LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

FUEL POVERTY (TARGET, DEFINITION AND STRATEGY) (SCOTLAND) BILL
CALL FOR VIEWS

SUBMISSION FROM E.ON UK

E.ON UK welcomes the Scottish Government’s ambition to significantly reduce fuel poverty by removing poor energy efficiency as a driver. We support the requirement for a new, long-term fuel poverty strategy to be produced and the obligation for Ministers to report on progress towards the target every five years. We also welcome the focus on outcomes, which must be incorporated from the start to ensure monitoring and reporting processes are embedded in delivery programmes.

We do however, ask that the Scottish Government take the following considerations into account:

- The Energy Efficient Scotland proposal for all fuel poor households to reach EPC Band C by 2030 will help with making substantial progress towards reducing the number of fuel poor households. The 2016 Scottish Housing Condition Survey indicated that, for homes Band C or above, 14% of households are fuel poor\(^1\). We therefore believe that the target to reduce levels of fuel poverty to no more than 5% of households should be brought forward to 2035.
- Whilst the intention of the new fuel poverty definition is to focus on those in greatest need, its complexity will require the Scottish Government to utilise, as much as possible, the powers under the Digital Economy Act to identify eligible households. Alternatively, it will be important to allow an element of flexibility when applying the criteria.
- We welcome the recognition in the Draft Fuel Poverty Strategy that investment in energy efficiency positively impacts health and wellbeing, bringing wider benefits to individuals, communities and the health sector. Working in partnership with health organisations will be crucial to identifying and helping those vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home.

Should you be interested in discussing E.ON UK’s position on any of these issues in more detail, or if you require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

\(^1\) [https://beta.gov.scot/publications/scottish-house-condition-survey-2016-key-findings/pages/6/] Table 36, Fuel Poverty by Dwelling Characteristics