



Defining Energy Hardship Public Consultation

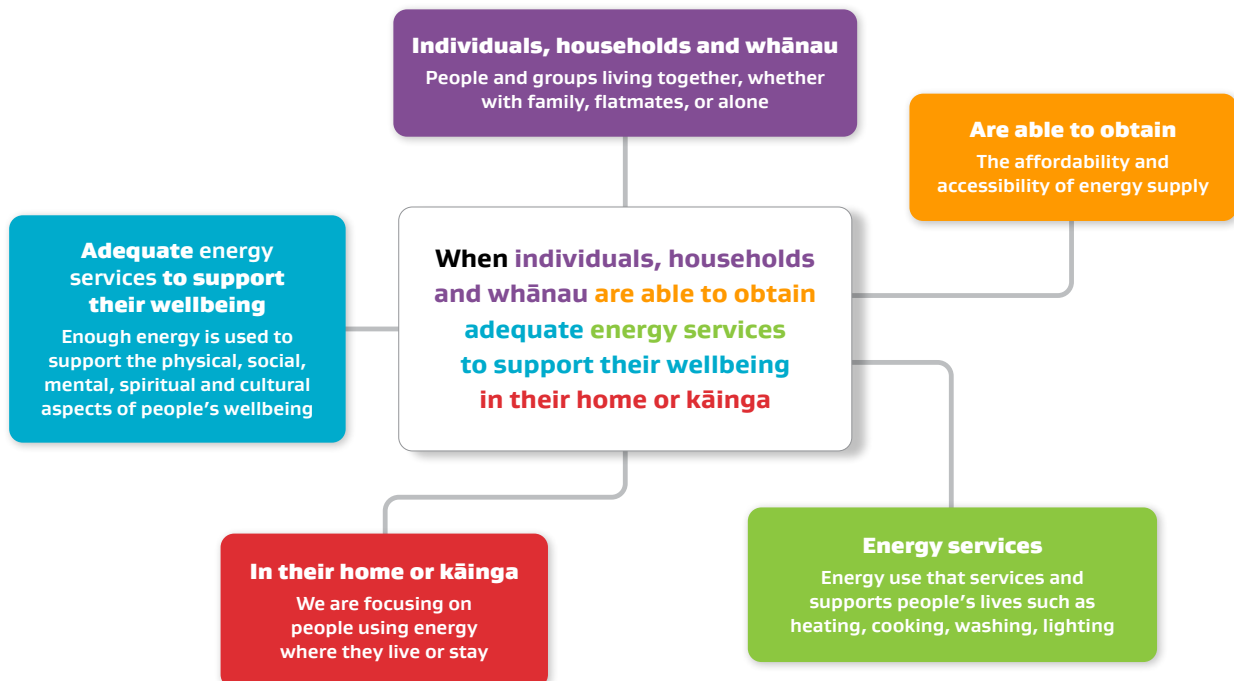
The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has proposed a definition and set of measures to better understand energy hardship in Aotearoa. Once finalised, the definition and measures can help us to target initiatives to reduce energy hardship, and also track whether these initiatives are making a difference.

This summary outlines the key ideas we are seeking feedback on during this consultation period. To have your say, we recommend reading more about these ideas in the Defining Energy Hardship Discussion Document. You can find the discussion document on MBIE’s [Defining Energy Hardship Consultation webpage](#). Here, you’ll also find a link to an online survey where you can share your thoughts, and information on other ways you can have your say.

The consultation period runs from 4 November to 5pm, 16 December.

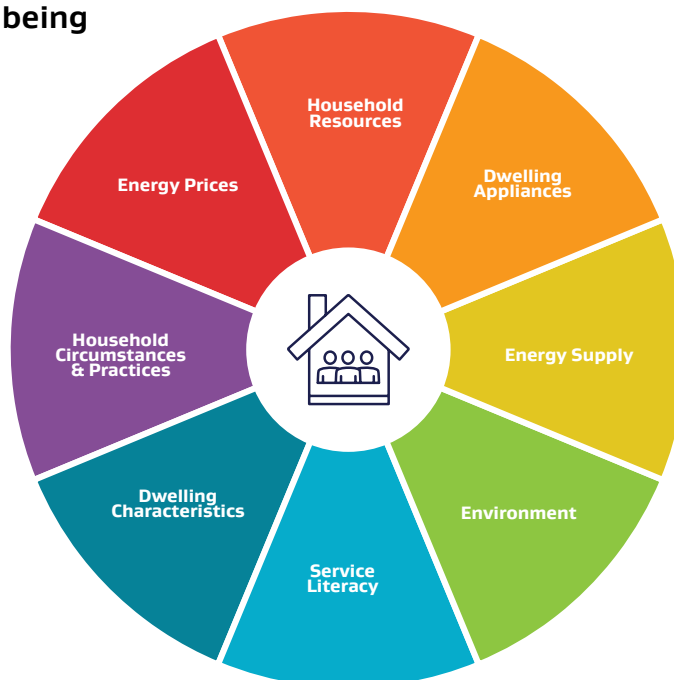
Proposed definition

The government has a focus on improving the wellbeing of all New Zealanders. We have developed a draft definition of **energy wellbeing**. Energy hardship is on the opposite end of a spectrum to energy wellbeing. Our definition of energy wellbeing is when individuals, households and whānau are able to obtain adequate energy services to support their wellbeing in their home or kāinga.



A framework for energy wellbeing

We have developed this framework alongside the proposed definition. It shows the different factors that can interact and affect energy wellbeing or hardship.



Measuring energy hardship

We want all New Zealanders to be in **energy wellbeing**. To understand how far we have to go and who needs help, we need to **agree how best to measure energy hardship**.

We are proposing a set of primary and secondary measures of energy hardship using national data sources that we have available now. We also think there are better ways to measure energy hardship that require more research and data.

Primary measures

Two measures based on a household's spending on energy compared to their income (after housing costs).

Two measures based on a household's experiences: whether they put up with feeling cold to keep costs down, or have a major problem with damp and/or mould.



Secondary measures

A selection of 22 potential secondary measures of energy hardship to provide further insights.

These cover things like access to resources, ability to afford bills, home heating, and the standard of the dwelling.

We also propose to investigate ways we could combine the measures, or construct a measure of the gap between energy hardship and wellbeing.

There are a lot of things we would like to measure but the data is not currently available. We welcome your comments on how we are proposing to measure energy hardship now, and our plans for further improvement.

Have your say

Visit the Defining Energy Hardship Consultation webpage to view the Discussion Document, for details on the consultation process, and how you can have your say.

The consultation period on the Defining Energy Hardship Discussion Document runs from 4 November to 5pm, 16 December 2021.

Visit www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/defining-energy-hardship for more information.

For any further questions, email us at definingenergyhardship@mbie.govt.nz