



SCOTTISHPOWER



FUEL POVERTY ACTION

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

FUEL
POVERTY
ACTION

"Fuel Poverty Action is a vital member of the End Fuel Poverty Coalition, bringing fresh ideas to the energy debate and direct action to highlight the issues consumers face. In recent months – as the energy bills crisis deepens – we have seen a welcome increase in the amount of activity FPA is able to deliver and we would thank its supporters for the contribution they continue to make."

Simon Francis, End Fuel Poverty Coalition

"Many disabled people need to use energy for essential warmth for their health and to power life giving equipment in the home. Disabled people are also disproportionately poorer as a group. For these reasons the work of Fuel Poverty Action is a vital campaign for disabled people's well-being and even right to life. DPAC frequently work with Fuel Poverty Action on joint campaigning and we consider FPA to be a staunch ally and friend."

Bob Elland, DPAC Steering Group

"Fuel Poverty Action has been a vital force for good, throwing light on the depth and severity of the energy bill crisis. FPA have helped shape NEF's proposal for a national energy guarantee and consistently called for both emergency and long term solutions to protecting all households. FPA's strength is in its ability to work across policy, advocacy and campaigning – raising ambition across all these spheres."

Chaitanya Kumar, New Economics Foundation

"The fuel poverty crisis will continue to get worse until we tackle the systemic problems in our energy system. Decarbonisation and energy equity must go hand in hand, and Fuel Poverty Action has continued to be a powerful campaigning force for the just and green transition we so urgently need."

Clive Lewis MP

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INTRODUCTION



Oxford Warm Up, December 2022 ©Amalric Pouzoulet

THE YEAR OF ENERGY FOR ALL

2022-3 has been a year of major developments for Fuel Poverty Action (FPA). As the “cost of living” crisis and the climate crisis accelerate and intensify, they are wrecking lives all over the world. Structures, policies, standards, safety nets and liberties we thought we had in place in the UK are turning out to be built of bubbles, like the concrete holding up our hospitals and schools. But the pushback is also accelerating. Here at Fuel Poverty Action, our forces, skills and determination have grown enormously.

“Energy For All – the energy pricing revolution” is designed to ensure everyone can keep the heat and lights on, while drawing resources from the fossil fuel industry instead of from the public purse. Having started this campaign with a bang in 2021-22, delivering to Downing Street a petition signed by 651,000 people, we began this year to make waves

among organisations of all shapes and sizes.

In March 2023 we launched our Manifesto, which spells out where the money will come from, and draws out the connections between Energy For All (e4a) and our specific demands – ending the brutal imposition of prepayment meters (PPMs), ensuring energy efficient housing and heating systems, and an end to the injustices and discrimination built into the present framework of energy pricing. A fantastic launch event was followed by a very wide range of organisations, politicians and influential organisations signing on in support. And we teamed up with the New Economics Foundation (NEF) and with those pushing in Parliament for a “National Energy Guarantee”.

As the year has gone on, e4a has become a live – and widely debated – proposition. It not only challenges the current pricing system, with its thousands of resulting deaths a year. It also proposes an

alternative to proposals for relief based on means-tested social tariffs. These would exclude many households from energy security, or would end up further subsidising fossil fuel giants from public expenditure. For much of this year, the Government appeared to be offering a hope of social tariffs. They now seem to have dropped the idea, as they double down on protecting the wealthy at the expense of those with least, and on licensing and subsidising oil and gas. Meanwhile, appetite has grown for our more radical proposal.

Energy For All, and the fight against imposition of PPMs, were the twin focuses of a winter of action all over the UK, including our signature action of “Warm Ups”, where people who cannot afford to heat their homes go into public buildings together and get cosy there.

WILL GOING GREEN HURT OUR POCKETS?

The present Government has shown it is determined to make the climate a culture war issue in the coming election, claiming “green” measures will make “hardworking families” poorer. FPA was founded 12 years ago in order to challenge this very untruth. Small wonder that demands on us have massively increased as people have put two and two together and concluded that climate change causes poverty, and fossil fuels do too. The resounding enthusiasm for e4a demonstrates the breadth of agreement on

its basic premise. Millions of people are enraged at the flow of resources from our dinner tables to the profits of oil and gas giants. They believe there is plenty of money, and they want it back.

Defeating the lie that “going green” will cost us dearly requires more than words. It also means making sure that energy efficiency, heat networks, heat pumps, and every other step towards a fossil free future is in fact carried out, and priced, in a way that works, and makes us all better off financially. For many years insulation, cladding and heating systems – especially heat networks – were a central core of FPA’s work, supporting tenants and residents battling social and private landlords, freeholders of their buildings, and heat providers. Until recently, that

work had diminished this year, as the whole country focused on the price of gas and we went flat out to establish Energy For All as a force to be reckoned with. I am glad to report that now, finally, we are in a position to return in some small measure to this work on heating and housing, and can also begin to focus, again, on an international dimension. That is because of the second great development in 2022 – 23: our internal growth and restructuring.

AS WE GROW

For the first time, in 2022, FPA got enough funding to employ a small team of workers. That funding has been renewed, and the team is continuing its work – organising on Energy For All in the public arena, in trade unions, and in Parliament.

But running the organisation, and keeping alive all our other campaigns and support work, still fell to a small group of grassroots volunteers and directors. That unsustainable situation changed this year, when fundraising allowed us to take on board two core workers to look after the development, well-being, and administration of FPA. An urgent and intensive period of re-organisation has followed, resulting in clearer aims and objectives, working principles, employment policies, and decision making processes. At the same time, our membership is expanding, and we are beginning to move towards forming hubs in major cities outside London, beginning with Glasgow.

It is impossible, in these critical years in world history, to be sure of anything. But feedback from individuals, organisations and coalitions we have worked with assures us that what we are doing is making a real difference. We hope to be able to continue on the trajectory we have begun, and want to warmly thank our donors, funders, and active members and supporters everywhere.

Ruth London



Members & supporters at the Fossil Fuels Global Day of Action, September 2023
©FPA

SOME HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 2022

Online Warm Up trainings with Don't Pay UK
Early Day Motion for a universal basic energy allowance
The Huge Reggae Show – “party with a purpose” in Dalston raising funds for FPA

DECEMBER 2022

Over 40 events as part of a Warm This Winter (WTW) National Day of Action against #FuelPoverty
Warm Ups in Brighton, Bristol, Glasgow, Hastings, Islington, Liverpool, Oxford, Birmingham and Stratford
Ovo halts forced installation of PPMs

JANUARY 2023

Activists across the country come together to demand the Government #BanForcedPPMs and implement #EnergyForAll
Government announces a crackdown on energy companies forcing people onto PPMs
Core members of FPA meet to talk structure and celebrate recent wins
Vigils for 'excess winter deaths' in Westminster, Cardiff Central Square, Leicester Town Hall, Brighton War Memorial and Glossop
Warm Ups at Scottish Parliament, Exeter EDF Call Centre, Museum of Liverpool, Croydon Barclays Bank, Liberty of London and John Lewis (Oxford Circus)
Demonstrations at Shell garage in Cambridge and Octopus Energy in Birmingham

FEBRUARY 2023

Talk at #RightToEnergyForum on the fight to ban disconnections
Various joint actions with allies including StopCambo, Biofuelwatch, Axe Drax, Power to the People Glasgow
The UK's biggest household energy suppliers all claim to have stopped forcing customers onto PPMs
FPA speaks at the launch of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on PPMs

MARCH 2023

Launch of e4a Manifesto at diverse, well attended online rally
WTW mass lobby demanding that MPs take the WTW Pledge.
With Unite Community members, giant £170bn energy bills delivered to six Tory MPs in SW England
Launch of energyforall.org.uk website and new e4a logo and branding
Response to Ofgem consultation:
[PPM rules and protections](#)

APRIL 2023

Extinction Rebellion (XR) “the Big One” mobilisation: prolonged picket outside the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ); also spoke from main stage
At Royal Courts of Justice to support Helen Timson
SSE HQ in Glasgow targeted for profiteering, after bills rise again
WTW Mass Lobby

MAY 2023

Two new members of staff recruited
#NotMyBill demonstration to defend the right to protest

JUNE 2023

Unite For a Worker's Economy demonstration at the #Future of Utilities Summit in London

FPA national strategy day in London

JULY 2023

Around 30 MPs attend the e4a Manifesto Parliamentary Launch, culminating in 25 MPs signed up

Members participate in National Housing Day of Action events across the country

AUGUST 2023

Unite for Energy For All campaign initiated

Proposed hydrogen levy on household bills axed from the Government's Energy Bill – a win for the WTW Politics working group of which FPA is part

SEPTEMBER 2023

Members of FPA join the Global March to End Fossil Fuels

FPA speaks at emergency Stop Rosebank demonstration at the Department for International Trade

FPA convenes a session on e4a at the Devon Transformed festival

ESNZ Parliamentary Committee recommends "Revising the standing charges model and replacing it with a rising block tariff".

OCTOBER 2023

FPA speakers and stall at Unison Retired Members conference

First of our Fuel for Thought series of educationals, "The Truth About Energy Pricing"

Response to Government consultation: [Heat Networks Regulation – Consumer Protection](#)

FPA runs workshop on e4a at days of training organised by Fossil Free London for "Oily Money Out"

FPA speaks at blockade of the Energy Intelligence Forum "Oscars of Oil", at the Intercontinental Hotel, London



Westminster Abbey Vigil, January 2023 ©Denise Laura Baker

GROWING AND DEVELOPING



An early Glasgow steering group meeting ©FPA

BUILDING OUR TEAM

In June, we were lucky enough to welcome two experienced, committed and highly skilled campaigners to the heart of the staff team. Chia Harrington and Hannah Berry joined as Lead Organiser and Administrator respectively and in these few short months have had an immense impact on the way FPA works, and on the growth of our membership. For instance, crucial work on our organisational development is well underway with People's Support Co-op, and a whole new FPA hub is emerging in Glasgow. We're also delighted to have Amal Pouzoulet working on establishing our programme of Fuel For Thought learning sessions.

Work is ongoing to secure the funding needed to make core posts secure, and to ensure that we can draft in further expertise when we need it. Part of the need will be met by existing funders who have made a huge difference to our capacity in the last year – notably the Energy Transition Fund, the Disrupt Foundation and Gower Street.

But we cannot retain the fantastic staff team who have so transformed what FPA can do without finding additional funding.

Meanwhile, we have felt the need to bolster our team of directors to make sure we can more sustainably fulfil the obligations and meet the needs of an expanded organisation. Joe Aggarwal and Martha Myers-Lowe were recently co-opted as directors. Joe, who has also just

started work with Just Stop Oil, has been making a valuable contribution to FPA's campaigning and organisational development as an active member for some time. Martha currently works for the Corporate Europe Observatory. She brings a wealth of knowledge of the European context and of legal processes, as well as valuable experience of different organisational structures and a longstanding concern with wellbeing.

REFINING WAYS OF WORKING

As new staff and volunteers have come on board, we have been developing new ways of coordinating as a team with different workstreams. With help from Adriana Swain and colleagues from [Canto Collective](#), we have worked with our membership through a participatory process to develop documents which will be core to the rest of our organisational work: Principles, Aims, Nonstitution (like a constitution, but not legally binding and evolving over time) and a Decisions Matrix that assigns responsibilities and guides how collective decisions should be made.

We also engaged consultants People Support Co-op to review our policies and processes and ensure we have a governance and management structure that works for our staff, directors, members and volunteers across the country.

LAUNCHING LOCAL GROUPS

FPA started building our first local hub in Glasgow in August, 2023. It has a steering group of eight people with experience in tenants' rights and anti-poverty organising, trade unionism and climate activism. The group has been getting involved in FPA's winter mobilisation, which includes actions such as mass stickering around Glasgow, taking digital action, speaking at rallies, organising a vigil and a Warm Up – all before their official launch in mid-November. Two members of the steering group are also contributing to FPA's national work on district heating, while the others are coordinating outreach activities with other groups in the local area, always making the link between fuel poverty issues and the climate crisis. The plan is to expand the local hub to at least twenty new members who are keen to take grassroots action in the city. With Glasgow serving as a pilot, further hubs are planned around the country.

"My name is Rona and I'm the Communities and Unions Lead from the local Glasgow FPA Hub. I joined a team of like-minded individuals who are eager to bring the excessive profiteering of energy companies to task over the injustices of forced prepayment meters, large scale fuel poverty and bring to a halt the shameful statistics of needless winter deaths in this country. The organisation and structure of the group – led by Chia – has been hugely impressive. Especially given the work we have to achieve in the short weeks ahead of us towards another brutal winter"

Rona, Communities and Unions Lead from the FPA local hub in Glasgow

Eryn – External link

Jack – Internal link

Alessia – Outreach

Rona – Communities and Unions

Jan – Mobilisations Co-Lead

Una – Mobilisations Co-Lead

Nish – Research organiser

Ruth – Social media

Glasgow march against Ofgem, November 2023 ©FPA





ENERGY FOR ALL

OUR HEADLINE CAMPAIGN: ENERGY FOR ALL!

ENERGY FOR ALL: THE RADICAL ALTERNATIVE

In 2022, the Energy For All campaign launched with a bang. A petition signed by over 650,000 put this demand on the map. Defined then as a “free band of energy to cover the basics like heating, lighting and cooking; paid for by an end to fossil fuel subsidies, windfall taxes and higher tariffs on energy use beyond essential needs”, we had no idea how far this concept would develop in 2023.

In March, we launched a [Manifesto](#) which fleshed out and extended Energy For All. In five points, it now encompasses almost the entire history of FPA’s work, covering fit- for-purpose housing to keep everyone warm and healthy; a ban on forced PPMs – something we have campaigned for many years – and a range of further measures to end



Exeter Warm Up, December 2022 ©FPA

“The work of Fuel Poverty Action is becoming a much needed force to be reckoned with. In the last year FPA showed that it was right to focus on everyone having a right to have a basic level of heating, free of charge, when so many agreed with them and signed the petition”

Tony O’Brien, Southwark Pensioners Action Group

injustices in energy pricing and heating systems. By fusing demands for climate and housing justice within Energy For All, we plugged gaps where our proposal fell short or risked being exploited by the Government or industry. Engagement came from across the political and societal spectrum, including from communities not often seen or heard in policy-making.

The Energy For All Manifesto builds on over a decade of lessons and campaigns to present one solution to issues of the end of the world, and the end of the month. A Green New Deal which has ending energy poverty at its root. The Energy Pricing Revolution.

Like our petition, the Manifesto has taken off. By the time of its Online Launch in March, over 100 organisations, businesses, community groups and elected officials had already signed up, rising to 200 prior to the Parliamentary Launch in July, and [250 signatures](#) at the time of writing. Its publication coincided with the launch of a dedicated [e4a website and logo](#).

Energy For All's central concept of a band of universally free energy has enjoyed active support from organisations including the New Economics Foundation. NEF conducted research into a "National Energy Guarantee" which projected significant savings for households beyond pre-crisis levels. Their [report](#) has helped to further the case for this concept in Parliament.

While NEF and our allies in Westminster push for a palatable introduction of this scheme by the next party in government, FPA will continue to mount pressure for a truly revolutionary shake up of the UK's energy pricing and production system to one which ends fuel poverty and shifts the realms of possibility towards climate and energy justice.

MOBILISING FOR E4A – AGAINST POVERTY AND CLIMATE BREAKDOWN

On December 3rd 2022, FPA joined the UK's first ever National Day of Action on Fuel Poverty organised by the WTW Coalition. Of 40 events advertised, a quarter were coordinated by Fuel Poverty Action. We invited key partners to collaborate, particularly the Don't Pay movement which had launched an energy bills strike on December 1st.

With Don't Pay, we held several online Warm Up trainings attended by dozens on each occasion. During the weekend of action, Warm Ups took place across seven towns and cities, including at the British Museum, Harrods, Scottish Power HQ in Glasgow, Barclays Bank in Hastings, and shopping centres in Brighton, Bristol, Liverpool and London. The events generated around 25 national and local reports as well as TV coverage for e4a. In Harrods, members of Just Stop Oil climbed into a bed on sale for £28,745. Protestors in the British Museum held a People's Assembly, while in Glasgow they served soup and then had a ceilidh.

"It's so important that climate justice and fuel poverty campaigners work together to draw the links between the climate and cost of living crisis, and push for change. Fuel Poverty Action have been such a brilliant group to do this with, sharing invaluable insights with speeches at our rallies and actions"

Rosie, Climate Crisis and Inequality Campaigner, Fossil Free London



London Warm Up, November 2022 ©FPA

In a winter marked by record energy bills, an increasing number of households with mounting energy debts were threatened with the forced installation of PPMs, leaving them at risk of disconnection. Fuel Poverty Action was quoted in a parliamentary debate on the issue in December, and wasted no time in returning to action in January, calling for multiple days of action to demand a ban on forced PPMs. The mobilisation began on a historic date of action for FPA, the date of the Office of National Statistics (ONS) Excess Winter Deaths announcement. On 19th January 2023, Fuel Poverty Action gathered with the National Pensioners Convention (NPC), Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC) and WTW for a vigil in Westminster. Ruth London spoke to the crowd about how Government policy is responsible for deaths from fuel poverty, including their lack of action on forced PPMs. Other speakers included Lord Prem Sikka, John McDonnell MP, and leaders of NPC, DPAC and the End Fuel Poverty Coalition (EFPC). Protesters held a minute of silence on the sound of Big Ben before carrying a symbolic coffin to the gates of 10 Downing Street. Further vigils took place in Cardiff, Brighton, Leicester and Glossop.

On the same date, we joined This is Rigged in their weekly interruption of First Minister's Questions in Holyrood. The participants called on Nicola Sturgeon to pressure the UK Government to ban forced PPMs. On Saturday 21st January, Warm Ups took place in Holyrood, an EDF call centre in Exeter, the Museum of Liverpool, a Barclays Bank, John Lewis at Oxford Circus and Liberty of London. Following the two actions in the Scottish Parliament, then First Minister Nicola Sturgeon called for a full ban on PPMs.



FPA members before the Parliamentary launch, July 2023 ©FPA

Our final day of action, 22nd January, closed with a demonstration at Octopus Energy Sales Hub in Birmingham. On this day, then Energy Secretary Grant Shapps ordered energy companies to cease forced installation of PPMs. The moratorium that followed on February 6th, remains in place until November 8th 2023. Further protest plans for 2023/24 got underway in October.

PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT FOR E4A

Our support and influence in parliament continues to grow. The e4a Manifesto was given a Parliamentary Launch in July at a well-attended event with lively and engaging policy discussions. This demonstrated both strong interest and significant appetite across different parties for more radical reform of the energy market.

FPA is non-party political. Nationally and locally we have had positive engagements this year with politicians of the Green Party, Labour Party, Liberal Democrats, Plaid Cymru, the Scottish

National Party (SNP) and Independents, and have confronted governing politicians of the Conservative and Labour parties and the SNP about the effects of their policies on constituents.

27 MPs have signed the Manifesto which commits to all our policies, and we have additional

“Fuel Poverty Action have been key contributors to the parliamentary campaign on prepayment meters. I set up the All-Party Parliamentary Group on PPMs and as members they have given invaluable advice and updates. As an MP you have to be a jack of all trades and often don't get as much time as you'd like to focus on specific issues. My constituents being forced onto PPMs and then disconnected the second they run out of money is extremely important to me so I am incredibly grateful for FPA enabling me to keep up the fight on their behalf.”

Anne McLaughlin MP

support for key policies such as the rising block tariff, reform of standing charges and PPM reforms. In the summer, we responded to two ESNZ committee consultations, and have built up a working relationship with two MPs in that committee, who regularly reference our work. The Committee’s subsequent report on 19th September recommended: “Revising the standing charges model and replacing it with a rising block tariff”.

Energy For All was proposed to Ofgem by Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP in a committee session on September 13th; he also grilled Ofgem on standing charges and PPMs. Our pressure on Ofgem via the committee, our second letter writing campaign to Ofgem and MPs, and relentless media pressure, finally forced Ofgem into agreeing a formal review of both standing charges and the rising block tariff model (e4a), starting in November.

We have also been working with the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on the Green New Deal, that last year sponsored Clive Lewis’ Early Day Motion (EDM) based on e4a. There were 34 signatories to the EDM, with good cross-party support, and a number of amendments were tabled that sought to add key policies to the Government’s Energy Bill, including a ban on forced PPMs and a National Energy Guarantee based on e4a.

We did a co-sponsored action with the APPG in August and September that boosted the numbers of constituents engaging with their MPs on the National Energy Guarantee, and demanded a parliamentary debate. We got some support from MPs, but we didn't get the debate. The APPG is drafting a new EDM with us and Clive Lewis, as the old one has expired, and we hope to do an event with them in the new year.



Clockwise from top left: Wera Hobhouse MP & Lord Stunell; Afzal Khan MP; Clive Lewis MP & Nadia Whittome MP; Patricia Gibson MP, Ronnie Cowan MP, Marion Fellows MP & Philippa Whitford MP ©FPA

OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT FOR E4A

Signatories to the e4a Manifesto span a wide diversity of groups.

Anti-poverty groups: The EFPC, to which we are affiliated, and The Big Issue back e4a.

Businesses: We are proud to have an energy supplier, Ecotricity, officially supporting the demand. Another well known brand is Pukka Herbs; Labour Business has also signed up.

Political parties: Outside of parliament, small political parties Breakthrough Party and Left Unity have signed. Norwich City Council resolved to support the Energy For All campaign, following a motion brought by two Labour councillors.

Tenants unions: Three of the UK's largest tenants unions, ACORN UK, Living Rent and London Renters Union, have all signed the Manifesto, as well as the Scottish Tenants Organisation and a number of local residents associations.

Housing charities and campaigns: Social Housing Action Campaign, Tower Blocks UK, Homes for All, Housing Rebellion, Greater Manchester Housing Action, Insulate Britain and LSE Housing and Communities are among the housing campaigns signed up. Service provider Advice For Renters has also signed.

Pensioners groups: Our long-time ally the NPC, along with its regional groups NPC Wales, and NPC Gloucester, Avon and Somerset have signed the Manifesto. Local groups include Lambeth Pensioners Action Group, Lewisham Pensioners Forum and Southwark Pensioners Action Group.

"The Fuel Poverty Action Group has grown from strength to strength. Why? This is because it is such a positive cause to support. We all need to eat, we all need to keep warm, and we all need some comfort in life. Not only do older adults need such comforts, but children and young people need them too. The youth of today are the older future of tomorrow, and we must capture their voices. That is the reason people from all walks of life, from Parliamentarian to dustman, are making our voices heard."

Bridgit A Sam-Bailey (Ms), Mayoress of Lewisham 2023-2024



Disabled rights groups: Another long term ally, DPAC, were among the first to sign. Other disability movements include WinVisible (women with visible and invisible disabilities) and Disabled Mothers Rights.

Women's organisations include: All African Women's Group, English Collective of Prostitutes, Global Women Against Deportations, Global Women's Strike, Legal Action for Women, Queer Strike, Single Mother's Self-Defence, Women Against Rape and Women of Colour Global Women's Strike.

Climate Movement: There is broad support for e4a within the UK climate movement. The list includes 350.org UK, Friends of the Earth Scotland, Green New Deal Rising, Parents For Future UK, Possible, Students Organising for Sustainability, Community Climate Action and multiple local climate action groups.

Community energy projects: Community Energy London was the first energy network to sign. Brighton and Hove Energy Services Co-op and Bristol Energy Co-op are also signatories.

Direct Action groups: Two of the most notable direct action groups of the past year in the UK, Don't Pay and Just Stop Oil both signed, plus many Extinction Rebellion local groups and two regions of the movement: XR Scotland and XR South East.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs): Policy Advocacy groups New Economics Foundation and Tax Justice UK have been strong supporters. Larger NGO signatories include Debt Justice, Global Justice Now and War on Want.



Chia on the FPA stall at Unison conference, Edinburgh ©FPA

WORKING WITH TRADES UNIONS

In addition to the tenants unions listed above, this year FPA secured support for Energy For All from the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) union as well as the Bakers Food and Allied Workers Union (BFAWU), alongside many individual union branches and Trades Councils. We have continued to build support from retired trade unionists, and sent speakers to the Unison Retired members

“Collaborating with FPA for the Unite for Energy for All campaign has been really rewarding. It has strengthened our ties to each other with many Unite Community members getting involved with the work that FPA does outside of the campaign...This campaign has brought strength to our movement and a vigour to the Unite Community membership”.

Holly Donovan, Branch Secretary, Unite Community Northampton

AGM as well as the Gloucester Avon and Berkshire National Pensioners Forum.

Since the summer we have been working closely with Unite Community, who have started their own campaign called Unite for Energy For All. The campaign is based on the points included in Fuel Poverty Action’s e4a Manifesto, with an additional demand for public ownership. This campaign was approved at Unite Community’s national forum on the Cost of Living. Working with Unite Community branches across the UK, we will be carrying out a national day of action on the 1st and 2nd December. At the same time we continue to build support for Energy For All throughout other parts of Unite.

INTERNATIONAL

In February 2023, as long-standing members of the Europe-wide Right to Energy Coalition, we were invited once again to the Right To Energy Forum in Brussels. Ultimately, we were represented virtually speaking on a panel about our win in stopping forced PPM installations.

This was shortly followed by a trip to the Polluters Out conference, also in Brussels, where our representative spoke on several occasions including a panel in the EU Parliament on the need to kick polluters out of politics, and spoke with the EU Commissioner on Energy For All. This helped to develop our longstanding international connections such as with the Aliança contra la Pobresa Energètica (Alliance Against Energy Poverty) from Catalonia who later spoke at our online Manifesto launch. In September 2023, a Spanish speaking

FPA member attended an online meeting of the Aliança and found the grassroots membership enthusiastic about Energy For All. We also had intensive discussions with Ingenieria Sin Fronteras (Engineers Without Borders) in Catalonia, interrogating our respective strategies for ensuring that the poorest households have access to energy. These group meetings led to both the Aliança and ISF signing the Manifesto. A Europe-wide [People Over Polluters declaration](#) was drafted with FPA input in July.

"FPA is an inspiring social movement for us, that has achieved a very wide and inclusive proposal to guarantee the right to energy for all in the UK."

Mònica Guiteras, Aliança Contra la Pobresa Energètica

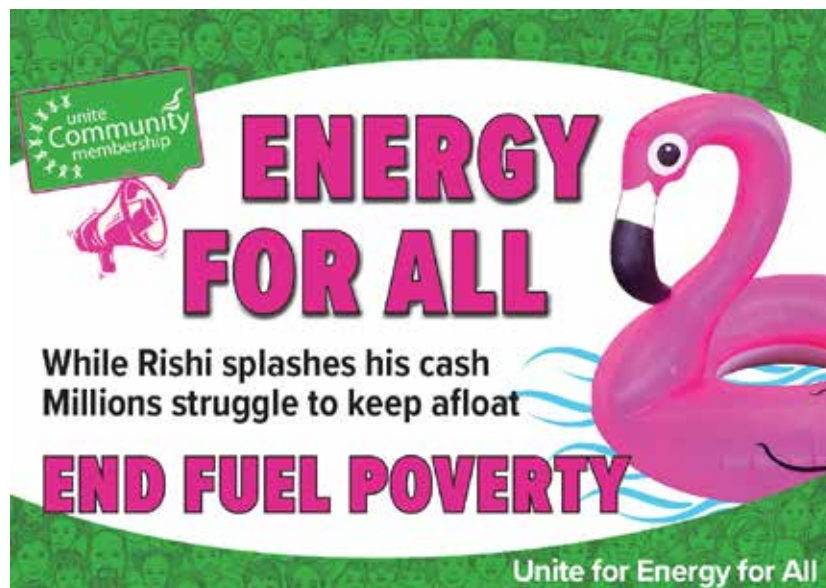
In September 2023, FPA was invited by 350.org Framing Energy Justice Project launch gathering in Berlin. This project seeks to bring together organisations from all over Europe to cooperate on justice-oriented solutions, and guaranteed access to energy was a crucial part of discussions.

In November 2023, we were delighted when the Right to Energy Coalition included e4a in the immediate term "Winter Demands" they

put to the EU Commission:

"Beyond means tested support, which inevitably excludes some people in great need, national governments should consider [Energy For All](#): A free band of energy to cover basic needs. Provision of a band of energy as a universal basic service, available to all, would ensure

that low users pay less per kWh than high energy users, instead of, as at present, paying more. It can be funded through windfall taxes, an end to fossil fuel subsidies, and/or a rising block tariff on wealthy high-use customers."



MAKING A DIFFERENCE, DAY BY DAY

EXPOSING THE TRUTH ON ENERGY POLICY AND LOBBYING

FPA continued to relentlessly challenge the dominant narratives of the energy industry, regulators and Government that present them as benevolent forces. We dug deep into the root causes of the energy crisis, exposing and spreading the truth to generate pressure and support for radical change.

Extreme energy price rises in 2022 were presented by our Government as the inevitable result of Putin’s invasion of Ukraine. Despite imports from Russia being only four percent of UK gas supplies, wholesale prices spiked at 900 percent above historic levels in November, with energy traders and suppliers amplifying and exploiting the crisis. This showed the extreme danger of relying on profit-maximising companies and financial market traders to determine the supply and pricing of one of our most critical resources – energy.

We repeatedly exposed how energy firms and traders shamelessly profiteered from the energy crisis, whilst millions suffered in cold damp homes.

"We are proud to support the Energy for All campaign because its success would go a long way to addressing the root causes of the energy debt crisis in the UK. Fuel Poverty Action are campaigning effectively to end the profiteering and exploitation around this essential service."

Joe Cox, Senior Policy Officer, Debt Justice

With every eye-watering profit announcement, we ensured that the direct linkages to policy failures and human suffering were made. This drove public and political pressure for both immediate action and more radical longer term change as envisaged by Energy For All.

Successful campaigning had forced a reluctant Government to accept windfall taxes on obscene oil and gas profits. This led to an initial 25 percent Energy Profits Levy on oil and gas in May 2022, but further pressure got this increased to 35



The Big One, April 2023 ©FPA

percent from January – a big win. We continue to campaign for the investment allowance loophole to be closed, along with the removal of all fossil fuel subsidies.

We also exposed how inflated gas prices directly drove huge increases in electricity prices due to both reliance on gas fired power stations and a flawed market mechanism. Both the public and politicians were shocked to hear that instead of lower cost renewables keeping prices low, we were being charged at the highest cost of gas generation. This made all electricity unaffordable and generated huge profits. Whilst the Electricity Generator Levy captured some of this, we also pushed for fundamental market reforms. Government consultations followed but slow progress led us to make parallel demands to opposition parties to ensure progress continues in future.

“The Unite Energy for All campaign has been developed in collaboration with Unite Community branches and this helped create links with the Unite Grassroot Climate Justice Caucus (UGCJC), which sees the campaign as a crucial link between the cost of Living Crisis and the Climate Crisis”

Clara Paillard, Unite the Union, founder of UGCJC

Our radical proposals threaten the dominance and profits of energy firms, so they continued to lobby hard and support schemes that use public or consumer money to give a selected group a “social tariff” whilst leaving pricing for everyone else at inflated levels. The simplicity of implementing such a scheme is attractive to many charities but leaves millions with unaffordable bills and energy firms with inflated profits.

As millions more households slipped into fuel poverty, the lack of consumer protection via Ofgem’s misleadingly named “price cap” was made clear. Instead of limiting wholesale prices as in France, the Government chose to spend £40 billion of public funds via an “Energy Price Guarantee” to subsidise consumer prices. Presented as huge generosity to the public, we showed that the money flowed back to energy producers and was far in excess of the windfall taxes receipts, further supporting the need for complete market reform via Energy For All.

2022 painfully proved FPA’s claim that a rapid transition away from gas is needed not just to

protect the environment, but also to fight fuel poverty. We continued to act as a powerful bridge between poverty and climate organisations. This included working closely with coalition partners in WTW and The End Fuel Poverty Coalition.

“Fuel Poverty Action have been an indispensable partner in the Warm this Winter coalition since the campaign began. FPA’s work on excess winter deaths from living in cold damp homes and banning the forced installation of prepayment meters has been particularly impactful and powerful, not least because of the way they have made sure to centre those with lived experience of fuel poverty. The sheer number of actions and trainings organised by FPA over the past year is also testament to the expertise and passion of their team, who have always been a pleasure to work alongside.”

Conor Rowden, Uplift

ENERGY COMPANY BEHAVIOUR AND PRICING

We continued to highlight the awful way customers are treated by energy firms and the failure of Ofgem to resolve this. This compounds the impacts of high pricing with long wait times, unhelpful staff, frequent billing errors, excessive direct debit amounts, threatening letters and aggressive debt agents. It leads to severe added

Lowered Ofgem price cap will still leave a quarter in fuel poverty, activists warn

Campaigners say many households may miss out on state help after closure of energy price guarantee

Ofgem’s energy price cap cut: how the changes affect you



A fuel poverty campaigner protesting outside parliament in London last October. Photograph: Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

#EnergyForAll in the Guardian, 01.07.23

stress for already struggling and vulnerable people, and increased likelihood of warrants and forced installations. Ofgem finally agreed a review, but proposed improvements are incremental and incomplete so this remains a priority.

Electricity pricing continued to be three to four times higher than gas, which causes huge hardship for the two million electric-only households and also undermines an affordable transition. We have continued to highlight this huge issue and push for the wholesale and retail market reform needed. We have also highlighted the injustices of new innovative tariffs that deliver cheap electricity to more affluent groups with electric vehicles (EVs) and batteries whilst lower income, older and more vulnerable people were left on unaffordable traditional tariffs.

Heating oil prices were volatile. They remained cheaper than electricity but a premium on mains gas. The shift of rural areas to heat pumps was a controversial issue with strong resistance due to insulation issues and high electricity costs. This again underlined the need for the insulation and affordable electricity provided by Energy For All.

STANDING CHARGES

Getting rid of unfair standing charges is a key part of Energy For All, because they hurt the poor and frugal most. Those struggling in a tiny flat pay the same as a mansion. If you stop using gas over summer or because you cannot afford to fix your boiler, you still pay or the debt mounts up. If you are on a PPM, the accumulated standing charges will eat up your credit when you first switch back on – this leads some people turning their heating off again and going cold for the rest of the winter.

Again we exposed the truth – that most of these charges are not even for the network as claimed, but for a range of other costs like absorbing the debt of the reckless energy suppliers that failed in 2021-2, poor customer service, IT and wasteful marketing such as TV ads and football sponsorship deals. Worse still, these charges doubled.

An added injustice is the large regional variations in standing charges by region with areas outside London higher. Standing charges are also higher for PPMs – whose customers tend to be on lower incomes, with lower usage.

Glasgow vigil, October 2023 ©FPA





FPA delivers a PPM to DESNZ @Angela Christofilou

We have continued to fight this battle, which has gained increasing support amongst the public, in parliament, in the media and even some energy firms. Ofgem remains the key barrier. We got supporters to send over a thousand letters to Ofgem and their MPs. Finally they agreed to a review and we are stepping up our campaign at year end to make the required breakthrough.

PREPAYMENT METERS

PPMs are one of the primary drivers of energy disconnection in the UK. Customers are forced to pay daily standing charges, charged for debt ahead of receiving supply and, until recently, charged at a premium rate for their use. If you can't keep up then supply is cut off. By law, no one classified as "vulnerable" should be forced onto this method of payment, yet the majority of PPM customers are in this bracket.

In the winter of 2022/23, the forced installation of PPMs became one of the biggest threats facing households struggling to pay energy bills and one of the worst examples of callous behaviour by energy companies. Reports by Dean Kirby for the *i* Newspaper, revealed that [half a million warrants](#) had been issued by courts to energy companies to forcibly install the meters between July 2021 and December 2022. This compared to just [72 being rejected](#) in the same period. Due process was clearly not being followed. FPA built a relationship with Dean, sending information and reports to assist with his crucial work.

FPA had long campaigned for a ban on this practice and in December, we announced plans to take action in January. In the run up to our actions we spoke regularly in the media, insisting

that an outright ban on forced installations was essential, and drawing attention to clear breaches of regulations by the energy companies.

We continued to push these same lines in the EFPC, and our case was helped when another of its members, Citizens Advice, released a [damning report](#) stating that more people had been cut off by PPMs in 2022 than the previous ten years combined. Citizens Advice matched our demand for a ban. Between 19th and 22nd January 2023, a dozen protests took place across ten towns and cities with our support. On our final day of action, ending with a demonstration outside Octopus Energy in Birmingham, then Energy Secretary Grant Shapps ordered energy firms to stop force-fitting PPMs. However, the momentum that had gathered did not stop there. An undercover journalist from [The Times exposed British Gas practices](#), demonstrating as we'd made clear all along that regulations and licence conditions were being breached. Around this time our Director Ruth London and member Frances Lobell spoke at the first session of the APPG on PPMs. We also submitted a detailed [response](#) to the Ofgem call for evidence on Prepayment Rules and Protections.

On February 6th, a moratorium was introduced with magistrates told to stop hearing warrant applications. This remains in place until November 8th 2023. In July, the premium charged to prepayment customers ended; this was a scandal we'd been fighting since 2016. New regulations have been drawn up by Ofgem which fail to protect people from disconnection, so FPA will continue to fight this winter for an outright ban.

HELEN TIMSON VS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WORK AND PENSIONS

Helen Timson, a disabled former policewoman, secured a ruling in the High Court in September 2022 against the Government's policy of deducting utility bill debt from benefits, a practice that had left her unable to pay her rent or pay for the taxi fare to get to hospital for a cancer scan. The court found that the Department for Work and Pension's (DWP) guidance on the use of third party deduction "unlawfully gave the impression that representations from claimants were unnecessary." However, Ms Timson had to return to court in April 2023 after the DWP chose to appeal.

FPA drummed up support online and organised a picket outside the Court of Appeal in support of



At the High Court supporting Helen Timson, May 2023 ©FPA

Ms Timson, who had till then been a sole operator, doing this major initiative alone. FPA gave press interviews in support of her case and got over 200 people to send a template letter to their MP in support of Helen's case, which she found out in June she had won. Energy suppliers are now required to have a claimant's consent before it can make a new or increased deduction from their benefits.

"I would like to thank Jonathan Bean, Ruth London and the rest of the team at FPA for driving the campaign around my Judicial Review against the DWP (which we won – helping 100,000s of people a year!). I hope that together we will win some righteous battles in the future – using the power of the law."

Helen Timson

HOUSING AND HEATING

This year we have continued to inform and advocate for residents on estates with a "heat network". Heat Networks, which work like central heating for a whole housing block or an estate, have for years been without regulatory protection by Ofgem, price caps, and in some cases even miss out on some of the Government handouts that others receive. People on heat networks cannot leave them or switch, and were excluded

from the Energy Price Guarantee because their heating is classed as a commercial enterprise, despite the fact that it is heating homes. Many people in FPA's network of long-suffering "district heating" (DH) residents have been hit hard by the increase in gas price, some seeing their bills go up by over 300 percent.

FPA has put residents in touch with the Heat Networks Unit at DESNZ, and regularly forwarded their news bulletins to residents. We passed on information about Government discounts that landlords and other heat suppliers should apply for: mere residents were kept in the dark, with no way of knowing about the scheme's existence, let alone whether their discount had been applied for, and if so whether the savings had been passed on to them. We passed on Government consultation documents that otherwise go only to advisers or to people in the heat network industry: not the people who have to live with what they decide.

After years of pressure from ourselves and many others, plans are finally being made to make this industry subject to regulation, to be implemented by Ofgem, as for gas and electricity. As plans for legislation begin to be firmed up, we have attended and spoken up at round tables which are mostly attended by heat providers. And we responded in detail to a joint DESNZ/Ofgem consultation titled [Heat Networks Regulation – Consumer Protection](#),

after consulting with residents. Our submission included residents' first hand accounts of how things work in practice. The consultation framework is not what we pressed for – it is very much based on the market and a plethora of profit-making enterprises – but there are still measures that could make a huge difference to the performance and pricing of heat networks.

At the same time, we are putting affected people in touch with each other, and working with groups of residents, particularly in Lambeth, south London, where some of the most shocking price increases have been seen. In May 2023 we were invited to give evidence in person at Lambeth Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Our emphasis was on the eviction threat hanging over many council tenants if they could not afford the huge increases in heat costs. Unlike people with an individual boiler, their heat and hot water costs are included in their service charge or rent, and failure to pay them has resulted in notices seeking possession. This is totally unjust; users of other forms of heating risk being cut off or put on a PPM, but not eviction from their homes! One tenant, a single mother, wrote to us:

"I am a council tenant (Lambeth) and single parent with a primary school-age child. We have been informed at very short notice that our service charge has increased over 300 percent. It is four times what it was in March and I can't keep up. The inflation comes, we are told, from rising heat and hot water costs that we pay as part of our rent due to district billing. In some ways it would be preferable if the only thing being threatened is being cut off, but if I can't pay this I think the plan is for me and my child to be evicted.

Overnight, I have gone into severe rent arrears and there seems to be no recourse to appeal. Low income tenants cannot get help e.g. from housing benefit because service charge is treated differently to rent burden. What on earth can I do? I have cut back to almost nothing but there is a limit to what you can cut back with a child without causing serious neglect of their needs. What help is there for us?"

Rachel Luke, Lambeth tenant

Oxford Warm Up, November 2022 ©Amalric Pouzoulet





Rent Freeze protest in London, February 2023 ©Debbie Humphry

With so much energy poured into the Energy For All campaign, we have not been as active on other housing issues as in previous years. However we've continued to support coalition demands on energy efficiency, rents and service charges, and to support our own members in their ongoing battles, for instance at Pendleton estate in Salford.

On Saturday 11th February, 2023 Alex Considine from FPA spoke at a Homes for All event at the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, where housing activists, tenants, workers, union and trades council representatives and anti-poverty campaigners gathered to demand a rent freeze across all rental sectors to be funded by central Government. Under a placard proclaiming "Energy For All", she spoke of how Newlon Housing Trust had failed to respond to tenants' calls to fix the damp in her block of 54 flats in Islington North in which children were sleeping next to black mould, which had caused her and many other tenants to suffer from pneumonia over the winter. Water had infiltrated the building's infrastructure over the last eight years to the extent that the electrics were breaking down and the intercom and lifts no longer work. Alex said: "People are dying. You can hear the water coming out and you can see the black mould bubbling from the water stacks. It's now gone through so much of the building into the infrastructure, so it's not just in the apartments, it's in the hallways, it's in the corridors, it's in the communal spaces."

SUPPORTING PEOPLE IN FUEL POVERTY

FPA continues to support people in fuel poverty in a number of ways. Although we are a campaign organisation, not a service provider, our strong networks across the UK allow us to signpost individuals who contact us to sources of advice and the right support. For example, our new Glasgow local hub has recently created a partnership with the Wise Group, meaning that we refer anyone we engage with in Fuel Poverty on to get tailored support to their needs. In this way we helped a young man who came along to an action to access free mental health support and energy bill vouchers. Conversely some of those who have written into FPA for support have become engaged with the Energy for All campaign. For example, after we signposted Tricia Thompson to support with various challenges she was facing as a disabled woman living in fuel poverty, she felt empowered to join our recent mass stickering action.

FPA's monthly Zoom meetings are another space where people in fuel poverty can meet and talk with others in similar situations, and we have now also launched our Fuel For Thought learning series, a monthly programme of events co-created with members to provide more background information on fuel poverty issues and what to do about them. A key theme to be addressed is the interlinking of fuel poverty and climate justice.

As the membership has grown, we have more activists available to support people experiencing fuel poverty to take grassroots action, which in turn expands our capacity to support others.

“Fuel Poverty Action is amazing! It is full of committed people wanting to do what they can, to enable the eradication of fuel poverty. Meetings are friendly, lively and has people from all over Britain of all ages sharing ideas and strategies to change the perspective of decision makers about eradicating fuel poverty. FPA decides democratically and work co-operatively. FPA take really effective action and their Energy for All campaign is inspired, achievable and makes sense. FPA is important because it gives a powerful voice to the marginalised people in our society.”

**Joseph Jones, Tenant Support Worker,
London Tenants Federation**

COLD AND FIRE RISKS IN SALFORD – A NEVER ENDING FIGHT

FPA member Graeme continues a seemingly endless struggle for fire safety and adequate insulation in the Pendleton Together tower blocks in Salford. Years of waiting for dangerous cladding to be removed have given way to years of waiting for suitable cladding and insulation. Dates for the completion of new cladding have been repeatedly pushed back.

Residents were previously told that it would all be completed by now, but they are now going into another winter with NO insulation. Keeping uninsulated flats warm is obviously an uphill struggle, and payments given to help with unmanageable heating costs don't touch the sides for many residents. Meanwhile problems with fire doors identified back in 2017 still have not been addressed, wires still dangle from ceilings taken down a year ago to install sprinklers, and work still isn't finished on leaky windows. Graeme continues to engage the Council and the landlords, and a legal case is ongoing.

EXTENDING OUR NETWORK

We are expanding our networks in different directions. The new Glasgow local hub has a team of eight people who bring insights from a diverse range of ethnicities, gender identities, ages and experiences to the table. Many of them have experienced fuel poverty at some point in their lives, which is why they want to organise around it. They also have ties into other grassroots organisations who we have begun to work with at the local level; these include The Living Rent, RS21, Glasgow Unite

Community branch, Ecosocialists.Scot, The Young Greens, and Climate Camp Scotland.

Through the collaboration with Unite Community, we have fourteen branches of the union involved in our winter mobilisations strategy this year. Bradford, Northampton, Worcester, Coventry and Warwickshire, Somerset, South Devon, Sussex Coast, Gloucester, Cardiff, Swansea, Derbyshire Dales, Greater Manchester, Chesterfield, Bromley and Croydon are some of the branches engaging with the campaign.

Other activists of all backgrounds have found us online or in the streets and got in touch to get involved!



Alex supporting e4a ©FPA

“Being an active member in FPA brings me great joy. Working across so many different campaigns who mostly say No New Oil, End of Gas or Stop Paying, etc, FPA's campaign Energy For All is a beacon of hope. Its radical and achievable idea of a Universal Tariff on energy is for once a viable solution to the many problems we face due to climate breakdown, corporate greed and unfair pricing systems. FPA may be a small campaign but it is delivering a powerful and exciting new way of how we address our energy needs.”

Alex Considine, XR London and FPA

IN A NUTSHELL

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Ofgem:

PPM Rules and Protections – March 2023

Involuntary PPMs – July 2023

Consumer Standards – August 2023

Hydrogen Blending into GB Gas Distribution Networks – September 2023

Heat Networks Regulation: Consumer Protection – October 2023 (joint consultation with DESNZ)

ESNZ Commons Committee

Keeping The Power On – August 2023

Heating Our Homes – August 2023

HM Treasury

Oil and Gas Fiscal Regime – September 2023

AT EVENTS

Aside from our own events, FPA was invited to speak at a huge number of in-person events, meetings, conferences and rallies. These include (in no particular order):

Prices we cannot afford

- APPG on PPMs launch event
- EFPC special meeting to debate e4a with proponents of a means-tested social tariff
- Bristol roundtable on "Universal Basic Energy" with groups considering launching a new campaign related to the e4a concept
- London Unemployed Strategies meeting
- Edinburgh screening of "The Cost of Living" film
- Power to the People rally outside Arvato Financial Solutions offices in Scotland
- XR Inverness assembly on publicly owned energy
- In Brussels, Right to Energy Forum 2023 on the fight to ban disconnections
- In Berlin, Framing Energy Justice Project launch gathering

Climate and fossil fuels

- On the main stage and at the DESNZ picket at Extinction Rebellion's "The Big One"
- London Community Energy Action meeting
- XR Scotland rally outside Barclays in Glasgow
- Divest Strathclyde rally
- Stop Rosebank rallies in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and London
- People Over Polluters Conference in Brussels
- Southwark Climate Justice Coalition
- Climate Camp Scotland, Workshop on tackling fuel poverty and climate together
- Global March to End Fossil Fuels in Edinburgh (speaker) and London (contingent)
- "Oily Money" – workshop and speech outside Intercontinental Hotel "Oscars of Oil"

Heating and Housing

- London Tenants Federation conference
- Lambeth Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee invited us to give evidence on experience and solutions on energy costs in Lambeth homes
- Homes for All #RentFreezeNow demonstration

UNIONS, PENSIONERS AND POLITICS

- NPC Gloucester, Avon and Somerset Region
- Hackney Pensioners Convention
- UNISON Retired Members regional conferences and national delegates meeting
- Newham Trades Council
- Bridgwater and West Somerset Constituency Labour Party Meeting
- Unite For a Worker's Economy demo at Future Utilities Summit
- Unite Retired, Disabled and Community members National Meeting

IN THE MEDIA

Over the last year we have made extensive use of mass media to influence the mainstream narrative, spread our messages widely and build support for radical change. We used key news events such as price and profit announcements, Government announcements and research results to deliver insights that challenged the prevailing narrative. Our most significant coverage has included BBC TV and radio, ITV, Channel 4, Sky, TalkTV, GB News, LBC, the i-newspaper, The Guardian, the Daily Express, the Morning Star and Big Issue. In October, members reaffirmed a commitment not to engage with The Sun due to the longstanding consumer boycott.

Following the winter price peaks, the Government repeatedly claimed that the energy crisis was over, which necessitated further efforts to expose this falsehood and highlight continued high price levels, suffering and profiteering.

A Media Working Group was recently convened, following a media training session for staff and volunteers with NEON. Very gradually we are starting to find more people who are willing to speak out about their own experiences of fuel poverty and make the connections to the underlying political and social justice issues. Jonathan Bean, our policy spokesperson, is called on almost daily to produce comment or analysis for broadcast or print media, or to feed into coalition statements.

FPA was mentioned over 1,962 times across online, broadcast and print media in the 12 months from October 2022. Overall coverage peaked during last winter's mobilisation, and again in April, partly due to XR's Big One protests in London. While online mentions were down slightly on last year, the number of broadcast interviews and mentions was up 19% from 376 to 447. FPA's work was cited online in at least 52 countries, with the most non-UK mentions occurring in the United States, Canada, Australia, Poland, Romania, India, Ireland, Turkey, the UAE and Vietnam. For a full list see [here](#), but here are some examples:

TV

Channel 5 News, Sky News, TalkTV, Channel 4, BBC News (BBC1 and BBC2), BBC News 24, ITV News, GB News, BBC Parliament, 31 BBC regional and local TV stations.

Highlights include FPA's Stu Bretherton on [Channels TV](#) in October 2022, Ruth London on [Channel 5 News](#) in February and Jonathan Bean on [GB News](#) in October 2023.

Radio:

BBC World Service and Radio 2, Radio 4, Radio 5 Live, Radio 6 Music'; BBC Radio Scotland, BBC Wales and 17 local BBC radio stations. Other stations included: LBC, Capital, drive 105, Times Radio, talkRADIO, Voice of Islam Radio, Original 106 FM and Capital FM. Highlights include Jonathan Bean on [BBC News](#) talking about Centrica profits and the price cap, and Alex Considine on [LBC](#) from the Warm Up at the British Museum. Chia Harrington was interviewed for the [Debt Talk](#) podcast.

National Press

Byline Times, Canaryco, Daily Express, Daily Mail, Daily Mirror, Daily Record, Daily Star, Evening Standard, i newspaper, New Start Magazine, New Statesman, Scottish Daily Express, Scottish Star, The Herald/Sunday Herald, The Argus, The Big Issue, The Daily Telegraph, The Guardian, The Independent, The Lad Bible, The Morning Star, The National (Scotland), The Rooftop, The People, The Daily and Sunday Telegraph, Your Money. Highlights include these reports in the [Guardian Society](#) section, [inews](#) and the [New Statesman](#).

Ofgem workers share a record £1.4m bonus

EXCLUSIVE BY BEN TURNER and FAYE MAVERN

STAFF at under-fire energy watchdog Ofgem pocketed a record £1.4million in bonuses during the last year.

The quango, which sets gas and electricity prices, rewarded 972 employees as many householders struggled to pay their bills.

Recipients included £190k-a-year Ofgem chief executive Jonathan Brearley, who received £10,000 in bonuses in the last two years.

Jonathan Bean, of charity Fuel Poverty Action, said: "These Ofgem bonuses on top of high salaries are an insult to millions of people struggling from inflated energy bills. Ofgem has totally failed to protect customers."

Customers were angry too. Widowed gran Kay Smith, 60, branded the bonuses "disgusting" and told how her bills had shot up by 50% since last year.

The bank worker from Sunderland said: "Why are we being asked to pay fatcats' bonuses? They're profiting at the expense of the people."

Ofgem's bonus pot means eligible staff members got an extra £1,484 on average.

The regulator came under fire earlier this year after British

Gas was found to be forcibly installing pre-payment energy meters in vulnerable people's homes.

It condemned British Gas, but was criticised for initially allowing suppliers to fit the meters.

The Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee last year said it was "not convinced that Ofgem has the skills and capacity it needs to take a more proactive role in regulating the energy supplier market".

It comes as householders are likely to face even higher energy bills this winter unless the Government announces further support.

Last year, its Energy Bill Support Scheme gave every household a £400 discount, but that has now ended. And although the annual price cap from October will fall £151 to £1,923 for the average consumer, the price cap in October 2021 - before the start of the Ukraine war - was just £1,277.

Ofgem said: "We defend consumers to the hilt. "All one-off performance-related pay awards are set in line with Cabinet Office guidance and dependent on a tough year-long appraisal process. We are transparent about all remuneration policies in our annual reports".

PAYOUT
Brearley

Jonathan quoted in the Daily Mirror, 21.08.23

Regional Press

Over 80 print and online publications, including Belfast Telegraph, Birmingham Mail, Chester and District Standard, Greenock Telegraph, Inside Croydon, Lancashire Telegraph, Leeds Live, Leicester Mercury, Liverpool Echo, Oldham Times, OnLondon, North Wales Pioneer, Salisbury Journal, Scotland News Today, Suffolk News, The Edinburgh Reporter, The Northern Echo, This is the West Country, Tottenham Independent, Wales Online. Examples include a mention of e4a in an [OnLondon](#) overview of the cost of living crisis in Newham, and this coverage of Warm Ups in the [Evening Standard](#).

International Press

Aktualności News (Romania), Arabnews24 (Canada), Avrupa Times (Turkey), Bloomberg, Daily Hindustan News, El Diario Financiero, European News Online, Indian Oil and Gas News, La Vanguardia, Le Monde, Luxemburger Wort (German), Media World Today, MSN, NationCymru, Neues Deutschland, News Dubai, Newsdaily Nigeria, Notícias ao Minuto (Portugal),

Politico Europe, The National (UAE), The New York Times, The Singapore Time, Utility Week, Yahoo! News.

Trade Press:

Co-operative News, Essential Healthcare News, Ethical Marketing News, Community Energy England, Earth Matters Journal, Ecopolitic Media SRL, EcoWatch, Energy News Line, Energy Update, Engineering and Technology Magazine, Environment Journal Online, Law Society Gazette, Hydrogen Insight, Oil Price, Oil and Gas Press, Phil's Stock World, Social Care Today, They Work For You and Westminster Hall Debates.

Online blogs and newsletters:

Brixton Buzz, Green Left Weekly, Greenpeace UK, Greenpeace International, Labour Hub, LabourList, Left Foot Forward, New Economics Foundation, Newstex Blogs, Oil Change International, Popular Resistance, rs21, Tax Justice UK, The poor side of life, Tower Blocks UK, Waging Nonviolence, WinVisible.



Take the Power Back demonstration, June 2023 ©FPA

WORKING WITH OTHERS

Coalitions (UK)

End Fuel Poverty Coalition (EFPC)
Stop Rosebank
Warm This Winter (WTW)

Trade Unions

National Education Union (NEU)
Plymouth Trades Council
Unite Community
Unite For a Workers Economy

Other organisations and networks

350.org
Acorn
All African Women's Group
Architects Climate Action Network
Canto Collective
Climate Camp Scotland
Climate Cymru
Debt Justice
Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC)
Don't Pay UK
Extinction Rebellion
Fossil Free London
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Earth Scotland
Green New Deal Rising
Greenpeace
High Peak for a Green New Deal
Homes for All
Housing Rebellion
Just Stop Oil
Living Rent
London Tenants Federation
National Bargee Travellers Association
National Pensioners Convention (NPC)

New Economics Foundation (NEF)
New Economy Organisers Network (NEON)
People Support Co-op
Platform London
Power to the People
RS21
Single Mothers' Self-Defence
Stop the Squeeze
Tax Justice UK
This is Rigged
Tipping Point
Uplift
Warm Homes Whitfield
WinVisible
Wise Group
Wyndford Residents Union

International organisations and networks

Fossil Free Politics
Right to Energy Coalition
Ingeniería Sin Fronteras (Engineers Without Borders), Catalonia
Aliança contra la Pobresa Energètica (Alliance Against Energy Poverty), Catalonia



FPA Glasgow supporting Wynford Residents Union's pro-retrofit, anti-demolition campaign at Glasgow City Chambers, October 2023 ©FPA

ABOUT US

ACTIVE MEMBERS

FPA currently has around 35 active members across the UK, concentrated particularly in London, Glasgow, Bristol, Exeter, Manchester and Salford, but growing all the time. Active members of FPA commit to a certain level of involvement, endorse our Aims and uphold our Principles. To enquire about joining FPA, email chia@fuelpovertyaction.org.uk.

There is a further cohort of committed activists, often members of ally organisations, and some other individuals who occasionally or frequently attend our open monthly meetings, Fuel For Thought learning sessions and events.

DIRECTORS

Ruth London, founding member of FPA, formed in 2011. A grandmother, active for five decades organising against poverty, discrimination and climate change, and against rape, she co-ordinates FPA's work.

Frances Sleep has been involved with FPA since 2012. She teaches Philosophy to sixth form students, and can sometimes bring her concerns with peace building and climate justice to work. She has two small children.

Verena Bean is on the London Region Executive Committee of the NPC. Her early career was teaching in Primary School followed by management in Adult and Further Education, where she was a trades union rep and a supporter of individuals' rights in the workplace. She is Secretary of her local Unison Retired Members branch and a regional vice chair.

Staff and members at the June 2023 strategy day ©FPA



Philip McMahon joined in 2017. He's a web developer at The Guardian newspaper. Outside of FPA, he's been active with Campaign Against Arms Trade for several years. He thinks retrofitting the UK's housing stock is an easy obvious win against climate change.

Martha Myers has a background in connecting climate, social and trade union groups on energy poverty across Europe. She has worked predominantly for climate NGOs including Friends of the Earth Europe and as coordinator of the Right to Energy coalition. She is passionate about sustainable activism and mitigating burnout culture in grassroots organisations.

Joseph Aggarwal is newly recruited to the FPA Board, and also active with Just Stop Oil. Since many present the cost of living crisis and the climate crisis to be inimical to each other, Joe believes that groups working on both topics are vital to exposing this as a false dichotomy.

STAFF

Stuart Bretherton, Energy For All Campaign Co-ordinator. Previously active in direct action groups including Extinction Rebellion, Palestine Action and Living Rent, Scotland's Tenants Union. Worked in housing support in hometown of Paisley prior to joining FPA, but saw increasing difficulty with tenancy sustainment due to rising bills.

John Whitcher, Energy For All Campaigner Union and Community Focus. Previously worked in education and youth support services however due to the greed of large companies and underfunding of public services he believes the solution is organising for systemic change with organisations such as Fuel Poverty Action. Prior to FPA he was involved as an organiser with groups such as ACORN renters union, Unite community and The World Transformed Festival.

Hannah Berry, Administrator

With a background in community development, research and social and environmental action, Hannah previously ran a Greater Manchester-wide voluntary sector equalities network.

Amalric Pouzoulet, Lead for Educationals Set-up Amalric joined FPA looking to work in acknowledgement of the intersectionality of crises and people needed to prevent catastrophic climate change. Previously worked with Switch It Green, Just Stop Oil and with Palestinian and Syrian refugees abroad.

Chia Harrington, Lead Organiser

A qualified community development practitioner and former organiser with XR and Debt Justice, whose campaign with Unite for a Workers Economy cancelled £300,000 of school meal debt in Glasgow. A passionate environmentalist since she was young, she believes the climate movement must root itself in the wider struggle for economic justice.

FREELANCERS

Jonathan Bean, Policy and Parliament

Over a decade of experience supporting socially and environmentally driven initiatives. Believes there is now majority support to transform our greed-driven energy system.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Huge thanks must go first to our funders, who have supported FPA to continue our transition from activist group to established organisation. They have been generous with valued advice on our internal processes, help with venues and consultants, and of course their funding has provided the resources we depend on to be able to campaign more effectively than ever:

- Blue Moon Trust
- Climate 2025
- Disrupt Foundation
- Energy Transition Fund (ETF)
- Gower Street
- Mark Brown
- Melissa Murdoch
- Necessity
- Selgars
- Solaberga Foundation
- The Social Change
- Tipping Point Grassroots Action Fund

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- Abbie Kempson for her patient advice
- 350.org and Uplift for their generous support of our mobilisations
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- Clive Lewis MP and Sarah Clarke for hosting the Parliamentary launch
- Frank Gavurin and Pablo John for volunteering their time and expertise
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- Madeleine Lynch for the media analysis
- NEON for their media support
- Simon Francis of EFPC for always looking out for FPA
- Unite Community members for taking e4a to new levels and audiences

“Fuel Poverty Action is a dynamic organisation that has made a much needed intervention on the intersecting crises of climate and fuel poverty. They have shown us all a pathway to a better future in which carbon emissions are reduced and no one has to choose between heating and eating. In XR we have worked collaboratively with FPA in a number of different ways, including supporting their demonstrations, platforming them at events and sharing their important message. We have found the partnership to be extremely enriching for our rebels and have been really happy to support FPA.”

Miranda, XRUK Programming, Alliances and Relationships

FUEL POVERTY ACTION

This Annual Report was written in sections by Ruth London, Jonathan Bean, Stu Bretherton, Chia Harrington, Frances Sleaf and John Witcher, and edited by Hannah Berry and Ruth London. Design and layout by Ian Nixon and Hannah Minney.