

Statement of Intent for ECO4

Isle of Wight Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: Isle of Wight Council

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This statement sets out the Isle of Wight 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". It is only available to private sector housing, that is, households in owner occupied or private rented accommodation.

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 **21/03/2023** to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the three 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
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 in receipt of, or having received in the 24 months prior to the publication of this SoI, a Disabled Facilities Grant.
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.

* 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 or the NHS Trust as having 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.

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through one of the council's approved ECO installers to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme. Details of approved ECO installers can be found at <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Residents/Environment-Planning-and-Waste/Future-Energy-Initiatives/Energy-Initiatives/ECO4> or by contacting the Footprint Trust on 01983 822282, info@footprint-trust.co.uk or www.footprint-trust.co.uk.

It should be emphasised that the inclusion of a household in an Eco Flex declaration does not guarantee that a measure will be installed in their home by an energy supplier. Decisions by energy suppliers on whether to install a measure may depend on:

¹ The English Indices of Deprivation
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835115/IoD2019_Statistical_Release.pdf

- The survey carried out by suppliers, or their agents / contractors, and costs calculated;
- The energy savings that can be achieved for a property;
- Whether suppliers have achieved, or are close to achieving, their targets; and
- Other commercial considerations

Suppliers, or their agents / contractors, will carry out an assessment to decide which measures the property should receive.

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

Name: Alan Barnes

Job Title: Commissioner for Housing Renewal

Telephone: 01983 821000

Email: alan.barnes@iow.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

The Isle of Wight 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 CEO of the Council 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: Wendy Perera

Job Title: Chief Executive

Date of signature: 14 March 2023

For any general enquires relating to this SoI, please contact housing.renewal@iow.gov.uk .