

East Herts Council

ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme Flexible Eligibility

Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: East Herts District Council

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This statement sets out **East Herts District Council's** flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) and Great British Insulation schemes which run 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 Great British Insulation Scheme will support the ECO4 scheme in the delivery of predominantly single measures targeted at a wider range of households.

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" and "Great British Insulation Scheme Flex".

The council welcomes the introduction of the ECO4 Flex eligibility routes as it helps us achieve 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 **12th February 2024** to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below. The tick boxes can be used to indicate to households which routes the council is using:

Route 1: Owner-occupied and private rented sector households with a gross annual income of less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region

Route 2: Owner-occupied 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, or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019², or homes in Scotland in “data zone” 1-3 on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020^{3*}

Proxy 2) A person living at the premises is entitled to a Council Tax reduction on the grounds of low-income

Proxy 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 NG6: Recommendation 2, for a reason other than their low-income^{4*}

Proxy 4) A child living at the premises is eligible for free school meals, due to low-income⁵

Proxy 5) A person living at the premises is supported by a scheme established by the council that is named and described within our Statement of Intent and established to support people living on a low-income and considered vulnerable to the cold under NICE Guideline NG6.

In East Herts, residents may be eligible under this Proxy if they have:

Completed a Warm and Well Assessment carried out by the National Energy Foundation’s (NEF) Better Housing Better Health (BHBH) helpline service. East Herts Council has partnered with BHBH to offer free, independent home energy advice through a Warm and Well Assessment and residents are referred on the basis of

¹ Published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>. The deciles are published in “File 7: all ranks, deciles and scores for the indices of deprivation, and population denominators”.

² Published at <https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/WIMD-2019>

³ 2020v2. Published at <http://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020v2-ranks>

⁴ <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6/chapter/1-Recommendations#recommendation-2-ensure-there-is-a-singlepointofcontact-health-and-housing-referral-service-for>

⁵ Under section 512ZB(4) of the Education Act 1996 or section 53 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980

being low-income and at risk of or in fuel poverty, and considered vulnerable to the cold under NICE Guideline NG6

Proxy 6) A household referred to the council for support by their energy supplier or Citizens Advice because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and/or gas bills

Proxy 7) [Please note, proxy 7 is for supplier owned debt data and is listed here for information only]. Households identified through energy 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)*.

- 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 3rd party deductions.
- b. **PPM customers:** Suppliers may also identify PPM households who:
 - 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 3rd party deductions. *

* Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

* Proxy 7 cannot be used in combination with proxy 5 or proxy 6.

Route 3: Owner-occupied and private rented sector households that have been identified by either a person registered in the General Practitioner Register, an NHS Foundation Trust or an NHS Trust as vulnerable, with an occupant whose health conditions may be adversely affected by living in a cold home. These health conditions must be cardiovascular, respiratory, immunosuppressed or limited mobility related.

This is because the council recognises that studies have found a positive correlation between households who suffer from long-term health conditions and living on a low-income with living in hard-to-heat homes.

Route 4 [applicable to ECO4 Flex only]: Owner-occupied and private rented sector households that are referred under Route 4: Bespoke Targeting. Suppliers and councils can submit an application to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero where they have identified new methods to identify low-income and vulnerable households. Applications need to demonstrate a number of factors, including that the proposed methodology is more effective at identifying households in fuel poverty than the criterion offered under Routes 1 and 2.

Scheme eligibility

All potentially eligible households should apply through Better Housing Better Health on 0800 107 0044 or via one of the approved ECO / Great British Insulation Scheme installers, if a list of approved installers is available, to see if they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme.

Installer enquiries: Any supplier or installer who seeks a council declaration on behalf of an eligible resident will first need to be registered with the 'NEF Supplier Network'. The Network ensures that councils have information about the standards, practices and accreditations of installers working in their area, reducing the risk of fraud, poor quality installations and the exploitation of vulnerable residents that the council is looking to assist via ECO Flexible Eligibility. For further information about the Network and guidance on how to register, suppliers should contact suppliernetwork@nef.org.uk

An East Herts Council officer (not a 3rd party working on behalf of the council) will be responsible for checking, verifying evidence and issuing declarations. For any general enquiries relating to this Sol please contact:

Name: Linda Meehan	Job Title: Sustainability Co-Ordinator
Telephone: 01279 655261	Email: sustainability@eastherts.gov.uk

East Herts Council dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

East Herts Council will administer the ECO4 Flex scheme according to the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2022 (ECO4 Order).

East Herts Council will administer Great British Insulation Scheme Flex according to the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2023 (ECO4A Order).

The council's dedicated responsible person will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO Flex and Great British Insulation Scheme Flex. The council will notify Ofgem of households for which declarations have been issued via the declaration notification template.

All personal data collected or processed by **East Herts Council** for the purposes of ECO4 Flex or the Great British Insulation Scheme Flex will be processed and stored in accordance with the council's obligations under UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, the council's data protection policy, the Information Commissioner's Office Data Sharing Code and other guidance and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero guidance.

Name	Jonathan Geall	
Job Title	Head of Housing and Health	
Date	12 th February 2024	Signature 