



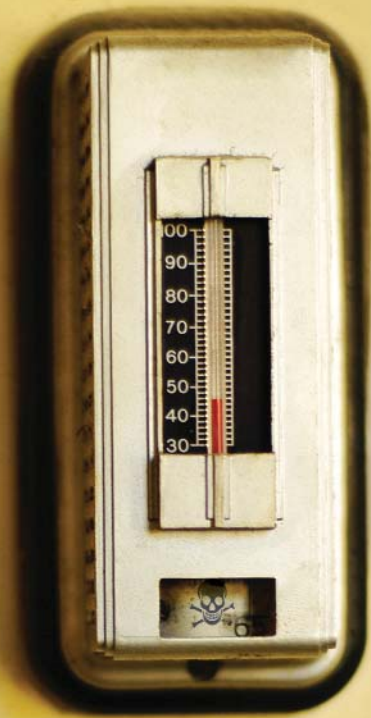
163,000 households in our  
region suffer from  
fuel poverty.

# KILLER FACTS

- There have been 337,000 excess winter deaths in England over the last 10 years
- Fuel poverty can be caused by low income, high fuel prices, and energy inefficient homes
- 37% of households in Yorkshire and the Humber have an household income of less than £15,000
- It's estimated that for every 1% increase in gas and electricity prices, the number of vulnerable households in fuel poverty increases by 50,000

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There are around 3,200  
excess winter deaths  
in this region every year,  
with fuel poverty a key  
contributory factor.

# REGIONAL COMMITMENT

At the regional level, partners are committed to tackling these issues. The Regional Housing Board has:

- Set a regional target to 'end fuel poverty for vulnerable households by 2010, and for all households by 2016' within its Regional Housing Strategy
- Launched a regional Affordable Warmth Action Plan (Sept 06) and agreed to be the accountable Board for this activity
- Established an Implementation group to drive this forward
- Agreed to monitor regional progress on a six monthly basis

The Regional Housing Board is committed to implementing this plan and regional and local partners are working together to improve the region's performance in tackling fuel poverty.

Current regional activity is focusing on:

- Developing a robust Affordable Warmth evidence base
- Lobbying a variety of national, regional and local partners and sectors to raise awareness and put forward possible solutions
- Tackling gaps in funding, particularly with regard to grant limits on existing home energy efficiency schemes
- Developing a consistent referral approach in the health service

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HORSTMANN

Cold related deaths include respiratory disease, strokes and heart attacks.

# WHAT CAN YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY DO?

Local authorities have a key role to play. Your authority can help improve the region's performance on this issue by taking three simple steps:

1. Develop an Affordable Warmth strategy if you haven't got one or ensure delivery of your existing one
2. Make sure your Local Area Agreements targets challenge this issue and that progress is monitored and strategies are reviewed when necessary
3. Nominate an Affordable Warmth champion

## LOCAL AFFORDABLE WARMTH STRATEGIES

- can provide a Local Authority and their communities with:
  - A comprehensive and planned approach to tackle fuel poverty
  - Common targets and objectives that can deliver across a range of local plans and policies
  - A focus for action and organisational commitment
  - A partnership to maximise and more effectively target existing resources

If your Local Authority has already developed an Affordable Warmth Strategy, ensure that you maintain commitment to this and that progress is being monitored and refreshments to the strategy are made when necessary.

For advice on developing or delivering your strategy contact Lorraine Donaldson at National Energy Action – [lorraine.donaldson@nea.org.uk](mailto:lorraine.donaldson@nea.org.uk) 01484 223489.

13% of households in the region  
do not have central heating.



## LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS

– play an important role in tackling fuel poverty in the region. The benefits of having Affordable Warmth targets within your LAA can:

- Help minimise the risk of cold related deaths and illnesses
- Help improve social inclusion, particularly of older people and black and ethnic minority groups
- Have a positive environmental impact reducing carbon emissions through better insulation of homes

## LOCAL AFFORDABLE WARMTH CHAMPIONS

– can also play an important part in:

- Raising the profile and importance of fuel poverty within your local authority
- Encouraging Affordable Warmth actions to be included within Local Authority corporate and scrutiny plans
- Being a point of contact for local Affordable Warmth issues

For further guidance on any of the above contact Lorraine Donaldson at National Energy Action – [lorraine.donaldson@nea.org.uk](mailto:lorraine.donaldson@nea.org.uk) 01484 223489.

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Suffering from fuel poverty can lead to increased social isolation and exclusion, and poor mental health.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

- Fay McCulloch, Yorkshire and Humber Assembly on the Regional Affordable Warmth Action Plan and Implementation Group –  
[fay.mcculloch@yhassembly.gov.uk](mailto:fay.mcculloch@yhassembly.gov.uk)
- Lorraine Donaldson, National Energy Action regarding Affordable Warmth schemes and how Local Authorities can help – [lorraine.donaldson@nea.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.donaldson@nea.gov.uk)  
01484 223489
- Alison Wilson, East Pennine HECA Secretariat to get details of your local Home Efficiency and Conservation Officer – [alison.wilson@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:alison.wilson@doncaster.gov.uk)  
01302 736091

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