



Rugby Borough Council

ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

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This statement sets out Rugby Borough 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 (Sol), on the **28/9/2023** to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below:

Route 1: Household Income – Pre-project SAP bands D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-G households with a gross annual income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition or region and is from all sources of income, including both non-means-tested and means-tested benefits.

This is the combined whole household income, including every person 18+ years living at that address, such as lodgers and elderly relatives, etc.

Route 2: Proxy Targeting – Pre-project SAP bands E-G for owner-occupied households and private rented sector households that meet at least two of the following proxies:

<p>Proxy 1) Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA) on the English Indices of Deprivation 2019, or homes in Wales in LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, or homes in Scotland in 'data zone' 1-3 on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020</p>
<p>Proxy 2) A person living at the premises receives a Council Tax reduction on the grounds of low income.</p>
<p>Proxy 3) A person living at the premises is considered to be vulnerable to the cold under the National Institute for Health Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance: Recommendation 2, for a reason other than low income.</p>
<p>Proxy 4) A child living at the premises is eligible for free school meals, due to low income.</p>
<p>Proxy 5) A person living at the premises is supported by a Local Authority (LA) run scheme which the LA has both named and described in their Statement of Intent, and established to support people living on a low income and vulnerable to the cold under NICE guideline NG6.</p>
<p>Proxy 6) A person living at the premises has been referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier, Citizens Advice or Citizens Advice Scotland because they have been identified by the referrer as struggling to pay their gas or electricity bills. The list is restricted to those mentioned.</p>
<p>Proxy 7) Households identified through supplier debt data. This route enables obligated suppliers to use their own debt data to identify either Non-Pre-Payment meter households (non-PPM) or Pre-Payment meter households (PPM).</p> <p>a) Non-PPM customers: These are customers who have been in debt for more than 13 weeks ending with the day on which the declaration is made, and are in a debt repayment plan with their energy supplier or repaying their fuel debt through third party deductions.</p> <p>b) PPM customers: Suppliers may also identify PPM households who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have either self-disconnected or received supplier discretionary/friendly credit within the last 13 weeks ending with the day on which the declaration is made, or • are in a debt repayment plan with their energy supplier, or • repaying their fuel debt through third party deductions.

*** Note - proxies 1 and 3 and proxies 6 and 7 cannot be used in combination with each other.**

private sector E-G households and identified as housing a person suffering from a severe and/or long-term health condition that is adversely affected by living in a cold home.

The person's severe or long-term health condition must be due to:

- a cardiovascular condition
- a respiratory disease
- limited mobility, or
- immunosuppression

The LA must complete a declaration certifying that it has received a referral from one of the following:

- a person registered in the General Practitioner (GP) Register
- a Scottish Health Board
- a Welsh Health Board
- an NHS Foundation Trust
- an NHS Trust

Route 4: Bespoke Targeting – Suppliers and LAs can submit a proposal via the Route 4 Bespoke Targeting Application Form to ESNZ (beisecoteam@beis.gov.uk) where they have identified new methods to identify low income and vulnerable households. The application must be approved by, or on behalf of, the ESNZ Secretary of State (SoS).

Applications need to demonstrate a number of factors, aside from living in an owner-occupied D, E, F or G SAP band property or for homes in the private rented sector E, F or G.

Applicants will also need to demonstrate, underpinned by evidence, that the proposed methodology is more effective at identifying low-income households than the criterion offered under Routes 1 and 2.

Applications should also demonstrate that assistance reaches the majority of households who are not in receipt of any means-tested benefits that fall within the help to heat group benefits:

- more than 50 per cent of the premises that meet the criteria are not occupied by a member of the help to heat group, and that
- at least 75 per cent of the premises that meet the criteria are owner-occupied premises occupied by at least one person living in fuel poverty, or
- at least 90 per cent of the premises that meet the criteria are private rented premises occupied by at least one person living in fuel poverty

Owner-occupier D, E, F and G and private rented sector E, F and G properties may qualify for ECO4 Flex route 4, providing that the LA is consulted by the supplier prior to completed installation, and that their supporting supplier or LA application has been approved by the Secretary of State (SoS).

Once ESNZ has approved an application, a reference number will be provided and this should be notified to Ofgem for all relevant projects. The 10 per cent uplift is only awarded subject to all criteria and minimum requirement rules being met.

¹ [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

² [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(full Index update with ranks\): 2019 | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)

³ [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through Rugby Borough 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 officer below will be responsible for checking and verifying declarations and associated evidence submitted on behalf of the local authority:

Name: Dominic Urmston

Job Title: Decarbonisation Projects Officer

Telephone: (01788) 533874

Email: Dominic.Urmston@rugby.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

Rugby Borough Council will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The CEO of the Council's delegated authority is given to the Chief Officer Communities and Homes to 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: Michelle Dickson

Job Title: Chief Officer Communities and Homes

Date of signature: 01/04/2023

For any general enquires relating to this Statement of Intent please email us at:
contactcentre@rugby.gov.uk