insulation Association (NIA) in Scotland said:

"A commitment from the next Scottish Government to ensure all homes in Scotland reach a minimum energy efficiency standard could create up to 9,000 jobs a year. Today's figures show that such a commitment would benefit thousands of households across every single Scottish parliamentary constituency. Few other capital investments could make such a difference, and

such a commitment would give the energy efficiency industry the confidence to invest for the longer term.” [5] [6]

Key findings from the data compiled by the Existing Homes Alliance include:

- An estimated 1,482,000 households in Scotland currently live in a home that is ‘unhealthily cold’, that is rated below a band C EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) standard. The National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has recommended that, as a minimum, properties should be raised to an EPC band C and ideally to a band B to help reduce the risk of death and ill health associated with living in a cold home. This is 62% of households in Scotland.
- The figures show that the households in the lowest energy efficiency bands are more likely to be living in fuel poverty.
- There are seven constituencies in Scotland where more than 75% of households are estimated to be living in a cold home: Na h-Eileanan an Iar; Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch; Caithness, Sutherland and Ross; Shetland Islands; Orkney Islands; Argyll and Bute; Banffshire and Buchan Coast;
- There are only three constituencies in Scotland where more than half of households are living in a home of an “acceptable” energy efficiency rating (i.e. at least a C EPC standard): Glasgow Shettleston; Edinburgh Northern and Leith; Glasgow Anniesland.

Ends

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Notes to Editors

[1] Full data table and a print quality map of Scotland, showing the highest concentrations of cold homes is available [here](#)

[2] More than 50 major civil society and business organisations have signed a joint-statement calling for the next Scottish Government to make a commitment that ‘no one in Scotland is living in a hard-to-heat, draughty home, by 2025’. The organisations are calling on the next Scottish Government to set an objective of improving all homes in Scotland to at least a C EPC standard.
<http://existinghomesalliancescotland.co.uk/news/civic-alliance-calls-for-end-to-cold-homes-blighting-scotland/>

[3] In August 2015 each of the leaders of Scotland’s main political parties signed a commitment to make their manifestoes consistent with Scotland’s Climate Change Act. This included a commitment to making energy efficiency a ‘National Infrastructure Priority’.
http://www.wwf.org.uk/about_wwf/press_centre/?unewsid=7663

Scottish Government committed in June 2015 to making the improvement of energy efficiency a ‘National Infrastructure Priority’: <http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Climate-change-action-heats-up-19c8.aspx>

[4] NICE health guidelines on cold homes:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6/resources/excess-winter-deaths-and-morbidity-and-the-healthrisks-associated-with-cold-homes-51043484869>

[5] The National Insulation Association represents the manufacturers, system certificate holders and installers of cavity wall, solid wall, loft and roof insulation and draught proofing in Scotland and is committed to working with the Scottish Government and other like-minded organisations in reducing carbon emissions and eradicating fuel poverty.

[6] 9,000 jobs figure from 'Economic impact of improving the energy efficiency of fuel poor households in Scotland', Verco and Cambridge Economics for Consumers Futures Scotland:
<http://www.cas.org.uk/system/files/publications/economic-impact-of-energy-efficiency-investment-in-scotland.pdf>

[7] For more information on The Existing Homes Alliance Scotland

<http://existinghomesalliancescotland.co.uk/>