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**NEWS RELEASE
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Scottish Government Issued with a Final Demand to End Fuel Poverty

Today (30 November) the Scottish Government has been issued with a 'final demand' to end fuel poverty by the national fuel poverty charity Energy Action Scotland.

The letter sent to all MSPs as well as to Scottish Ministers is a reminder that it is exactly one year until the statutory duty to end fuel poverty must be met. The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 states that the Scottish Government has 'to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that people are not living in fuel poverty in Scotland by November 2016'.

With exactly one year to go, it is clear that the target will be missed. However, Scottish Ministers have not yet said what will come next.

Norman Kerr, Director of Energy Action Scotland said: "There are currently 39 per cent of households affected and with the target date to end fuel poverty exactly one year away, we are pressing the Scottish Government to set out how this can realistically be achieved.

"We are urging Scottish Ministers to acknowledge that the target will not be met and to start discussions now on producing a new fuel poverty strategy for Scotland.

"Making sure that people can afford the basic right of living in a warm home is our key objective."

A set of 6 key recommendations from the charity has also been sent to Scottish Ministers and has been published on the Energy Action Scotland website.

These key recommendations include, in brief below and for more detail see here:

1. Resetting the target to end fuel poverty
2. Funding fuel poverty programmes
3. Consulting early on energy efficiency in the private sector
4. Pledging to make fuel poverty a central pillar of Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme
5. Reviewing new devolved powers in relation to fuel poverty
6. Creating a Fuel Poverty Cross-Departmental Group in the Scottish Government and a Cross-Party Group on Fuel Poverty and Domestic Energy Efficiency in the Scottish Parliament.

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For further information contact:

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Background information:

1. 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
2. Fuel poverty is the inability to afford adequate warmth in the home, defined as needing to pay more than 10 per cent of income on energy costs.
3. The main causes of fuel poverty are poor energy efficiency of the home, high domestic fuel prices and low household income.
4. The official Scottish Government figures show there are 940,000 households in Scotland in fuel poverty ie 39.1 per cent. Source: Scottish House Conditions Survey 2013.
5. The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 places a statutory duty on the Scottish Government to ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, that people are not living in fuel poverty in Scotland by November 2016.