



Statement of Intent for ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: **Durham County Council**

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This statement sets out Durham County Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) scheme from April 2022 – March 2026.

The ECO4 scheme will focus on supporting low income and vulnerable households. The scheme will improve the least energy efficient homes helping to meet the Government's fuel poverty and net zero commitments.

The flexible approach for Local Authorities (LAs) to identifying fuel poor and vulnerable households who may benefit from heating and energy saving measures is referred to as "ECO4 Flex".

The Council welcomes the introduction of the ECO4 Flex eligibility routes as it helps the Council achieve its plans to improve the homes of those in fuel poverty or vulnerable to the cold.

The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (SoI), on the **20/06/2023** to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below:

Route 1: SAP bands D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-G households with an income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

Route 2: SAP bands E-G for owner-occupied households and private rented sector households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:

Proxy 1 Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA)¹, or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019², or the Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2020, published by the Scottish Government³

Proxy 2 Householders receiving a Council Tax reduction (based on low income only).

Proxy 3 Householders vulnerable to living in a cold home as identified in the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance. Only one from the list can be used, excludes the proxy 'low income'.

Proxy 4 A householder receiving free school meals due to low-income.

Proxy 5 A householder supported by a LA run scheme, that has been named and described by the LA as supporting low income and vulnerable households for the purposes of NICE Guideline.

Proxy 6 A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizen's Advice or Citizen's Advice Scotland, because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and gas bills.

* Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

Route 3: SAP bands D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-G households that have been identified by either a person registered in the General Practitioner Register, a Scottish Health Board, a Welsh Health Board, an NHS Foundation Trust, or an NHS Trust as vulnerable, with an occupant whose health conditions may be impacted further by living in a cold home. These health conditions may be cardiovascular, respiratory, immunosuppressed, or limited mobility related.

Route 4: SAP band D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-G households that are referred under Route 4: Bespoke Targeting. Suppliers and LAs can submit an application to ESNZ where they have identified a low income and vulnerable household, who are not already eligible under the existing routes.

¹https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835115/loD2019_Statistical_Release.pdf

²<https://www.gov.wales/welsh-index-multiple-deprivation-full-index-update-ranks-2019>

³<https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through Durham County Council or one of their approved ECO installers to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme.

The officers below will be responsible for checking and verifying declarations and associated evidence submitted on behalf of the local authority:

Name: Antonia Howard

Job Title: Housing Regeneration Project Manager

Telephone: 03000 261080

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Name: Hayley Rourke

Job Title: Housing Regeneration Support Officer

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Dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

The County Council will administer the scheme according to the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2022 (ECO4 Order) and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The Director for Regeneration, Economy and Growth will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO Flex.

The eligibility information will be stored securely in line with the Council's data protection policy, Information Commissioner's Office Data Sharing Code, and ESNZ guidance.

Signature: 

Name: Michael Kelleher

Job Title: Head of Planning and Housing

Date of signature: 20/6/2023

For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact warmhomes@durham.gov.uk