

Environmental *Change* Institute

New frontiers for fuel poverty

26 November 2019

FPRN - Cardiff

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Fuel poverty strategy consultation October 2019

Good points

- New, relative definition: LILEE
- 44% increase in England: from 2.55m to 3.66m households
- Minimum of band E by 2020; band D by 2025; band C by 2030
- Whole house and standards, not individual measures
- ‘worst first’ = largest fuel poverty gap = buildings > people
- In the context of net zero carbon target by 2050
- Links to Clean Growth Strategy
- Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards a key fuel poverty policy for privately rented sector – F and G illegal to rent out



Fuel poverty strategy consultation October 2019

Bad points

- No guidance on how to identify on the doorstep
- No new money, despite 44% more households
- No indication of how to meet 2020 target, despite zero progress
- What after Warm Homes Discount in 2021 and ECO in 2022
- Relies on MEES though no way to enforce
- Not reasonably practicable to improve solid-walled homes
- Cost-effectiveness narrowly defined and limits 'worst first'
- Extends help to 'vulnerable' who are not fuel poor
- Ignores 'pepper-potting' vs 'area-based' debate



Reasonably practicable

= No insulation
of solid walls

Can be
attractive

If not,
compensate
occupants?



MEEES – England and Wales

- No enforcement system – up to local authorities
- No register of landlords in England – requested by Committee on Fuel Poverty – Rent Smart in Wales
- How to prevent rent increases in improved properties?
- 15 October 2019: Government consults on target of EPC B by 2030 in non-domestic rented buildings
- Residential to follow:
 - E by 2021
 - D by 2023
 - C by 2025



Phasing out fossil fuels

Phase out:

LPG

Natural gas

Oil

Coal

Left with:

Wood – biomass boilers and stoves

Electricity – heat pumps

Green gas



Space heating: demand reduction

- UK housing stock, 2016 150 kWh/m² pa
- Enerphit (retrofit) 25 kWh/m² pa
- Passivhaus (new build) 15 kWh/m² pa

- So, insulate, insulate, insulate

Timetable

- A-rated by 2050 at the latest
- All homes to be C-rated by 2035 (Clean Growth Strategy)
- No gas boilers in new build from 2025
- No oil installations for fuel poor, proposed

Decarbonise heating: heat pumps

- Need electricity for transport` - EV and public
- How much renewable electricity for heating available?
- Causes surge in peak demand, 4.30pm on 18 December
- Higher running costs for householder, or not if get RHI?
- Reverse in summer for cooling – all types?

Climate change and overheating

- Really hot summers, like 2018, increasingly frequent
- Perhaps 50% by 2050
- Shading of windows, inside or out
- UK windows open out
- Thermal mass important



New measure – solar shading

Sun only overhead in summer

Slats effective at other times



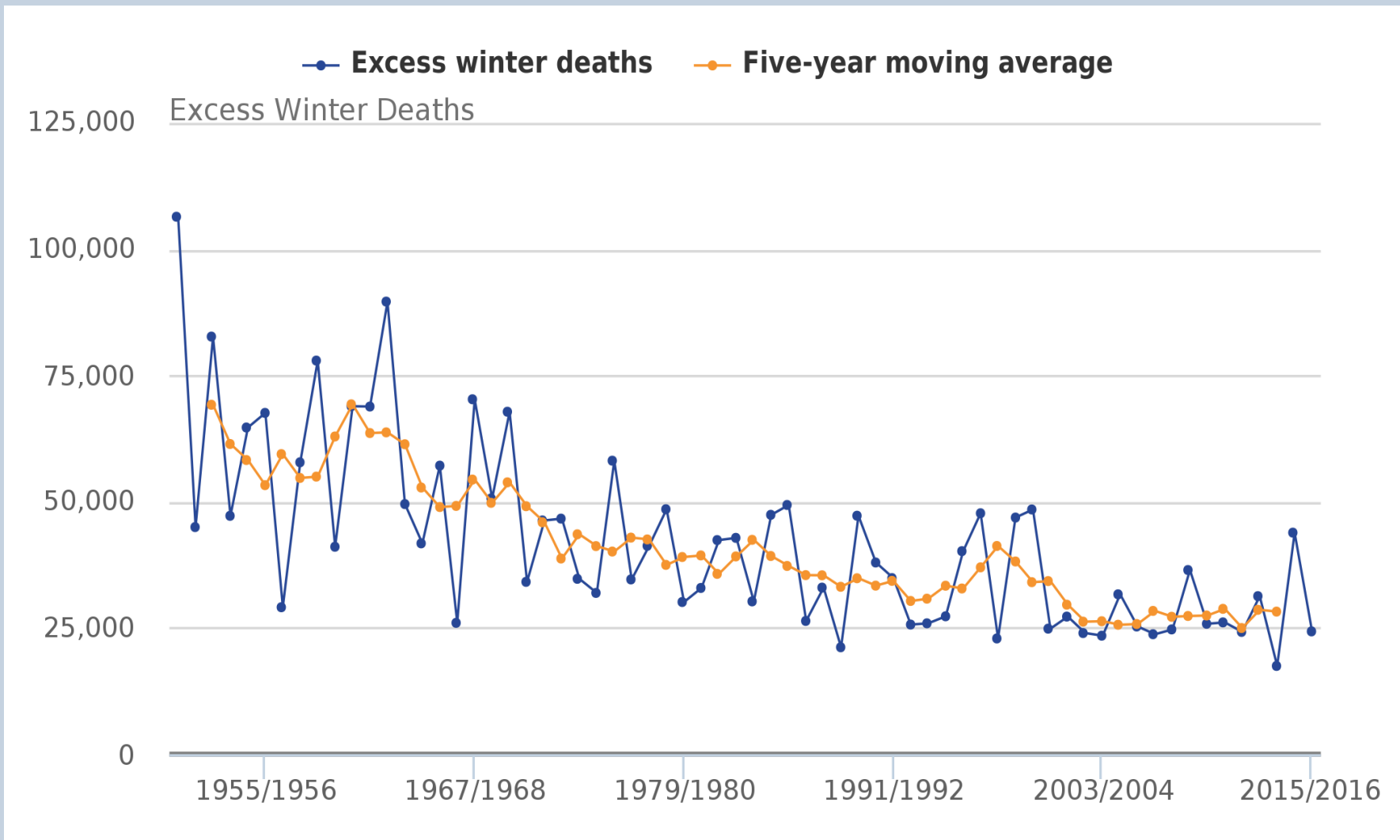
Social tariffs

- Distribution charges part of unit rate
- Growth in own PV = less kWh / rich household
- Distribution charges cost concentrated on poorer homes
- Standing charge to increase, with renewables – all capital costs no running costs
- RBT no longer a solution?
- What would a social tariff look like?

Cold weather payments

- Retrospective vs predictive?
- For specific benefit recipients
- At present: £25 when 7 consecutive days below freezing (2008)
 - £210m in 2008/09 in 8.4m payments
- Could be: predictive, eg next 5 days are likely to be freezing
 - Regional, as at present
 - From Met office
- What should the total budget be? £200m every 5th year?
- What definition?

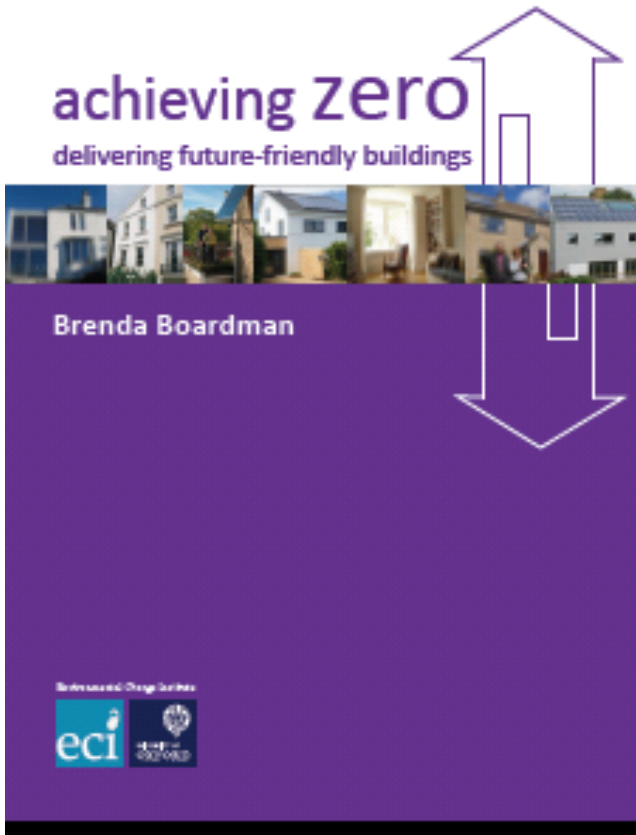
Excess winter deaths, England & Wales, 1950/51 to 2015/16



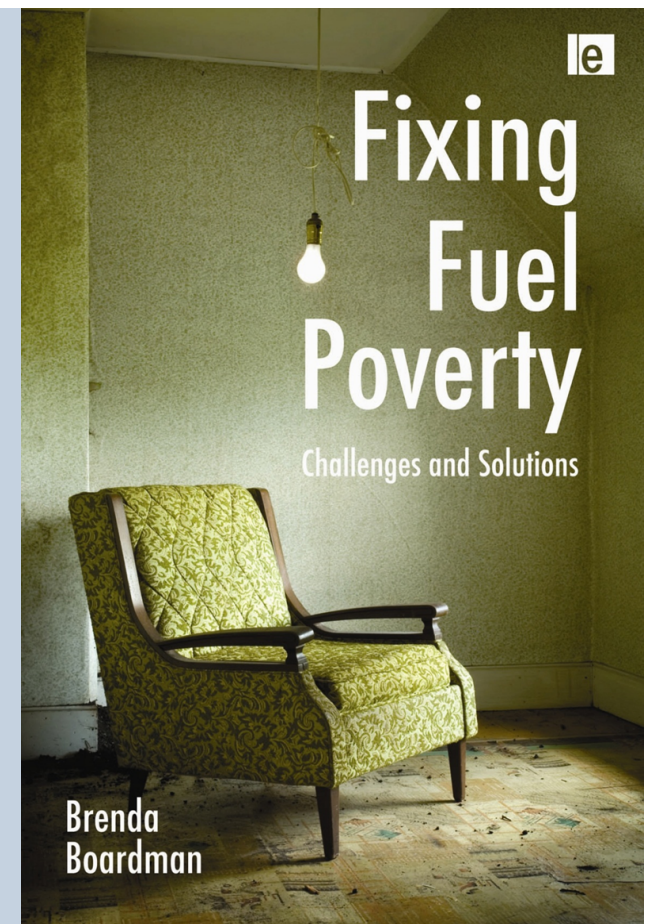
Local authority initiative in Wales

- <https://goodhomes.org.uk/news/good-homes-alliance-launch-new-local-authority-network>
- Good Homes Alliance vanguard network for local authorities who have signed up for a climate emergency
- On 5th December we'll be launching our Vanguard Campaign in Wales, with another event aimed at local authorities and housing associations taking place in Cardiff.





Thank you



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Trends

- Slow turnover of building stock
- Demographic changes faster
- Household size (pph) decreasing
- Space per person (m²) increasing
- Each household heating more space per person