

Warm This Winter Induction for Event Organisers and FAQs

Everybody in Britain deserves to be warm this winter.

Yet, millions of people are now struggling to afford the basics because of the soaring cost of energy. Put simply, the UK is being made poorer because the price of gas has shot up around the world, and because so many of us rely on gas to heat our homes. Individuals, communities or councils can't solve the energy price crisis, only the government can. **The Warm this Winter campaign is working to bring people together to make sure the government fixes this crisis for good.**

The Warm this Winter campaign is demanding the government:

1. **Provide more support this winter for those who need it**

The soaring price of energy means that a fifth of households are already unable to afford to heat their house adequately, including people with health conditions, who are disabled, elderly or with young children. We are calling on the government to provide extra support for those who need it this winter, as well as taking additional steps to, for example, stop companies forcing people onto more expensive pre-payment meters.

2. **Help people cut their bills with more money for insulation**

The UK has some of the most leaky homes in Europe, which cost a lot more to heat. The government is finally releasing more funds to insulate homes, but it is not nearly enough or happening fast enough. We are calling on the government to urgently provide enough funding for a national insulation programme to upgrade every home, starting today with those hardest-hit.

3. **Expand cheaper renewable energy to lower bills permanently**

Homegrown renewable energy, like solar and onshore wind, is now significantly cheaper than gas, but they are not getting built because of blocks in the system. We are calling on the government to massively ramp up the amount of wind and solar being developed, which would provide a cheaper energy supply for everyone.

4. **Stop locking us into expensive energy by opening new oil and gas fields**

The UK's reliance on expensive gas is hitting households and businesses hard, while oil and gas companies are making record profits. More North Sea gas won't lower our bills. We are calling on the UK government to stop opening up new oil and gas fields, end new licensing rounds, and stop subsidising new drilling with public money.

Frequently asked questions

Why bother with these changes: won't energy bills drop to normal levels soon?

Unfortunately, UK energy bills are predicted to stay high for a few years at least. This is because global factors, like Russia's invasion of Ukraine, are leading to overall higher gas

prices. Government is currently subsidising our bills, so they're not as high as they could be, but this support is being reduced from April next year. As a result, our energy costs will rise, with the typical bill 'capped' at £3000 a year until April 2024, or £250 a month (although if you use more energy than the typical household, you'll pay more). This means that many more people – over 8 million households – will struggle to heat their homes next winter. In short, high energy prices will be with us for another year at least.

If energy prices stay high for longer, can't the government just keep subsidising our bills?

Supporting people through this energy price crisis is essential, but it is costing the UK many billions – and all that money is just going to already hugely wealthy gas producers. This is unsustainable in the long term and the government is already talking about cuts to public services. It's much more economically sensible to start moving away from unaffordable (and polluting) energy sources, like gas, by switching to cheaper, renewable energy and through insulating homes, which significantly cuts the amount of energy needed to heat them.

Won't these changes take too long and isn't there a better way to help people now?

With energy bills currently double what they were last year, seven million households already can't afford to heat their homes (even with the government's support), which is having a serious impact on their lives and health. Communities are doing everything they can to support people this winter, like providing much-needed warm spaces, but it's not enough. Insulating homes is by far the quickest and cheapest way to significantly cut people's energy bills for good. One in every four pounds spent on heating is currently wasted and there are 19 million leaky homes that urgently need upgrading. Local authorities have insulation programmes set up but they need more money to get on with the job. The government needs to release far more funding now – not in a couple of years time, as planned – so that everyone can live in a warm home that is cheap to heat.

Why are we affected by global gas prices: can't we just get more gas from the North Sea?

Getting more gas from the North Sea won't lower energy bills in the UK. North Sea gas belongs to the companies that hold the drilling licences and is sold to us at international market prices. Also, there isn't that much gas left in the North Sea (most of what's left is oil, which we export), and what little there is will take years to produce. We will increasingly have to rely on expensive imports until we move away from gas. The UK does, though, have renewable resources in abundance, which are now many times cheaper than UK gas. Developing more homegrown renewables, including onshore wind and solar, will lower energy bills by reducing the amount of expensive gas we need.

Most of us have gas heating: won't it cost a fortune to switch everyone to electric heating?

The energy price crisis is hitting the UK harder than some countries because we are so reliant on gas to heat our homes. We urgently need to shift to cheaper, renewable electricity to heat our homes by, for example, using heat pumps. At the moment, because they are a new(ish) technology, they are too expensive for most people to afford, but the price is falling and there are some government grants to help with the costs. This funding needs to be ramped up significantly so that many more people can benefit from cheaper heating.

Can we really power all our homes using renewable energy?

We're not there yet, but yes we can. The electricity system is being built so that it can deliver energy whatever the weather. Having more renewable energy would also save us billions: this summer, homegrown renewable energy was nine times cheaper than UK gas! At the moment, though, the development of more onshore wind and solar is effectively banned, despite having the support of the vast majority of people in the UK: 80% of people support onshore wind, for example, including two thirds of those living in the countryside. The government needs to unblock the planning system to build more renewable energy so we can all enjoy a cheaper supply of energy.

Please get in touch at info@warmthiswinter.org.uk if you have further questions about the Warm This Winter campaign.