

Herefordshire Council

ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Version 5

Published 04th July 2022

Publication on web site: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/housing-3/home-energy>

This statement sets out Herefordshire 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. ECO4 Flex is aimed at helping households who are not likely to be in receipt of means tested benefits.

Being eligible is not a guarantee that measures will be installed. A final decision on whether any individual household can benefit from a grant for energy saving improvements under this strand of ECO will be made by the obligated energy suppliers or their agents/contractors. Inclusion in a Declaration issued by the Council will not guarantee installation of measures

The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (Sol), on the **04/07/2022** 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 households with an income less than £31,000 (combined gross income and includes all sources of income). This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

Criteria for the Sustainable Warmth Competition is in Appendix 1.

Route 2: SAP bands E-G 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)
Proxy 2) Householders receiving a Council Tax rebate (rebates based on low income only, excludes single person rebates).
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 households that have been identified by their doctor or GP as low-income and 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.

This is because the Council has identified a positive correlation between households who suffer from long-term health conditions and living off a low-income, with living in poorly insulated homes.

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

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through Herefordshire Council's energy advice service Keep Herefordshire Warm, in partnership with Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA) to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme. Evidence will be required from all applicants.

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

Name: Danny Lenain

Job Title: Principal Sustainability and Climate Change Officer

Telephone: 01432 383646

Email: daniel.lenain@herefordshire.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

Herefordshire Council will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The Corporate Director, Economy and Environment of the Council will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO4 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 BEIS guidance.



Signature:

Name: Ross Cook

Job Title: Corporate Director, Economy and Environment

Date of signature: 01/07/2022

For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact Energy@herefordshire.gov.uk

Appendix I

The primary purpose of the Sustainable Warmth Competition is to raise the energy efficiency rating of low-income and low EPC rated homes (those with D, E, F or G) on the gas grid and off the gas grid with an aim of upgrading homes to a target energy efficiency rating of EPC C, or EPC D where this is not possible.

The primary purpose of Sustainable Warmth is to raise the energy efficiency rating of low income and low EPC rated households (those with E, F or G, although a proportion of D rated properties are also in scope).

If a resident qualifies they will also qualify for a flex declaration for ECO for other measures needed at the property not funded by Sustainable Warmth, in line with funding guidance.

Herefordshire Council will use LAD funding to install energy efficiency measures up to the average value of £10,000 fully funded for owner occupied and £5,000 for landlords (social or private) with a required minimum contribution of one third match funding.

Herefordshire Council will use HUG funding to install energy efficiency measures up to the average value of the tables below with a required minimum contribution of one third match funding for landlords (social or private).

Herefordshire Council wishes to focus resources on the worst performing properties and areas most in need by widening the LAFlex eligibility criteria for Sustainable Warmth to cover:

- *Combined household income of less than £30,000; or*
- *Tenants of social housing; or*
- *Means-tested benefit; or*

- *Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) within an index of multiple deprivation decile of 1 to 2 and*
 - *levels of fuel poverty above the national average; or*
 - *high level of dependants; or*
 - *identified vulnerability to cold*

EPC Rating	F&G	E	D
Electric	£20,000	£15,000	£10,000
Off-Gas Grid Fossil Fuel (Oil, LPG, Coal)	£25,000	£20,000	£15,000
Park Homes (off the mains gas grid)	£15,000		

EPC Rating	F&G		E		D	
	Landlord	HUG	Landlord	HUG	Landlord	HUG
Electric	£6,667	£13,333	£5,000	£10,000	£3,333	£6,666
Off-gas grid fossil fuel (Oil, LPG, Coal)	£8,333	£16,666	£6,667	£13,333	£5,000	£10,000

Applicants must confirm they have not and will not access any other government funding towards the same measure(s) received. Applicants will be assessed by Keep Herefordshire Warm to confirm they meet the household eligibility criteria and householders will need to give permission that their data can be shared with the Council, agencies working on the project and contractors, in accordance with GDPR regulations.