

people news

It's a double fuel whammy – Kelly

Cllr. John Kelly (Labour) says poorer households are facing a double fuel whammy at the end of next week. The fuel allowance 'season' which runs from September to April each year for over 300,000 families, is set to end next week. The day after, on May 1st, the new Carbon Levy comes into force on some home heating products.

"For people who rely on oil for their home-heating the impact is particularly severe. The retail price of home heating oil is due to rise by up to 8.7 percent because of the carbon levy. The price of home heating oil has already risen by 37.6 percent in the last year, according to the CSO. It also comes on top of the huge expense of heating homes during one of the cold-

est winters for decades.

"In his Budget speech, the Minister for Finance promised, "a vouched fuel allowance scheme will be developed to offset the increases for low income families dependant on such fuel". However, it has never been precisely clear which fuels these vouchers will apply to, when the scheme would start, and which households would

qualify.

"It is shameful that this Fianna Fáil/Green Government has introduced the Carbon Levy on home heating products without first working out how they would assist poorer households to pay for it.

"There are many people who will simply not be able to afford the extra cost of heating their home."



Pictured are recipients who received FETAC Level 5 Certificates in Care of the Elderly, Manual Handling and Patient lifting. Participants were car assistants working with Western Alzheimers in County Roscommon. The presentation took place in Gleeson's Townhouse, Roscommon on Thursday last. Back row (left to right): Noleen Rudden, Roscommon Fás Supervisor, Carmel Raftery, Certificate recipient, Catherine Brennan, Care Assistant, Agnes McGuire, Care Assistant, Marion Holspas, Certificate recipient, Ray McGreal, Operations Manager, Western Alzheimers, Marguerite Spooner, Certificate recipient, Jean Timothy, Fás), Teresa Neary, Care Assistant, Deirdre Kelly, Western Alzheimers. Front row (left to right): Maureen Kearney, Certificate recipient, Ann Lavin, Certificate recipient, Marie Victory, Certificate recipient, Geraldine McDonagh, Certificate recipient, Catherine Beirne, Certificate recipient, Madeleine Hennigan, Certificate recipient, Norrie Dufficy Kelly, Certificate recipient, Norrie Cryan, Certificate recipient. Pic: www.hursonphotography.com

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