

FREE – The Future of Rural Energy England, Scotland and Wales

**Rural Services Network Seminar
Housing and Fuel Poverty**



About Calor Gas Ltd

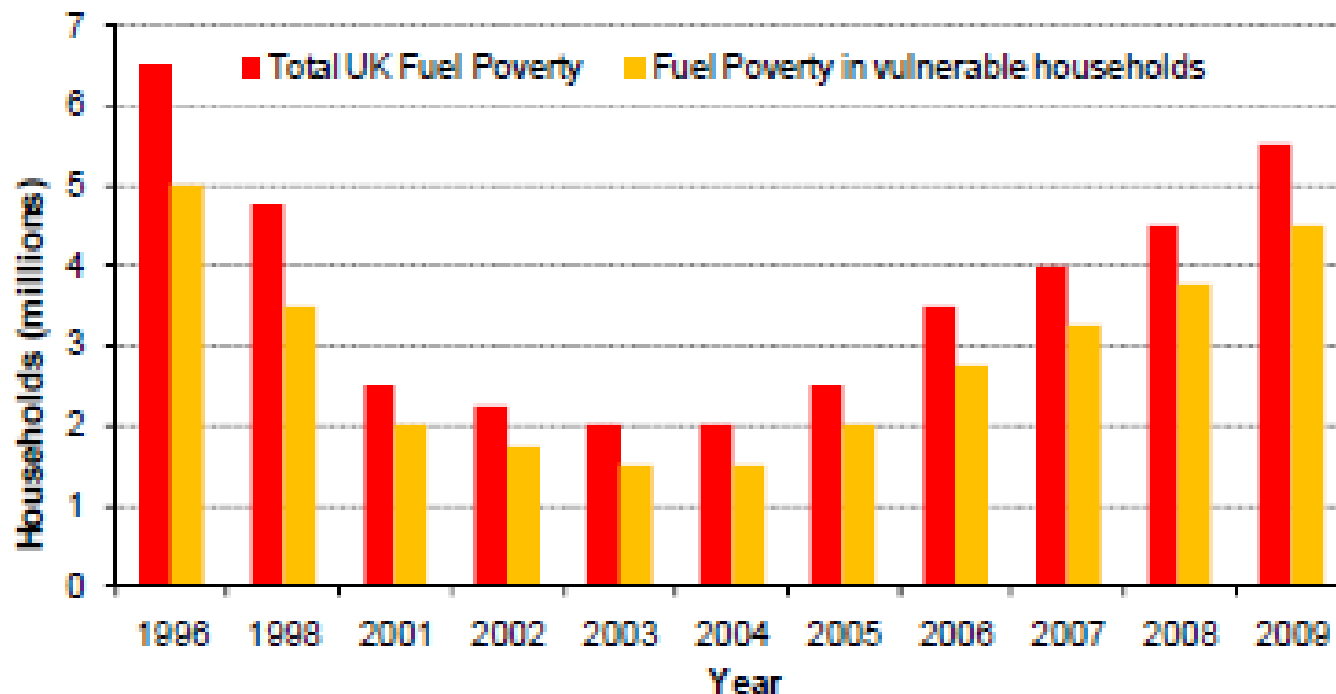


CALOR

Fuel Poverty on the Increase

Source: Annual Report Fuel Poverty Stats, DECC 2011

Chart 2.1 – Fuel poverty in the UK, all households and vulnerable, 1996 to 2009⁵



- A household is in fuel poverty if it spends more than 10% of its net income on fuel to maintain an adequate level of warmth (21 c for main living area, 18 c for other occupied rooms)
- NEA estimates that the number of **rural** households in fuel poverty has more than doubled since 2005 from 450,000 to 1.1 million in 2010

What assistance is currently available?



Government assistance with fuel poverty and energy efficiency generally falls into one of three schemes.

1. **CERT** – Carbon Emission Reduction Target
2. **CESP** – Community Energy Saving Programme
3. **WarmFront**

Calor's solution...?



Campaigning for Warm Homes



Future of Rural Energy in Europe

England, Scotland and Wales



Commission for
Rural Communities
Tackling rural disadvantage

Developed bespoke rural energy efficiency resources and materials



Energy Advice Pack for Off-Mains Homes

Practical advice on saving energy and reducing fuel costs for homes off the mains gas grid



Developed by Calor and NEA's Technical Team, with the support of ACRE



The easy way for rural homes to

stop wasting energy and money

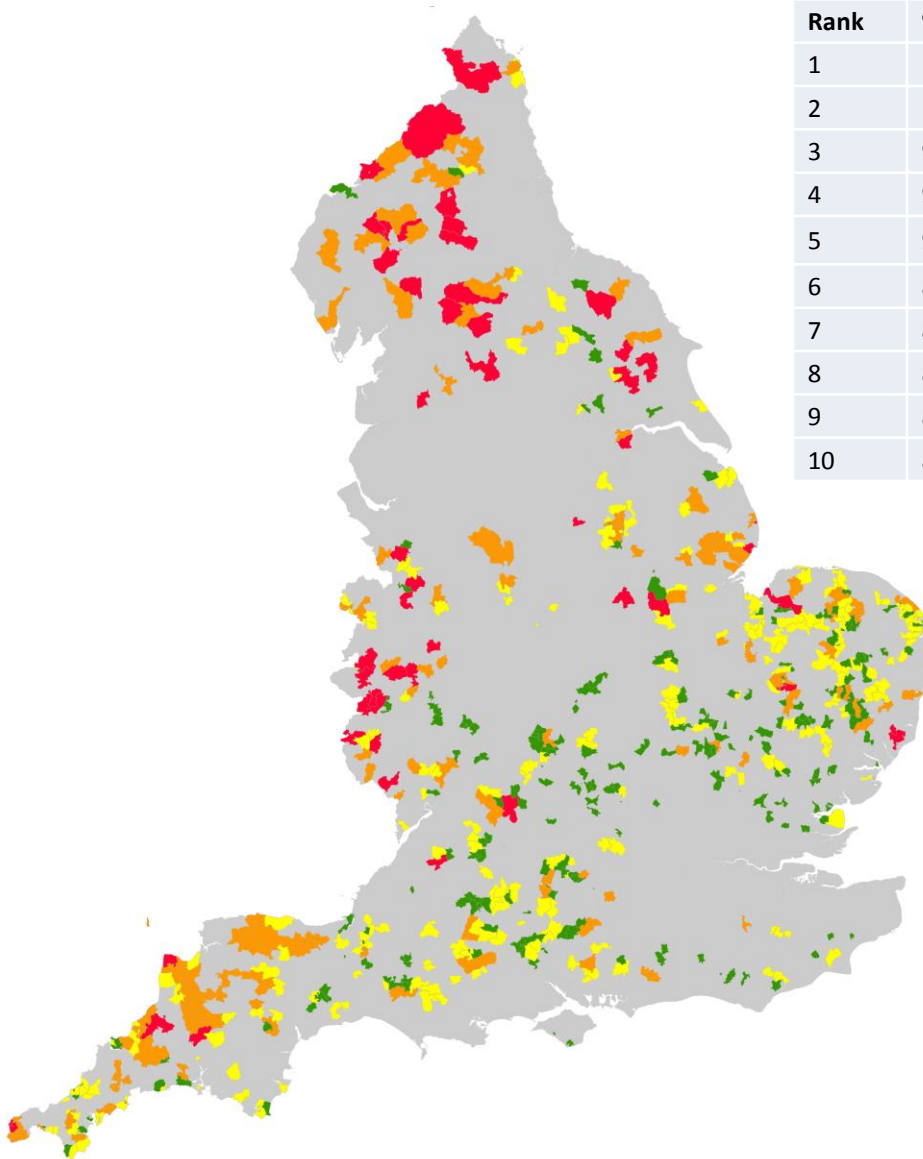
Save on average
£250
a year on your energy bills



energy saving trust[®]
Keep up the good work



Undertaken off-mains gas fuel poverty mapping exercise



| Rank | % Fuel Poor | Village/Ward | County |
|------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 14.12% | Eriswell and The Rows | Suffolk |
| 2 | 13.68% | Eriswell and The Rows | Suffolk |
| 3 | 9.54% | Cheviot | Northumberland |
| 4 | 9.35% | Welbeck | Nottinghamshire |
| 5 | 9.15% | Askham | Cumbria |
| 6 | 8.98% | Mortimer | Herefordshire |
| 7 | 8.94% | Wormsley Ridge | Herefordshire |
| 8 | 8.75% | Kemp Valley | Shropshire |
| 9 | 8.75% | Upper Corvedale | Shropshire |
| 10 | 8.72% | Dales | North Yorkshire |

Delivered energy roadshows directly into rural communities most at risk of fuel poverty



Undertaken 8 bespoke village energy audits



Key findings

- Lack of understanding from Central Government.
- Lack of independent information and formal assistance schemes
- Rural fuel poverty does not always neatly align with social poverty
- Rural communities are often difficult to engage with
- Local knowledge is vital
- Bespoke solutions should be applied directly at a local level
- ‘Low hanging fruit’ exist - simple energy efficiency measures
- A holistic approach is vital
- Low rate of electricity switching
- Low rate of benefit uptake
- Simple educational initiatives make a real difference

Intended Outputs

Short term:

- Research
- Energy Advice
- Energy Solutions
- Community Support
- Advocacy

Long term:

- Give a voice to rural householders
- Increase awareness of rural energy efficiency & fuel poverty
- Encourage national programmes to support rural householders
- Encourage legislation appropriate to rural needs

Questions?

Holly Sims
Corporate Affairs Manager
Calor Gas Ltd

hsims@calor.co.uk