



# A call to action

*For more information contact*  
[energy.hardship@hact.org.uk](mailto:energy.hardship@hact.org.uk)



## The Energy Hardship Fund

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# What is the Energy Hardship Fund?

The Energy Hardship Fund is a collective effort by the social housing sector and its partners to support social housing residents with energy costs over the coming winter.

This will be a collective effort, combining the generous support of social housing organisations and friends of the sector.

**We have one simple ask: Please contribute.**

We are looking for corporate donations and support to help fundraise as much as possible and would like to invite your organisation to back the initiative and donate money to the shared fund.

The fundraising campaign launched on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021, already with support from sector leaders, including:



Chartered  
Institute of  
Housing



TENANT ENGAGEMENT EXPERTS  
**tpas**



We have an  
ambitious target to  
raise

**£1 million**

to support residents  
struggling with their  
energy costs this  
winter



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# Why do we need an Energy Hardship Fund?

Across the country, low-income households including those in social housing are facing the prospect of rising energy prices. At the same time cuts to universal credit and the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic are making it harder to heat homes affordably. Fuel poverty is a longstanding issue in the sector, and projections suggest many more households could fall into fuel poverty.

We know fuel poverty impacts health and wellbeing. We also know it leads to difficult choices between heating, eating and other essential everyday costs including rent.

In the long term, action is needed to mitigate the causes of fuel poverty. In the short term, quick and decisive action is needed to support those struggling now.

The Energy Hardship Fund is being established in recognition of the additional burden that increased energy costs and changes to universal credit is having on many households, who may struggle to pay their fuel bills due to loss of income or increased fuel use.





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# Why do we need to do this together?

Working collectively, we have an opportunity to create a more significant fund than if we were to do this individually.

We will do this by bringing together social housing organisations as well as friends of the social housing sector to draw on funding from a variety of sources to get the most support to those who need it most.

Our fundraising campaign will target the social housing supply chain and corporate donors. This fund provides an opportunity to demonstrate commitments to social purpose.

HACT will also approach and apply to relevant trusts and foundations to enhance the fund.



**Every donation will count.**

**Together, we can create an Energy Hardship Fund that will tackle fuel poverty this Winter.**



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# Why do we need to do this together?

## Why HACT?

HACT is a charity that partners with organisations across the housing sector to drive value for residents and communities through our work, encouraging innovation and fostering collaboration.

A key part of our vision is a commitment to partnership working and adding value – we are and always have been a small charitable organisation that delivers with and through others. Our contribution comes from bringing people together and sharing our ideas, ideals and inspiration with theirs to jointly achieve change.

## Our track record

HACT has a track record of managing and administering similar funds. Over the winter of 2020-2021 we administered [two winter energy funds](#), utilising funding from the Energy Savings Trust and Scottish Government to support over 16,000 households with their heating and energy costs.

The Energy Savings Trust funding focused on supporting social housing residents in England, Scotland and Wales whereas the Scottish Government funding supported social housing residents in Scotland.

We have an opportunity to do the same again, using a tried and tested method.



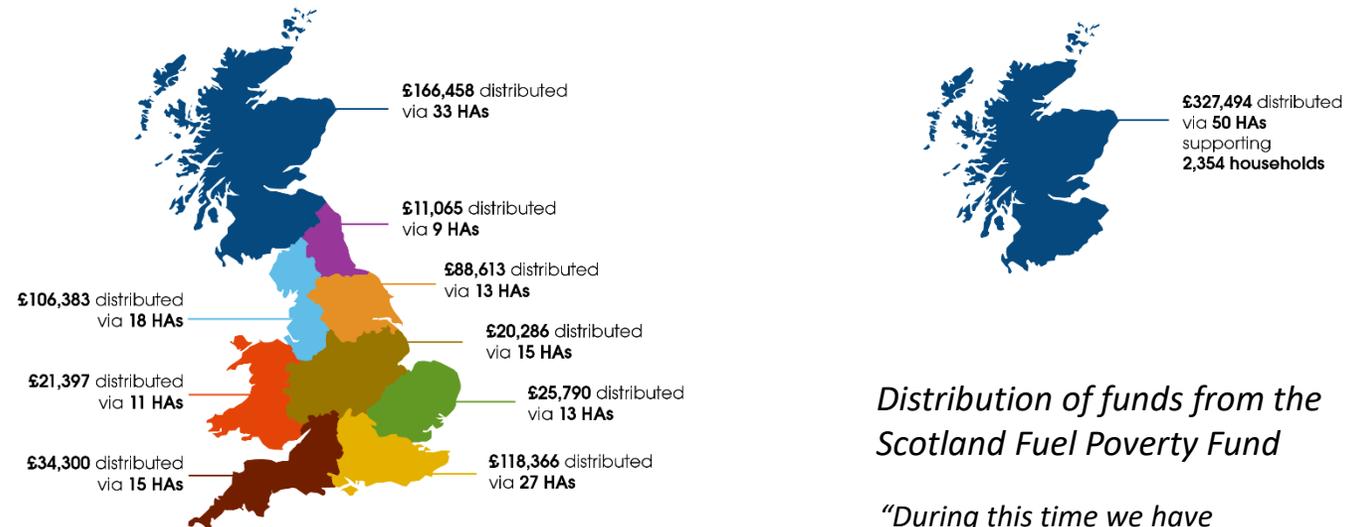


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# Our collective impact during winter 2020 - 2021



### Distribution of funds from the Energy Redress Scheme

*“This scheme has been extremely beneficial to our tenants living on very low incomes, who have already exhausted all other means of getting help with fuel vouchers.”*

### Distribution of funds from the Scotland Fuel Poverty Fund

*“During this time we have managed to assist a large amount of tenants who are struggling financially. Many of these people have very little credit on their meters and in some cases have had no electricity or gas or any means to top their meters up. This scheme has made a huge difference to all these people”*



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# How will it work in practice?



## Fundraising

We are seeking corporate donations to the fund from social housing providers, partners and friends of the social housing sector. The [fundraising campaign](#) launched on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and will run to Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

To make a corporate donation, please contact us via the Energy Hardship Fund's dedicated email address: [energy.hardship@hact.org.uk](mailto:energy.hardship@hact.org.uk)



## Fund management

HACT will receive and administer the funding, design and deliver allocation processes, and take responsibility for quality assurance, programme monitoring and answering any queries our housing partners may have. HACT will also report on the impact of the fund once it has closed.

Charis's grant administration platform [Let's Talk Shop](#) will be the portal used by social housing organisations to access and administer energy vouchers on behalf of residents. HACT has previously used this platform for the Energy Redress and Scotland Fuel Poverty funds.



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# How will it work in practice?

## Fund distribution

UK based social housing organisations will be able to access vouchers on behalf of their residents via the Charis platform from **early December 2021**. Vouchers will both cover residents on prepayment meters and those who pay for energy in other ways including direct debit.

Eligibility requirements will ensure that vouchers are prioritised for those in the most immediate need over the winter period.

More information about how to access the funds on behalf of residents will be made available in **mid November 2021**.





## The Energy Hardship Fund

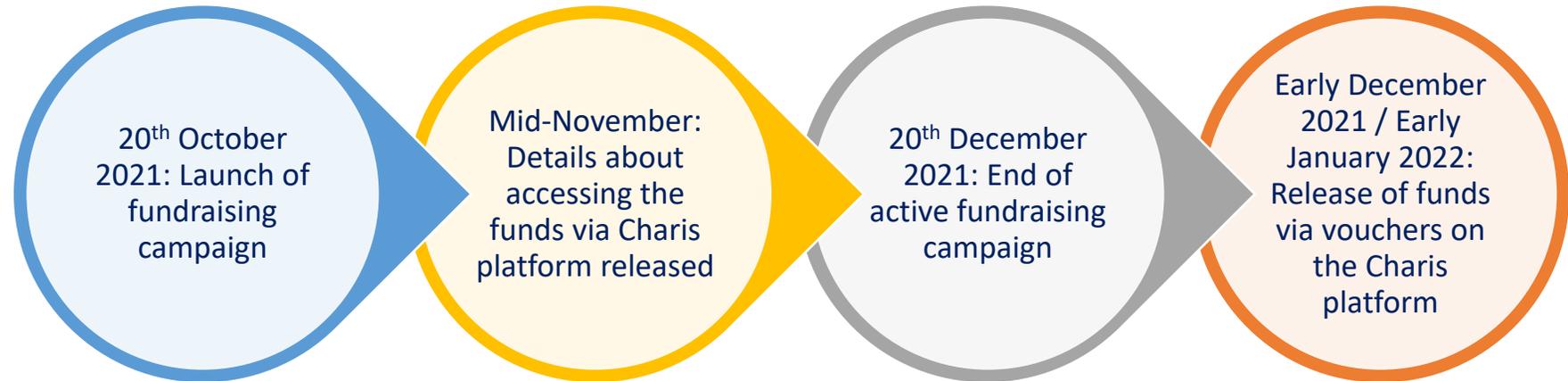
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# How will it work in practice?



## Timeline



Please contact [energy.hardship@hact.org.uk](mailto:energy.hardship@hact.org.uk) if you have any queries, would like to make a corporate donation and add your organisation to the list of supporters.



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# Ways to support

Make a financial contribution from your organisation

Send us your logo and add your name to our list of supporters

**DONATE**

**ADD**

**DISTRIBUTE**

**ASK**

Add your details to our network so you can distribute funds

Ask your contractors, suppliers, your City financial institutions and your collaborators to add their financial contribution to the Fund.

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# Help spread the word

The below copy can be used to share the Energy Hardship Fund message across your social channels:

## LinkedIn

[INSERT COMPANY NAME] are proud to be supporting the #EnergyHardshipFund, brought together by @HACT, which aims to raise £1million to redistribute as fuel vouchers to residents who experience fuel poverty.

Join us in supporting – you can donate, show you support or spread the word.

Together we can help #tacklefuelpoverty this winter.

<https://www.hact.org.uk/energy-hardship-fund>

## Twitter

[INSERT COMPANY NAME] are proud to be supporting the #EnergyHardshipFund with @HACTHousing, aiming to raise £1m to redistribute to residents experiencing fuel poverty. Join us - donate, support, share. Together we can help #tacklefuelpoverty this winter.

<https://www.hact.org.uk/energy-hardship-fund>





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# Help spread the word

These assets are available to use across your communications.

For versions other than JPG please get in touch:

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Higher energy prices.  
Cuts to Universal Credit.  
  
To tackle fuel poverty this winter, we've set up the Energy Hardship Fund.



Together, we want to raise £1 million from social housing organisations and friends of the sector that we will distribute as fuel vouchers to social housing residents from December 2021.  
  
Find out how you can get involved >



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