

Goals (inputs)

1. We will advocate for the eradication of fuel poverty by relationship building, and through evidence-based policy development and delivery in Scotland, and in the UK where appropriate

2. We will be informed by evidence from a wide range of sources and stakeholders, including those with lived experience and the organisations that support them

3. We will offer insights and reflections to support Scottish Government to improve short-term and long-term responses to Scotland's shifting fuel poverty landscape

4. We will provide an independent view of Scottish Government's progress towards and likelihood of achieving Scotland's statutory fuel poverty targets

5. We will advocate for actions and solutions to address the drivers of fuel poverty across, and in line with, all the relevant policy areas which contribute to National Performance Framework outcomes

6. We will champion and foster a collaborative approach to challenging fuel poverty drivers and other structural causes, identifying and encouraging actions to address fuel poverty with stakeholders across the public, private and third sectors

7. We will establish and maintain a strong values-led governance framework to ensure the effectiveness of the Panel

Activities (outputs)

Engage with Ministers and policy leads across Scottish Government to influence Scottish Government's thinking and contribute to the development of evidence-based policies

Build relationships with decision-makers to establish the Panel and create influencing opportunities

Continue to develop a relationship with the Committee on Fuel Poverty (England) and explore fuel poverty advisory connections in Wales and Northern Ireland

Actively engage in Scottish Government consultations - this includes by preparing to fulfil our statutory consultee role on heat networks and/or the effectiveness of funding streams for different aspects of home energy upgrades across Scotland

Hold regular invited evidence sessions to gather evidence with cross-stakeholder representation, be open to approaches to provide evidence to the Panel and meet at least once a year outside the central belt

Engage with the Poverty and Inequality Commission's Experts by Experience Panel, and other experts by experience

Engage with the Scottish Government on the Panel's learning from its evidence-gathering to advocate for a Scottish Government research plan

Work with partnership organisations to understand the fuel poverty evidence base, including utilising their engagement with people with lived experience to bring their networks, to research opportunities

Take ownership of discrete, targeted research with regular conversations on research needs, topics and opportunities

Scan for things that work, including good practice examples of successful new technology projects

Promote the message that it is not inevitable for people to suffer fuel and extreme fuel poverty

Discuss and reflect on the current fuel poverty evidence picture and provide insights

At Ministerial and official level, seek opportunities to provide evidence to relevant committees at both parliaments

Regularly follow up with the Scottish Government to see what action they have taken/ whether their thinking has developed in response to our advice and recommendations

Include a status update on the Scottish Ministers' progress towards meeting Scotland's fuel poverty targets in our annual report, circulating it widely, including to all MSPs

Support the Scottish Government in developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for the fuel poverty strategy

Offer our reflections to the Scottish Government when they are preparing their 2021-2024 periodic report, as set out in the Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019, during the first half of 2025

Offer our reflections to the Scottish Government when they are reviewing their Fuel Poverty Strategy, assuming they have not done this before, as set out in the Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019, during 2026

Advocate for the Scottish Government to publish fuel poverty and extreme fuel poverty estimates each time these are updated - including the disaggregated picture across Scotland to show where fuel poverty and extreme fuel poverty is at its highest

Develop these priorities as key themes for work and map against the National Framework outcomes. These key themes could include energy market reform, remote rural and island fuel poverty, investment in energy efficiency measures for Scotland's housing stock, the role of advice services, measures to improve health outcomes, and overlap with other policy areas delivering on statutory impact

Develop proposals on good practice, researching to identify other issues that the Panel should be advocating for and disseminating good practice

Develop relationships with stakeholders involved in policy areas relevant to net zero, identifying strategies relevant to fuel poverty where the Panel can helpfully influence

Develop a strategic stakeholder map, for the lifetime of this strategic plan, to focus and underpin our stakeholder engagement

Co-ordinate with public bodies, whose work touches on fuel poverty, to create consistent and impactful messaging on fuel poverty, including the Poverty & Inequality, Just Transition and Human Rights Commissions - as well as Consumer Scotland and Public Health Scotland

Champion collaborative discussions across sectors, including cross-sectoral roundtables on fuel poverty research to facilitate better co-ordination of fuel poverty messaging

Participate, where relevant, in external events and engagements

Build work plans which can be responsive to change

We will build on the governance infrastructure created over the last 18 months, including developing a robust approach to annual reporting and risk management, and engaging with the Scottish Government's Public Service Reform agenda

Working with our Sponsor Team, we will develop a succession plan, informed by our strategic goals and skills matrix

We will publish our first Framework Agreement with Scottish Government and revisit it as it approaches its third anniversary

Short-term outcomes

Invitations to participate in key groups, roundtables, and evidence sessions across the public sector - government (Scottish, UK and Local Authorities) and third sector organisations - and wider energy sector and regulator groups

We are able to demonstrate learning from the Committee on Fuel Poverty for England as well as sharing our own learning with them

There is evidence that fuel poverty policy is prioritised across the Scottish Government and that fuel poverty links are made across the policy landscape

Invitations to comment on fuel poverty issues by media

We are able to show the evidence-based running through are engagement with people with lived experience of fuel poverty and the advice and briefings we provide

We are able to demonstrate that our research is helpful to others working in the fuel poverty landscape and that it is a conduit to useful and productive conversations

We are able to demonstrate how we have facilitated useful connections between those researching fuel poverty

We will be invited to listen, provide our expertise and reflect what we are hearing by those with lived experience, public (government, parliaments, public bodies), third sector (energy and advice agencies and housing organisations - among others), and the energy sector

We will be invited to participate in consultations and comment on the fuel poverty elements of other organisations' programmes and work plans

We will see tangible threads running from our advice and recommendations through to policy development and delivery in Scottish Government strategy and approaches

The Scottish Government has developed a robust monitoring and evaluation framework with our support

We will see more referencing of policies contributing to fuel poverty reduction as well as fuel poverty targets in policy and government publications

It will be clear how accountability and responsibility for fuel poverty reduction in Scotland and the UK are attributed

The publication of our annual and other reports, advice, statements, and letters will demonstrate our independent voice

We will see our ideas and proposals tested and adopted

We will be able to demonstrate close co-operation with other public bodies with a poverty focus

Our views, and those we collaborate with, will be referenced in reports and policy documents

Our media impact and website traffic will increase

We will be invited to contribute at events

There is a strong awareness of the Annual Report across the fuel poverty stakeholder landscape

Annual work plans are delivered to plan, or within agreed adjustments to the Plan

As we mature, and potentially welcome new members or retire current members, the Panel will continue to represent the range of skills required by the Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019

Longer-term outcomes

To strengthen fuel poverty policy, legislation and practice in Scotland and the UK

To eradicate fuel poverty and increase resilience by engaging with people with lived experience and those who support them

Advise Scottish Ministers, scrutinise progress and advocate for change

Overall impact

A Scotland where everyone lives in an energy efficient home and has access to affordable and clean energy - a Scotland where no one lives in fuel poverty