

Alternative Fuel Payment Alternative Fund

Q&A for Members and Partners

What is the Alternative Fuel Payment Alternative Fund?

The fund also known as the AFP Alternative Fund, is a one off £200 payment funded by HM Government to households who **have not received** the Alternative Fuel Payment automatically through their electricity supplier.

The scheme is for households that use alternative fuels as the main source of heating such as:

- heating oil
- biomass
- liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)
- wood (traditional logs)
- coal
- manufactured soil fuel

Who will need to apply for the scheme?

Most off gas-grid households without a direct relationship with a domestic electricity supplier will need to apply for the payment.

Households considered eligible for the AFP Alternative Fund include:

- Park home residents
- Housing association, social and private tenants, and leaseholders, supplied via a landlord with a commercial meter
- Households in house boats on residential moorings
- Households on a private electricity network, for example those supplied by a heat network
- Off-grid households
- Traveller households on permanent authorised sites
- Households in non-permanent/supported accommodation

You may be eligible for a £200 Alternative Fuels Payment (AFP) and the £400 Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding if both the following are true:

- your household is not connected to the mains gas grid
- you use alternative fuels as your main form of heating

No household will be eligible for both the AFP payment and an AFP Alternative Fund payment.

What criteria must AFP Alternative Fund applicants meet on the date of their application?

The dwelling for which the support is being claimed is the sole or main residential address of the applicant.

The applicant is responsible for paying for the alternative fuel(s) used in the dwelling as the household's main source of heating.

The applicant has not or will not receive a payment through the main AFP scheme and has not received a payment through the AFP Alternative Fund, in whole or in part.

The household dwelling is not a business premises or other form of non-domestic premises, is used wholly or mainly for domestic purposes, with the exception of businesses whose main business activity is to provide long term residential accommodation (landlords etc). Only households, and not the businesses themselves, may apply for the AFP Alternative Fund.

How can households apply for the AFP Alternative Fund?

Applications for the AFP Alternative Fund are via a central GOV.UK online portal, which will go live on 6th March 2023 until 31st May 2023 for applicants to apply.

Applicants need to search for “**apply for energy bill support if you do not get it automatically**” into the GOV.UK webpage search bar, or through an online search engine and follow the instructions. The government will never provide a link to reach the online application portal.

All applications must be made via this central application route. No applications from other routes will be accepted. Do not contact your Local Authority to make an application.

Applicants will not be able to re-access their application on the portal once it has been submitted. After submission, applicants will get a reference number via email, if no email address was provided, notification will be by post.

Is there an application route for people who do not have online access?

An ‘Assisted Digital’ call centre will provide phone support to help households who require assistance filling in the online application. Contact the call centre on freephone 0808 175 3287 Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm. Applicants can also email: alternativefunding@ebss.beis.gov.uk

Can someone help with my application?

Applications can be completed by a third-party where necessary, for example an individual with power of attorney or support worker can complete an application.

How will payments be distributed?

Local authorities will be responsible for distributing support payments to eligible applicants once eligibility checks have been made. Only one payment may be made per eligible domestic premises and will only be paid into a verified bank account. Local authorities will ensure all payments are made to eligible applicants by 7 July 2023.

Scam awareness

If you have received a scam message in relation to the AFP Alternative Fund, please report it. It is very important that this is reported promptly. Please send a screen shot of the message to report@phishing.gov.uk so that action can be taken. Forward text messages to 7726, and report websites via the National Cyber Security Centre at <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/about-this-website/report-scam-website>

