



A Just Transition for Scotland's Housing Saturday 17 October

Event Summary

The Commission held a joint online event with the Methodist Church and Eco-Congregation Scotland to discuss how we can combine meeting our climate targets with improving energy affordability and lowering fuel poverty.

Representatives from Warmworks, Orkney Housing Association, Existing Homes Alliance Scotland and Power Circle also joined the discussion.

Some key messages from the event included:

- **Engagement:** communication on energy efficiency measures needs to avoid using jargon and the assumption of existing knowledge. Current messaging on energy efficiency and heat solutions is often very technical, and therefore inaccessible to many consumers. There is also no 'one size fits all' approach for households, so public awareness campaigns etc must recognise this.
- **Grant Support:** This needs to be flexible and focus on the most appropriate heating technology and building efficiency solutions for the household in question. A balanced approach is required that takes into consideration a range of different settings and backgrounds, for example, differences between rural and urban households.
- **Education:** There is a need for more education on energy efficiency and fuel poverty at all levels, but particularly amongst the general public. Events like this were considered to be important learning opportunities and a means of getting the message out. Peer-to-peer learning was also considered important, by allowing consumers to share experience of next generation heat solutions with other consumers.
- **Resistance from vested interests:** It was felt that decarbonising Scotland's housing may also require the Government to challenge certain industry actors. The housebuilding industry was cited as an example, whereby it was felt companies had not been quick enough to adapt their business model to comply with climate change targets, instead continuing to build houses with poor energy efficiency and reliant on fossil fuel systems.
- **Unintended consequences:** There is a risk of unintended consequences by solely pursuing one agenda. Addressing climate change must be considered alongside reducing fuel poverty. Future planning is imperative to avoid risks of further injustice.