

Renfrewshire Council - Statement of Intent for ECO4

Renfrewshire Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: Renfrewshire Council (S12000038)

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This statement sets out Renfrewshire 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 30/01/2023 to confirm that each of the households declared eligible will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below:

Route 1: Standard Assessment Procedure (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: Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) bands E-G for owner-occupied households and private rented sector households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:

- 1) Homes in datazones 1-3 of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020 (<https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>)
- 2) A householder living at the premises receives a Council Tax reduction (based on low income only).
- 3) A person living at the premises is considered to be vulnerable to the cold under the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance: Recommendation 2, for a reason other than their low income
- 4) A child living at the premises is eligible for free school meals, due to low-income.
- 5) A person living at the premises is supported by a Local Authority run scheme that is 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.

- 6) A person living at the premises has been referred to the Local Authority for support by their energy supplier, Citizens Advice or Citizen's Advice Scotland because they have been identified by the referrer as struggling to pay their gas or electricity bills,
- 7) Households identified through supplier debt data, which 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)**

* Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together. Instead, these two proxies must be used in isolation of each other and combined with a different proxy from the list above. This is because these are very broad criteria compared to the others in the list and may not target low income and vulnerable households by themselves.

** Supplier Proxy 7 cannot be used with Proxy 6 as they are both using the same common proxy which is debt.

Route 3: Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) bands D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-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 owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-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 Home Energy Scotland/Renfrewshire Council or an ECO installer to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme. The final decision on whether any individual household can benefit from funding for energy saving improvements under ECO- Flex will be made by the appropriate ECO supplier and their contractors/agents. Eligibility does not guarantee funding and the final decision of whether measures will be undertaken will depend upon:

- Surveys carried out by an ECO contractor/agent of properties and household circumstances and the installation costs calculated.

- The energy savings that can be achieved at the property.
- Whether suppliers have achieved their relevant Affordable Warmth targets or require further measures to meet such targets.
- Where the assessment process identifies that a household are required to pay a proportion of the cost of potential measures themselves, this which would be the subject of agreement between the parties.

Compliance

ECO installers partnering with Renfrewshire Council will be responsible for the collection of any necessary and compliant evidence from applicants to enable an application to be verified by Renfrewshire Council as meeting the necessary criteria as set out in this Statement of Intent.

Installers that partner with the Council will cooperate with Renfrewshire Council fully in meeting the requirements of any audits or investigations carried out by Ofgem.

Governance

Renfrewshire Council will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The Head of Facilities and Property Management will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO4 Flex.

Authorised Signatory

Renfrewshire Council will only sign declarations, where a contractor presents eligibility information and delivering measures. The Council will only use the above eligibility routes to declare households eligible where necessary processes are in place to do so.

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

Name: Craig Doogan

Job Title: Energy Team Leader, Energy Management Unit


Email: craig.doogan@renfrewshire.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

Renfrewshire 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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. McNeil', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Name: Gordon McNeil

Job Title: Director of Environment and Infrastructure

Date of signature: 27/01/23

For any general enquires relating to this Statement of Intent, please contact:
emu@renfrewshire.gov.uk