

Flintshire County Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

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This statement sets out Flintshire County Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) scheme from August 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.

Flintshire 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 has worked for many years on projects to improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty on a county wide basis but note that the final decision whether a householder receives an ECO measure is made by the obligated energy supplier or their agents/contractors and Flintshire Council cannot guarantee the installation of measures.

The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (Sol), on the **20/07/2022** to confirm that each of the identified households 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. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

Route 2: SAP bands E-G households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:

Proxy 1) Homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 ⁱ
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 Flintshire Council run scheme, that has been named and described by the Council as supporting low income and vulnerable households for the purposes of NICE Guideline.
Proxy 6) A household referred to the Council for support by their energy supplier or Citizen's Advice, because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and gas bills. (Currently under review)

* Note proxies 1 and 3, or 1 and 5 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. For this referral route, detailed written evidence from a licenced medical provider is required for proof of eligibility.

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. Flintshire Council 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.

¹ [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(full Index update with ranks\): 2019 | GOV.WALES](#)

Evidence, monitoring and reporting

All installers working under this agreement will need to confirm eligibility of a property and/or its occupants for ECO4: FLEX. Residents are required to complete an assessment form

All installers working under this agreement will need to be approved by Flintshire Council and have paid for their application, before any measures have been installed and the energy savings reported to the Council on a quarterly basis.

All declarations held by installers must match the declarations sent by Flintshire Council to Ofgem.

Installers must retain all proof of eligibility for the selected referral route for later auditing purposes.

Installers that were previously registered with RMBC for ECO 3 will have to reapply for ECO4

and provide the following documents to be held on record by FlintshireCC:

- PAS 2030:2019 accreditation and Trust Mark registration.
- Gas Safe registration and NIC compliant accredited.
- F Gas accreditation in place.
- MCS accreditation and Trust Mark.
- RECC and NICEIC accredited.
- NIC compliance and evidence of Trust Mark registration.

All installers must use the application form provided by FlintshireCC. No application will be accepted other than the forms supplied and the forms must be filled in correctly and clearly to avoid invalid applications.

Any installer found to be using sales tactics that the Council deem to be immoral/misleading can have its declarations and work through ECO-4 flex in Flintshire suspended.

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through 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: Joseph Muxlow

Job Title: Housing Regeneration Manager

Telephone: 01352 703426

Email: joseph.muxlow@flintshire.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

Flintshire County 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 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: Andrew Farrow

Job Title: Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy

Date of signature: 03/08/22

For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact
DEEPadmin@flintshire.gov.uk.
