



**INTERNATIONAL**

## INVITED SESSION SUMMARY

**Title of Session:**

Addressing Energy Poverty in Residential Building

**Name, Title and Affiliation of Chairs:**

Professor Sara Wilkinson, School of Built Environment, University of Technology Sydney (UTS), Australia.

Dr Whitney Bevan, School of the Built Environment, Western Sydney University (WSU), Australia.

Caroline Porto Valente, School of Built Environment, University of Technology Sydney (UTS), Australia.

**Details of Session (including aim and scope):**

Australia faces three major challenges in the energy sector; reducing greenhouse gas emissions and committing to climate change mitigation strategies; increasing energy security and reliability, particularly during peak demand and extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, and finally; ensuring affordable energy services, especially to vulnerable households in a poorly regulated market. Affordability underlies energy poverty, an emerging concern that results from high energy prices, low incomes, and poor housing energy efficiency.

Being unable to pay energy bills, restricting energy consumption to the detriment of health and wellbeing, and having relatively low income and spending a high proportion of it on energy is a problem for millions of people across the world and one of the biggest challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century for many developed nations.

This situation is unlikely to change – the impact of climate change, temperature extremes and post-COVID trends of spending more time or working from home is increasing household energy expenditure, and this is to continue. In addition, most existing Australian housing stock is old and was constructed prior to the introduction of the first national housing minimum energy efficiency requirements in 2005. Australia is not alone in this experiencing issue.

This session focusses on the issues of energy poverty experienced in different countries and the different ways of tackling the problem. Our aim is to share knowledge and experiences of this issue and the potential solutions to this problem.

**Main Contributing Researchers / Research Centres (tentative, if known at this stage):**

Caroline Porto Valente / Sara Wilkinson / Alan Morris IPPG UTS and SBE UTS  
Whitney Bevan SoBE WSU

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