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NEWS RELEASE
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Energy Action Scotland Celebrates Living Wage Commitment

The Living Wage Foundation, in partnership with the Poverty Alliance, is pleased to announce that the national fuel poverty charity Energy Action Scotland has been accredited as a Living Wage employer.

The Living Wage commitment will see everyone working at Energy Action Scotland, regardless of whether they are permanent employees or third-party contractors and suppliers, receive a minimum hourly wage of £7.85 - significantly higher than the national minimum wage of £6.50.

The Living Wage is an hourly rate set independently and updated annually. The Living Wage is calculated according to the basic cost of living using the 'Minimum Income Standard' for the UK. Decisions about what to include in this standard are set by the public; it is a social consensus about what people need to make ends meet.

Norman Kerr, Director, Energy Action Scotland said: "It's important that workers are paid a reasonable amount, such as the Living Wage. We know from our work to eradicate fuel poverty that having sufficient income is essential in enabling people to reach a decent standard of living and to afford the basics such as a warm home."

Employers choose to pay the Living Wage on a voluntary basis. The Living Wage enjoys cross party support, in both the Scottish and Westminster parliaments.

Living Wage Foundation Director, Rhys Moore said: "We are delighted to welcome Energy Action Scotland to the Living Wage movement as an accredited employer.

"The best employers are voluntarily signing up to pay the Living Wage now. The Living Wage is a robust calculation that reflects the real cost of living, rewarding a hard day's work with a fair day's pay.

"We have accredited over 1,000 leading employers, including Energy Action Scotland, ranging from independent printers, hairdressers and breweries, to well-known companies such as Nationwide, Aviva and SSE. These businesses recognise that clinging to the national minimum wage is not good for business. Customers expect better than that. "

The Poverty Alliance is working in partnership with the Living Wage Foundation to accredit Living Wage employers in Scotland.

Peter Kelly, Director of the Poverty Alliance said: "Congratulations to Energy Action Scotland on becoming an Accredited Living Wage Employer.

"In-work poverty is growing in Scotland, with almost of two thirds of children in poverty living in a household where someone works.

"The Living Wage is one of the best tools for tackling this and ensuring that work really can be a route out of poverty.

“Employers can play a valuable role in tackling poverty, and we hope that others will follow Energy Action Scotland’s example”.
-ends-

Contacts for further information

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Editor’s notes:

1. The Living Wage in Scotland

The Poverty Alliance is working in partnership with the Living Wage Foundation to accredit Living Wage employers in Scotland.

The Living Wage is an hourly rate set independently and updated annually. The Living Wage is calculated according to the basic cost of living in the UK. Employers choose to pay the Living Wage on a voluntary basis. The Living Wage enjoys cross party support, in both the Scottish and Westminster parliaments.

The UK Living Wage for outside of London is currently £7.65 per hour. This figure is set annually by the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University.

The Living Wage Foundation and Poverty Alliance recognise and celebrate the leadership shown by Living Wage employers across the UK. In Scotland, the Scottish Living Wage Campaign works alongside The Living Wage Foundation and Poverty Alliance to raise awareness of issues around low pay and encourage businesses to accredit as Living Wage employers.

There are currently over 750 accredited employers across the UK. The Living Wage Foundation is an initiative of Citizens UK.

The Living Wage Foundation, Poverty Alliance and the Scottish Living Wage Campaign believe that work should be the surest way out of poverty.

2. Energy Action Scotland

Energy Action Scotland is the national charity which campaigns to end fuel poverty and works to promote warm, dry homes for all. **Website:** www.eas.org.uk