



Winter Warm Pack and Cost of Living Support In your Council Region

Rural Northern Ireland

Winter Fuel Payment

If you were born before 23 September 1958, you could receive either £200 or £300 to help you pay your heating bills for winter 2024 to 2025.

You must also live in Northern Ireland and get one of the following social security benefits:

- Pension Credit
- Universal Credit
- Historical benefits such as Income Related ESA can also be valid (please contact Independent Advice for further guidance on this- contact details below)

You'll need to have been getting the benefit during the "qualifying week" which for this year is: **16th to 22nd September 2024.**

Emergency Fuel Payment Scheme

Newly launched Scheme in Northern Ireland. For those not entitled to Winter Fuel Payment, Northern Ireland Government have introduced a one-off £100 payment towards energy bills.

The one-off payment can be used for electricity, gas or oil. You must meet certain eligibility criteria.

The payment will be made directly with a supplier and the applicant will not receive any money directly.

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Emergency Fuel Payment Scheme (cont.)

To be eligible you must have either:

1. A total gross annual household income of less than £23,000 (Do not include Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Carer's Allowance or Attendance Allowance in this calculation) or
2. Been made unemployed in the last 8 weeks and are awaiting confirmation of benefit / first benefit payment or
3. Had benefits payments recently interrupted.

If you meet one of the above criteria, you then have to meet one of the following criteria in addition to the above:

1. Run out of their chosen energy type. (for pay-as-you-go electricity/gas, or oil customers)
- OR**
2. 3-5 days or less worth or less of your chosen energy type (for pay-as-you-go electricity/gas, or oil customers) **OR**
 3. Received an electricity/gas bill within the last 5 days and cannot afford to pay it, **OR**
 4. Are due to receive an electricity/gas bill within the next 5 days and cannot afford to pay it.

The application form will be available Monday to Friday until 31st March 2025 and can only be applied for online via the [Bryson Charitable Group website](#)

In order for the fund to be available through the winter until March 2025, there will be a limited number of daily applications.

Those applying for the scheme will have to provide documentation to show that they are eligible, which will include evidence of their financial position and their need for the emergency payment.

If an application has been successful, people will be told via text message within 24 hours. You can also contact your local independent advice service or Advice NI for additional support: <https://www.adviceni.net/local-advice>

Additional Supports via your Local Council



Antrim and Newtownabbey

Directory of services for Health and Wellbeing Support:

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

Winter Wollies: to receive a winter wollie item:

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/initiatives-for-our-community/winter-woollies/>

Keep warm and well including warm packs as well as Energy Efficiency Advice:

Age Friendly Team <https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/community-initiatives/age-friendly/health-and-wellbeing-resources/>

Age Friendly Officer: kelly.doyle@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

T. [028 9034 0160](tel:02890340160)

Ards and North Down

Warm Packs are available through the Health and Wellbeing Team within the Environmental Health Department. Please contact: [0300 013 3333](tel:03000133333)

They are also available from:

Safe and Well Communities and
North Down Community Network

Information on Affordable Warmth:

<https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/Affordable-Warmth>

Additional Supports via your Local Council



Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon

Warm Packs

Warm Packs are available through the Community Development Team and Environmental Health Team as well as through a variety of trusted partners in the Community and Voluntary Sector for this area.

Eligibility Criteria for a Warm Pack:

- A person with a long-term health problem;
- A person with a disability that makes them less mobile or means they must spend more time at home;
- Anyone over 65 years old;
- A family with dependent children (under the age of 5);
- A pregnant woman;
- A person who is homeless.

You can also contact your Age Friendly Coordinator, Stephanie Rock:

TEL: - 07825010630

Email: Stephanie.Rock@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

Other Support

Cost of Living Support: <https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/costofliving/>

Warm Spaces:

<https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/costofliving/#warmspaces>

Cost of Living Signposting:

<https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/costofliving/#fuel>

Keep Cosy Scheme and Warm Homes Scheme- Designed with fuel education in mind. <https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/costofliving/#fuel>

Additional Supports via your Local Council



Causeway Coast and Glens

Warm Packs

Council has a limited number of 'keep warm' packs available and ask that you please contact their Health and Wellbeing Team 02870347034

Other Support

Winter Wise Booklet -

https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/uploads/general/Winter_Wise_Booklet.pdf

Energy Efficiency Advice: <https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/live/health-and-built-environment/environment-health-and-well-being/wellbeing/energy-efficiency>

Toolkit for Oil Buying Club: <https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/live/health-and-built-environment/environment-health-and-well-being/wellbeing/energy-efficiency/community-bulk-buying-oil-club-toolkit>

Additional Supports via your Local Council



Derry City and Strabane

Warm Packs

Their Home Safety and Affordable Warmth Teams will provide keep warm packs to vulnerable householders most in need and those who are at a greater risk of fuel poverty and cold related illnesses.

Eligibility Criteria for a Warm Pack:

- A person with a long-term health problem;
- A person with a disability that makes them less mobile or means they must spend more time at home;
- Anyone over 65 years old;
- A family with dependent children (under the age of 5);
- A pregnant woman;
- A person who is homeless.

For more information or to request a warm pack:

<https://www.derrystrabane.com/community/sustainable-development-energy-strategy/keep-warm/keep-warm-packs> or telephone: (028) 7125 3253

Other Support

Cost of Living Support: There is a cost of living support page as well as a series of pre-recorded webinars:

<https://www.derrystrabane.com/community/helpwithcostofliving/help-with-cost-of-living-webinar-series>

Additional Supports via your Local Council



Fermanagh and Omagh

Warm Packs

Warm packs have been allocated to community groups who work on the ground in rural communities however, if you would like to make a request for warm pack support, you can do so by contacting FODC:

Email: costoflivinghelp@fermanaghomagh.com or

Tel: 03003031777 and request to speak with their Anti Poverty Officer, Deirdre O'Connor

Eligibility Criteria for a Warm Pack:

- A person with a long-term health problem;
- A person with a disability that makes them less mobile or means they must spend more time at home;
- Anyone over 65 years old;
- A family with dependent children (under the age of 5);
- A pregnant woman;
- A person who is homeless.

Other Support

Cost of Living Support:

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/community-help-support/cost-of-living-help/>

Additional Supports via your Local Council



Lisburn and Castlereagh

Warm packs are available through Safe & Well Team. Contact Rachel O'Rielly - 028 9244 7300 or enquiries@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk

Advice on Energy Efficiency: <https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/w/energy-efficiency-and-grant-funded-schemes>

Mid and East Antrim

Warm Packs

Contact Karen Bruce from the Health and Wellbeing Team within the Environmental Health Department at Mid and East Antrim Council 03001245000

Packs have also been provided to local community groups for distribution amongst their service users.

Other Support

Warm Spaces -

<https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/resident/healthandwellbeing/a-safe-warm-well-come>

Winter Wollies Campaign - If you or your community group would like to receive a warm woolly item, follow this link:

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/initiatives-for-our-community/winter-woollies/>

Additional Supports via your Local Council



Mid Ulster

Warm Packs

Eligibility Criteria for a Warm Pack:

- A person with a long-term health problem;
- A person with a disability that makes them less mobile or means they must spend more time at home;
- Anyone over 65 years old;
- A family with dependent children (under the age of 5);
- A pregnant woman;
- A person who is homeless.

To check eligibility and receive support, please contact your Age Friendly Coordinator:

Raisa Donnelly: Raisa.Donnelly@midulstercouncil.org or

Steven McElhatton: Steven.McElhatton@midulstercouncil.org

Alternatively, you can contact your Health and Well Being Officer at Mid-Ulster Council: **03000 132 132**

Other Support

Energy Efficiency Advice: <https://www.midulstercouncil.org/resident/health-wellbeing/energy-advisory-scheme>

Cost of Living Support: <https://www.midulstercouncil.org/resident/community/cost-of-living-information-and-advice>

Additional Supports via your Local Council



Newry Mourne and Down

Warm Packs

Warm Packs are available through the Health and Wellbeing Team within the Environmental Health Department. Please contact:

Age Friendly Co Ordinator: Tara Smyth

Tel: 0330 137 4902

Mobile: 0744374 6958