

Joint Statement of Intent for ECO4

Cardiff Capital Region City Deal ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent Between:

BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF
MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL
RHONDDA CYNON TAFF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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Introduction and Background

The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Regional Cabinet (CCRC) agreed to pursue a regional approach to Energy Company Obligation 4 scheme (ECO) in November 2021 as the scheme had not been utilised effectively across the 10 Local Authorities during previous iterations of ECO.

This statement sets out the flexible eligibility criteria for the ECO4 scheme from April 2022 – March 2026 on behalf of the 10 Local Authorities which make up the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) Economic Area in Southeast Wales: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Bridgend County Borough Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council, the County Council of the City and County of Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council, Newport City Council, Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, Torfaen County Borough Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

ECO4 is a UK Government requirement for energy companies to support households in fuel poverty, and reducing carbon emissions within the housing stock, by installing energy efficiency measures. 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 CCR and its member authorities welcomes the introduction of the ECO4 Flex eligibility routes as it is seen as a key staple of improving the heat and energy efficiency of the homes of those in fuel poverty or that are vulnerable to the cold.

Identifying Eligible Households

Route 1 (Low-Income):

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 (Combined Proxy Eligibility):

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

Proxy 1*)	Homes in Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) decile 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019.
Proxy 2)	Householders receiving a Council Tax reduction (reduction based on low income only, excluding single person reduction).
Proxy 3*)	Householders vulnerable to the effects of 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 the NICE Guideline. Details of scheme: <i>Note: This is for Council's to fill out as they see fit. If there are no LA run schemes that meets the criteria then please remove this proxy from the Statement of Intent.</i>
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 electricity and gas bills.

(*Note that proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together*)

Route 3 (NHS Referral):

SAP bands D-G households that have been identified by their doctor or GP as lowincome 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 (Bespoke Targeting)

SAP band D-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 Bridgend County Borough Council or one of their approved ECO installers to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme. The officer below will be responsible for checking and verifying declarations and associated evidence submitted on behalf of the local authority:

Name: Stuart Baldwin


Job Title: Climate Change Response Manager

Telephone: 01656 643141

Email: stuart.baldwin@bridgend.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

Bridgend County Borough 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: 

Name: Janine Nightingale

Job Title: Corporate Director (Communities)

Date of signature: 05/04/2024

For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact stuart.baldwin@bridgend.gov.uk