

Spotlight on Scotland's Cold Homes

April 2021

Scotland has some of the most ambitious climate change targets in the world, yet at the same time an unacceptable number of Scottish households continue to live in fuel poverty.

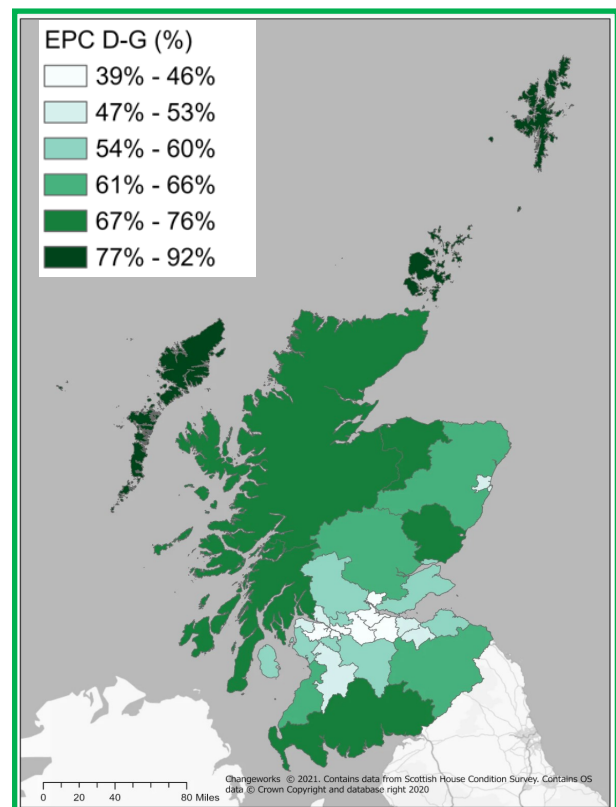
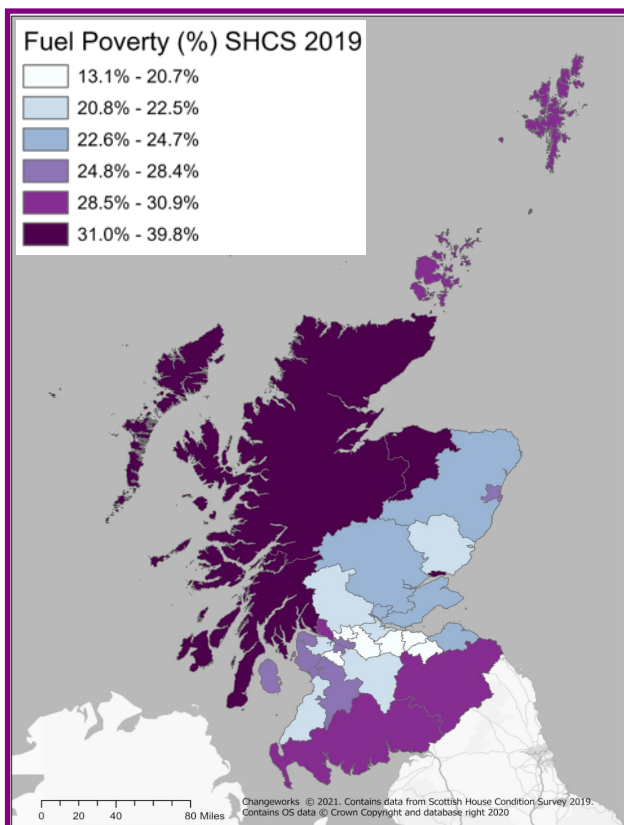
This briefing offers a snapshot of the current situation and is for use in the pre-election period and when the next parliamentary session begins. The maps and data illustrate the scale of the challenge but also the potential opportunities.

Homes account for around 15% of total greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland and the best way to reduce these **and** tackle fuel poverty is by improving the efficiency of homes and installing low carbon heating systems.

Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) provide information on how energy efficient your home is. Buildings are rated on a scale from A-G. The National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has recommended that, as a minimum, properties should be at least EPC C to help reduce death or ill health associated with living in a cold home.

Throughout this campaign, we hope to see manifesto commitments that seek to address these challenges and that the new Scottish Government will take this unique opportunity to deliver a just and green recovery.

There are around 605,000 households living in fuel poverty across Scotland. 294,000 of them are living in extreme fuel poverty which means they need to spend at least 20% of their income on heating. Research suggests that COVID-19 could push a further 136,000 into fuel poverty.



There are an estimated nearly 1.4 million 'unhealthily cold' homes across Scotland. 55% of homes are below EPC C.

Remote and island communities are most likely to have homes that are below EPC C.

Central

- ◆ It is estimated that around 183,000 households in the region are living in ‘unhealthily cold’ homes (below EPC C).
- ◆ Around 79,000 (21%) households in the region are living in fuel poverty - 32,000 of whom are living in extreme fuel poverty which means they need to spend more than 20% of their income to heat their homes.
- ◆ It is estimated that the investment to bring homes in the region up to EPC C and install low emissions heating could support 22 - 26,000 jobs over the next decade.

Glasgow

- ◆ Around 73,000 (25%) households in Glasgow are living in fuel poverty - 34,000 of whom are living in extreme fuel poverty which means they need to spend more than 20% of their income to heat their homes.
- ◆ An estimated 129,000 households (44%) Glasgow are living in ‘unhealthily cold’ (below EPC C).
- ◆ Around 32,000 (22%) households in the South Lanarkshire Council area are living in fuel poverty - 14,000 of whom are living in extreme fuel poverty. An estimated 82,000 households (56%) in the South Lanarkshire Council are living in cold homes (below EPC C).
- ◆ It is estimated that the investment to bring homes in the region up to EPC C and install low emissions heating could support 25 - 30,000 jobs over the next decade.

Highlands and Islands

- ◆ Every council area in the parliamentary region has more than 70% of households estimated to be living in an ‘unhealthily cold’ home, compared to a Scottish average of 55%.
- ◆ Highlands and Islands parliamentary region has the highest rates of fuel poverty in Scotland, with every council area over 30%, ranging from 31% in Shetland and Orkney to 40% in Na h-Eileanan Siar. This compares to a Scottish average of 24%.
- ◆ 73,000 households in the region are living fuel poverty and 47,000 of them are living in extreme fuel poverty which means they need to spend more than 20% of their income to heat their homes.
- ◆ It is estimated that the investment to bring homes in the region up to EPC C and install low emissions heating could support 20 - 24,000 jobs over the next decade.

Lothians

- ◆ Around 48,000 (21%) households in Edinburgh are living in fuel poverty - 25,000 of whom are living in extreme fuel poverty which means they need to spend more than 20% of their income to heat their homes.
- ◆ Around 81,000 (20%) households across Edinburgh and the Lothians are living in fuel poverty - 40,000 of whom are living in extreme fuel poverty.
- ◆ An estimated 193,000 households in Edinburgh and the Lothians are living in ‘unhealthily cold’ homes (below EPC C).
- ◆ It is estimated that the investment to bring homes in the region up to EPC C and install low emissions heating could support 23, - 27,000 jobs over the next decade.

Mid Scotland and Fife

- ◆ An estimated 173,000 households in parliamentary region are living in ‘unhealthily cold’ homes (below EPC C).
- ◆ Around 72,000 households in region are living in fuel poverty - 37,000 of whom are living in extreme fuel poverty which means they need to spend more than 20% of their income to heat their homes.
- ◆ It is estimated that the investment to bring homes in the region up to EPC C and install low emissions heating could support 20 - 24,000 jobs over the next decade.

North East

- ◆ An estimated 240,000 households in parliamentary region are living in ‘unhealthily cold’ homes (below EPC C).
- ◆ Around 102,000 households in region are living in fuel poverty - 54,000 of whom are living in extreme fuel poverty which means they need to spend more than 20% of their income to heat their homes.
- ◆ It is estimated that the investment to bring homes in the region up to EPC C and install low emissions heating could support 23 - 27,000 jobs up to 2030.

South

- ◆ An estimated 280,000 households in the parliamentary region are living in ‘unhealthily cold’ homes (below EPC C).
- ◆ Around 114,000 households in region are living in fuel poverty - around 52,000 of whom are living in extreme fuel poverty which means they need to spend more than 20% of their income to heat their homes.
- ◆ It is estimated that the investment to bring homes in the region up to EPC C and install low emissions heating could support 33 - 40,000 jobs over the next decade.

West

- ◆ An estimated 193,000 households in the parliamentary region are living in ‘unhealthily cold’ homes (below EPC C).
- ◆ Around 87,000 households in region are living in fuel poverty - around 38,000 of whom are living in extreme fuel poverty which means they need to spend more than 20% of their income to heat their homes.
- ◆ It is estimated that the investment to bring homes in the region up to EPC C and install low emissions heating could support 23 - 27,000 jobs over the next decade.

Notes on Data:

Constituency level data was not available and the regional information is based on local authority level data. As some local authorities straddle different parliamentary regions, there is some duplication.

The data contained in this briefing is based on the Scottish House Condition Survey Local Authority Tables 2017-19. Three years’ worth of SHCS data are merged in order to achieve sufficient sample sizes. Figures relating to Scotland in this release are therefore not equivalent to the latest Scotland level figures published as part of the Key Findings Report in December 2020 which relate to 2019 only.

Job creation assumptions are based on Scottish Government estimates that every £100 million of investment will support up to 1,200 jobs.

The maps were created by Changeworks (www.changeworks.org.uk) on behalf of the Existing Homes Alliance.

Cold Homes and Fuel Poverty by Local Authority

Local Authority	Fuel Poverty				Energy Efficiency		
	No. house-holds	No. Fuel Poverty	% Fuel Poverty	No. Extreme Fuel Poverty	% Extreme Fuel Poverty	EPC Below C (SAP 2012) ^(a)	EPC Below C (SAP 2012) ^(a)
	000s	000s	% of LA	000s	% of LA	000s	% of LA
Aberdeen City	108	28	26%	14	13%	57	53%
Aberdeenshire	111	27	24%	16	15%	73	66%
Angus	54	12	22%	6	10%	38	71%
Argyll & Bute	42	13	32%	8	19%	30	71%
City of Edinburgh	236	48	21%	25	11%	116	49%
Clackmannanshire	24	6	24%	2	9%	10	41%
Dumfries & Galloway	70	20	29%	11	15%	53	76%
Dundee City	70	22	31%	10	15%	41	59%
East Ayrshire	55	15	27%	5	9%	29	53%
East Dunbartonshire	46	9	20%	4	8%	27	58%
East Lothian	46	11	24%	5	10%	28	60%
East Renfrewshire	39	5	13%	3	7%	23	60%
Falkirk	72	16	22%	7	10%	33	46%
Fife	168	41	24%	19	11%	96	57%
Glasgow City	293	73	25%	34	12%	129	44%
Highland	109	36	33%	24	22%	82	75%
Inverclyde	38	11	28%	5	13%	19	50%
Midlothian	39	8	19%	3	7%	19	49%
Moray	43	13	32%	8	19%	30	70%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	13	5	40%	3	24%	12	91%
North Ayrshire	64	18	28%	6	10%	37	58%
North Lanarkshire	152	31	20%	11	7%	68	45%
Orkney Islands	10	3	31%	2	22%	9	85%
Perth & Kinross	68	17	25%	12	18%	45	66%
Renfrewshire	86	19	22%	8	9%	36	42%
Scottish Borders	54	16	29%	7	14%	35	65%
Shetland Islands	10	3	31%	2	22%	9	92%
South Ayrshire	52	12	23%	7	13%	34	65%
South Lanarkshire	146	32	22%	14	9%	82	56%
Stirling	39	8	21%	4	9%	23	59%
West Dunbartonshire	43	12	29%	4	9%	21	49%
West Lothian	78	14	18%	7	9%	30	39%
Scotland	2,479	605	24%	294	12%	1,363	55%

Investing in a Green Recovery - Opportunities across Scotland

The challenge of improving Scotland's 1.4 million cold homes brings huge opportunities. Through investing public and private resources in improving the energy efficiency of Scotland's homes and installing low carbon heating systems, we can create and sustain thousands of green jobs right across Scotland.

By scaling up existing programmes such as Warmer Homes Scotland and Area Based Schemes, we can make sure we cut greenhouse gas emissions whilst protecting people at risk of fuel poverty.

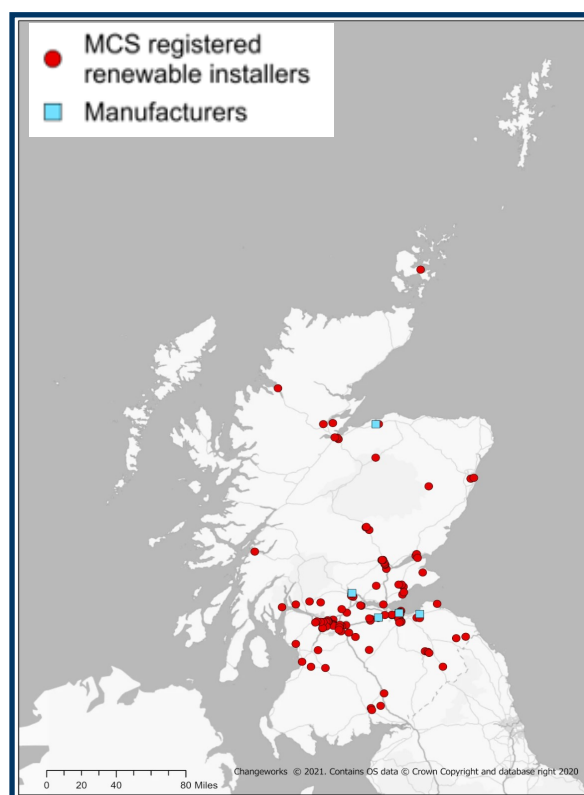
It is estimated that every £100 million invested in installing energy efficiency measures could potentially support 1,200 jobs.

Investing in bringing Scotland's homes up to at least EPC C and installing low or zero emissions heating could support around 24,000 jobs across Scotland each year up to 2030.

Examples of Scottish-based Renewable Manufacturers:

- ◆ AES Solar - manufacturing solar thermal panels, battery storage and off-grid systems in Moray.
- ◆ Mitsubishi Electric—manufacturing low and zero carbon heating products in West Lothian.
- ◆ Sunamp - manufacturing heat batteries in East Lothian.

There are opportunities the length and breadth of Scotland to grow existing and create new business.



The data shows that homes right across Scotland need to be improved. It is our remote and rural communities that are the worst affected by fuel poverty and poor energy efficiency.

To ensure a just transition to zero emissions homes, we must ensure that the benefits of this investment are shared fairly and right across Scotland. We have an opportunity to use this investment to support local employment opportunities and focus on community wealth building as we recover from the pandemic.

We hope to see commitment across the parties to ensuring everyone has a warm, affordable to heat and low carbon home—addressing the climate emergency and making fuel poverty a thing of the past.

The Existing Homes Alliance Scotland is a coalition of housing, environmental, fuel poverty and industry organisations who are working together to end fuel poverty and deliver the transformational change needed to address the climate emergency.

www.existinghomesalliancescotland.co.uk

For more information contact: info@existinghomesalliancescotland.co.uk