



CITIZENS ADVICE SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE AWARDED £500 GRANT IN THE 'UTILITA ENERGY HIGH 5 AWARDS' TO HELP COMBAT FUEL POVERTY IN SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE

Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire is one of 20 organisations to have been awarded a £500 grant to help tackle fuel poverty, and improve energy efficiency in local communities. The awards have been co-ordinated by National Energy Action, and Utilita, the UK's leading PAYG energy supplier, and will allow Citizens Advice to help thousands of homes in the Spalding, Stamford and Grantham areas stay warm this winter.

Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire will be investing the fund in four main activities:

- Offering appointments about energy issues – during January and February 2021 - by telephone or email with a dedicated adviser.
- Creating two videos about ways of keeping homes warm, looking for available grants and changing energy providers – for Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire and linked organisations to post on social media sites.
- Creating printed materials about energy saving issues and distributing them to targeted organisations and individuals.
- Hosting an event with elected councillors and key stakeholders to promote ways of tackling fuel poverty.

Juliet Godbeer-Dunbar , Research and Campaigns Lead at Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire, commented on receiving the £500 grant: *“We welcome this new partnership with NEA and Utilita which will allow us to extend our Citizens Advice Energy Saving Winter further, reaching more people in our region with money saving energy advice. This is particularly important at a time when people are spending more time at home because of changes to their working patterns and restrictions on their social activity during Coronavirus.”*

The awards follow [Fuel Poverty Awareness Day](#) – which helps protect and keep vulnerable people warm during the winter – and form part of Utilita's ongoing commitment to its nationwide '[Energy High 5](#)' campaign. So far, the initiative has helped 2 million homes save £163 on their energy bills each year by following five free and simple ways to reduce energy.

Bill Bullen, environmentalist and CEO of Utilita, commented: *“As the Covid-19 pandemic continues, many families across the country may be worried about rising energy bills to keep their home warm during the winter months. That's why we have a number of programmes in place to help low-income*

households and vulnerable people, such as our 'Power Up' initiative which has honoured £5.8m in interest free loans to pay for energy since March 2020. The Utilita Energy High 5 Awards forms part of our ongoing commitment to help tackle fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency and we're looking forward to seeing how the investment is spent in the coming months to help those most in need."

Adam Scorer, Chief Executive, NEA commented: *"This will be a difficult winter for many, but as our winners demonstrate there is also some brilliant work being undertaken to help people in local communities stay warm at home. I want to thank Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire for their commitment to assisting people in fuel poverty, and Utilita for their generosity in supporting these awards."*

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