



PRESS RELEASE

Energy plan is a welcome reprieve but it fails to address the magnitude of the issue — and fracking is never the answer

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Responding to the [‘Energy Price Guarantee’](#) unveiled by the new Prime Minister Liz Truss, Polly Billington, UK100 Chief Executive, says:

"The scale of the energy price crisis demands an urgent response, and the new Prime Minister has recognised that with the significant investment announced today. But while our members will welcome a price cap freeze that provides some relief for households across Britain, Liz Truss's plan is ultimately a short-term fix that doesn't meet the magnitude of the problem."

"Even with a price cap freeze of £2,500, we will see almost seven million households pushed into fuel poverty this winter¹. So what can be done alongside the freeze to prevent years of bleak winters for the most vulnerable in Britain? That's the key question the Prime Minister's plan fails to address."

"It's not sexy. And it doesn't sell newspapers. But now is the time for a long-term plan that grasps the energy efficiency nettle. We can't tackle the energy crisis with supply-side measures alone."

"We must recognise that the cheapest energy is the energy we don't use. But that doesn't mean sitting shivering in cold, dark homes. It means ensuring that keeping our homes warm and comfortable is more affordable."

"Brits are stuck with some of the draughtiest homes in Europe. If radiators kicked out five-pound notes instead of heat, we'd watch wads of cash escaping through our roofs, windows, doors and walls every winter."

"We did have a thriving energy efficiency industry working to change that. But [support for it was derided as "green crap" and axed in 2013](#). Now, the least energy efficient homes are paying a [£1,000 "penalty" because of that decision](#)."

¹ Figures from the End Fuel Poverty Coalition



"A new energy efficiency drive will save households between £300 and £1,000 a year on their bills. Better-insulated and energy-efficient households will pay less on their energy bills, not just for two years but permanently. There should be no excuse for passing up this opportunity to tackle the issue head-on."

"Instead, we have a promise to lift the ban on fracking — without any sight of the promised scientific review of its safety and viability. It's the wrong answer to the wrong question."

"Despite a vocal minority of lobbyists proclaiming it a panacea, the public understands that it just does not work in the UK. Fracking enjoys [chronically low levels of public support](#). Voters of all political stripes, especially Conservatives, want to see a homegrown renewables revolution to boost Britain's energy supplies."

"We need to send fracking packing, invest in a renewables revolution, and end the wait and insulate Britain's homes. The price cap freeze is a welcome short-term reprieve, but we urgently need to fix the roof while the sun is shining. And not just the roof. We need to insulate the walls and triple-glaze the windows too."

UK100 will host a "[Tackling the Energy Price Crisis](#)" summit on 17 November, in cooperation with the West Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and Mayor Tracy Brabin, that will focus on the role of local and regional leaders in delivering energy efficiency upgrades.

The event will also launch a new social housing retrofit report detailing the cost of upgrading all of Britain's social homes and the benefits to households in energy bill savings alongside the jobs dividend.

You can register for the event [here](#). More details on speakers will be announced shortly.

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About UK100

UK100 is a network of the most ambitious local leaders working towards Net Zero as soon as possible but no later than 2045. We help them collaborate to take decisive action in their communities.



Our members represent more than 37 million people in towns, cities and counties across the UK.

We facilitate knowledge-sharing between members, partnership-building and leadership mentoring. And support them to harness their collective power to affect vital national change.

Warm homes, affordable energy, clean air, and healthy landscapes make thriving communities.

And UK100 members have pledged to deliver a Net Zero future that delivers for people and planet.

[UK100.org](https://www.uk100.org)