

Commissioning research to inform fuel poverty advocacy

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Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice and research

- Statutory remit: represent energy consumers
- Particular regard for low income consumers
- Make sure high quality evidence informs our policy and advocacy work
- Citizens Advice & predecessors:
 - major commissioner of fuel poverty research
 - about £150k pa

Impact of our research: examples

Research	Impact
Mandated social tariffs: <i>Social tariffs – a solution to fuel poverty?</i>	Warm Home Discount
Minimum EE standards: <i>Raising the SAP</i> <i>A private Green Deal</i> <i>Ending cold homes</i>	PRS regulations New fuel poverty target
<i>The definition & measurement of fuel poverty</i> <i>Improving Hills</i>	Fuel poverty distinct from poverty Influence on Hills review
<i>Jobs, growth and warmer homes</i>	Macro-economic case for ambitious energy efficiency programme
Local delivery: <i>Help to heat</i> <i>Closer to home</i>	Labour Party policy Local flexibility element within next supplier obligation
Health & fuel poverty: <i>pilot referral service</i> <i>Fuel poverty and public health</i> (planned)	Full implementation of NICE guideline? Public health case for energy efficiency investment?

Research titles shown in italics

Evidence based policy?

“There is nothing a politician likes so little as to be well-informed; it makes decision-making so complex and difficult”

J.M.Keynes

Evidence ‘shaped’ policy?

Our research is often very influential but policy outcomes still differ from research recommendations

The four 'I's

- Interests
- Ideologies
- Institutions
- Information (research)

Research and campaigns

- Successful campaign:
 - Widespread participation
 - Focused public affairs effort
 - Media interest
 - Political support
- But high quality research still essential