

MAYOR OF LONDON

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I am writing to respond to your Committee's *Getting Warmer* Report, published in May. My draft Environment Strategy, draft Fuel Poverty and Solar Action Plans have been published today. Your report was particularly timely and it formed a valuable input to formulating these documents.

Your report rightly raised the linked issues of London lagging behind other areas of the UK in terms of energy efficiency and the problem of fuel poverty in London. Carefully targeted improvements in energy efficiency can tackle fuel poverty at the same time as reducing carbon emissions. However, energy efficiency is not enough on its own to solve the scourge of fuel poverty, nor can I solve this problem alone. I have therefore set out the additional measures I will take, in addition to calling for more from national Government and others.

My draft Environment Strategy and Fuel Poverty Action Plan set out how I will drive energy efficiency and tackle fuel poverty, within my overall ambition of making London zero carbon by 2050. The key actions that will contribute include:

- supporting Londoners to improve the energy efficiency of homes and non-domestic buildings and helping to roll out smart meters. I will invest directly in energy efficiency programmes and will prioritise those most likely to be in fuel poverty, including those in owner-occupied homes or those in social housing whose incomes are inadequate to fund sufficient warmth. This includes £10m over the next four years for new energy efficiency delivery mechanisms (this money will be split between action to drive carbon reduction, and to support fuel poverty reduction).
- new technical assistance from 2018 for local authorities, social housing providers, and private landlords, where possible, to support the retrofit of their housing stock, through a successor to the current RE:NEW programme.
- laying the foundations for deeper energy efficiency retrofitting through my Energy Leap Project which will deliver the first whole house zero energy retrofits in London and trial payment mechanisms including the ability to recoup some or all of the capital cost of the refurbishment work through savings on energy bills, maintenance and energy performance guarantees.

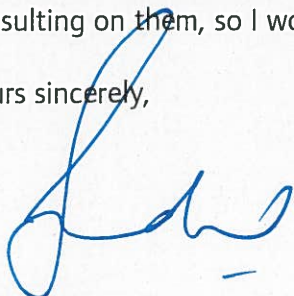
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- boosting the incomes of people in fuel poverty in London by funding benefits uptake campaigns and up to £500k to support the creation or roll out of local advice and referral networks, including home visiting services, as a way of helping to improve the living conditions of fuel poor households.
- setting up Energy for Londoners, aiming to offer fairer energy bills to Londoners as soon as possible and prioritising tackling fuel poverty in the first instance.
- ensuring that private landlords improve the energy performance of their properties. This will include improving enforcement action against landlords who do not meet legal requirements.
- providing technical assistance to help increase the number of homes and businesses connected to communal heat networks that use local energy sources, including energy created from waste.
- making sure that all new developments are zero carbon from 2019, with clean supplies of energy and high energy efficiency designed in from the start.
- trialling low carbon technologies like heat pumps and batteries and new ways to make expensive insulation more affordable.
- lobbying Government to put in place more supportive national policies to allow me to do more to make London's homes more energy efficient.
- investigating new finance arrangements, including revolving loans, incentives or grants, which do not rely on government subsidy, to enable more Londoners to improve their homes.

Thank you again for your report, which was a valuable contribution to my strategy formulation. I am also grateful for your recommendations to the previous Mayor, which I took account of in developing my draft Solar Action Plan.

The London Environment Strategy and my Fuel Poverty Action Plans are draft, and I will be actively consulting on them, so I would of course welcome further views from your Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London