

Statement of Intent

Note this document has now been superseded



Statement of Intent

Birmingham City Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility

Local Authority Name: Birmingham City Council

Publication date: April 2023

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Publication on www.birmingham.gov.uk

This Statement sets out Birmingham City Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) scheme from the publication of this Statement until 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 identify fuel poor and vulnerable households who may benefit from heating and energy saving measures is referred to as "ECO4 Flex".

Birmingham City 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 will also support the Council's key priorities in both its Housing Strategy and Council Plan:

- Better homes for all
- Ensure safe and healthy homes for all
- Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods

The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (Sol), on the publication date above 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 bands E-G private rented sector households with a combined gross household income under £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 benefit.

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) (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 Guidelines NG6 Guidelines . |
| Proxy 6 | A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizen's Advice because they have been identified as struggling to pay their utility bills. |

*Note Proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

Route 3: SAP bands D-G owner-occupied households and bands E-G private rented sector households that have been identified by a person registered on the General Practitioner Register, 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 conditionals may be cardiovascular, respiratory, immunosuppressed, or limited mobility related.

This reflects the Council 's identification of a positive correlation between households who suffer long-term health conditions living in poorly insulated homes.

Route 4: SAP bands D-G owner-occupied households and bands E-G private rented sector 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.

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through a Trustmark-registered ECO installer to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme.

Not exclusively, but on behalf of the local authority, Agility and E.ON will be responsible for checking and verifying declaration requests and associated evidence submitted.

Therefore, please submit all declarations, requests and enquiries to:

birminghamsoi@agilityeco.co.uk.

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

Name: Gwen Haq

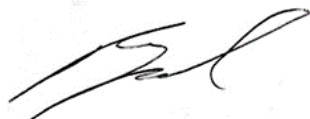
Job Title: Senior Strategy and Modernisation Manager

Dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

Birmingham City 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 Council's Assistant Director of Strategy and Enabling – City Housing 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 ESNZ guidance.

Signature:



Name: Paul Langford

Job Title: Interim Strategic Director of City Housing

Date of signature: 29th March 2023

For general enquiries related to this SOI, please contact EcoFlex@birmingham.gov.uk.