

Statement of Intent for ECO4

Swindon Borough Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: Swindon Borough Council

Publication Date: 23/02/2023 to 09/10/2023

Version number: 5
Superseded by Version 6

Publication on web site:

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20055/home_energy_efficiency/233/home_energy_conservation

This statement sets out Swindon Borough 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".

In Swindon, it is estimated that up to 87% of properties have an EPC rating of D or below. Increasing SAP ratings to band C, through the installation of energy efficiency measures, fits with the council's aims of addressing fuel poverty and reducing carbon emissions.

Eligibility identification

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 **23/02/2023** 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 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 (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 Guideline. **Please note Proxy 5 is not in use currently**
Proxy 6) A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizen's Advice or Citizen's Advice Scotland, 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 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.

Please note, inclusion of a household in a Swindon Borough Council Flexible Eligibility declaration does not guarantee a measure will be installed in that home by an energy supplier. This will depend on surveys, energy savings achieved by suggested measures, funding and other commercial considerations. Suppliers will carry out an assessment which may identify multiple measures that are required.

¹ [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk)

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

Householders

Householders who believe they may be eligible for ECO Flex should contact Warm and Safe Wiltshire directly on 0800 038 5722 or <https://www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk/self-referral>. Warm and Safe Wiltshire provides impartial energy advice to residents of Swindon and will check

ECO Flex eligibility in their initial conversation with the resident. They will also check that the resident is happy for their data to be stored and shared with a third party for the purposes of the scheme. The eligibility information will be recorded on a secure CRM. A referral will then be made to an obligated supplier or installer who has signed the Code of Conduct.

Installers / Managing Agents

If you are an installer or managing agent and you wish to process ECO Flex declarations then you will need to contact the Centre for Sustainable Energy and sign their Code of Conduct (contact installers@cse.org.uk for more information). They will then process the applications in line with the BEIS guidance including contacting the household to check their eligibility and then preparing the declarations for sign-off. The information will be passed to their ECO supplier according to the ECO application process. There is an administration fee of £60 for each measure being proposed on each ECO Flex declaration (to be paid by the installer or energy supplier installing the measure).

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

Name: David Miles
Job Title: Public Health Practitioner – Affordable Warmth
Telephone: 01793 463679
Email: dmiles3@swindon.gov.uk

Data Protection

Swindon Borough Council is committed to working within the bounds of the Data Protection Act 1998 (the DPA 1998) and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as and when it becomes applicable. This act requires the Council to respect principles of fair processing when handling personal information.

www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20028/open_data_and_transparency/395/data_protection

Dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

Swindon Borough Council will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The Director of Public Health within 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: Steve Maddern
Job Title: Director of Public Health
Date of signature: 23/02/2023

For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact dmiles3@swindon.gov.uk.