United for Warm Homes

powered by Friends of the Earth

The energy crisis in Ashfield

IN ASHFIELD:

- An estimated **23,460 homes** are energy inefficient (below EPC C). Of these, **6,520 are rented**.
- Around **6,410 homes** are in need of loft insulation, and **4,480** require cavity wall insulation.
- **47,470 tonnes of CO_2 emissions** are wasted unnecessarily from homes due to energy inefficiency.
- There are **39 "energy crisis hotspots"** – neighbourhoods where below-average incomes meet high fuel bills.
- The **average bill** in these hotspots is **£1,830**.

THE NEED FOR AN URGENT INSULATION PROGRAMME

In response to the energy crisis, Friends of the Earth launched United for Warm Homes – a campaign calling for a national street-by-street programme of free basic insulation measures. Around the country, more than 260 groups are signed up to the campaign.

Research by the Institute of Health Equity for Friends of the Earth estimated that **9.6 million households in the UK (34%) are on a low income and living in energy inefficient homes** which they cannot afford to insulate. The report found that cold homes are causing serious health impacts, including respiratory problems, heart attacks, and worsening mental health. It estimated that **cold homes are costing our society billions per year**, through increased costs to the NHS, higher caring costs, bigger energy bills, lost productivity from ill health and higher carbon emissions.

The government has committed to deliver a Warm Homes Plan which will invest an extra £6.6 billion in warm homes over the next parliament. It has also promised to regulate landlords to ensure the homes they rent are well insulated. This is a very promising start, but not enough to ensure all energy inefficient homes in the UK are insulated in the next 10 years.

To upgrade homes urgently the government needs to:

- **Act faster** - Urgently publish their Warm Homes Plan by the end of this winter and kick start a nationwide insulation programme to insulate our heat-leaking homes and roll out cheap, green renewables. This plan should pledge to insulate at least 9.6 million homes through funding and regulation.
- **Go further** - Increase funding for warm homes to £6 billion a year over the next 10 years and/or identify other policy levers and legislation to ensure all cold homes are insulated by 2035.
- **Be fairer** – Prioritise those most impacted by the energy crisis by targeting street by street insulation in energy crisis hotspots and provide additional financial support for those struggling with energy bills.

Investing in warm homes would more than pay for itself through avoided health costs and climate costs, savings that will continue to accumulate over decades. There are also likely to be economic benefits from such a large programme in terms of jobs in manufacturing and installation. The initial programme should be kick-started using revenue from the Energy Profits Levy / Windfall Levy and through legislation to upgrade privately rented homes to EPC C by 2030.

WHAT CAN MPs DO?

Political action in the coming years is key to upgrading our heat-leaking homes and permanently reducing energy bills. MPs can push for a fast, ambitious and fair Warm Homes Plan to be implemented urgently by asking parliamentary questions to keep this issue high on the government's agenda. Please ask one of our suggested parliamentary questions, or email warm.homes@foe.co.uk and we'll draft one for you.

If you'd like to find out more about the campaign and how you can get involved, please email warm.homes@foe.co.uk to arrange a meeting with us.

You can also visit our website for more ideas on how you can support the campaign.