



South Tyneside Council

South Tyneside Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility

ECO4 Flex - Statement of Intent

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This statement sets out South Tyneside 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 improvement of the energy efficiency of domestic properties will also contribute to the Council's commitment to reach Net Zero by 2030 for council operations and across the wider borough by 2045.

The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (SoI), on the 13th October 2022 to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below in line with Ofgem guidance¹:

Route 1: SAP bands **D-G** households with an income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/final-eco4-guidance-local-authority-administration>

Route 2: SAP bands **E-G** 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)² on the English Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019.

Proxy 2) Householders receiving a Council Tax rebate 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) Guidance³. 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, which has been named and described by the LA as supporting low income and vulnerable households for the purposes of NICE Guideline. Named scheme:

Healthy Homes Programme (or its successor).

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 proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

Route 3: SAP bands **D-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.

²

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835115/iod2019_Statistical_Release.pdf

³<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6/chapter/1-Recommendations#recommendation-2-ensure-there-is-a-singlepointofcontact-health-and-housing-referral-service-for>

Route 4: 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.

Partnership Working

South Tyneside Council would welcome close collaboration with any organisation, charitable institute, health provider or community group assisting or providing support for low-income private sector residents, especially those who are in fuel poverty and/or fuel debt and vulnerable to living in a cold home. To discuss any potential associations please contact the administration officer(s) noted in this document.

Suppliers/ Installers / Managing Agents

If you are an Energy Company, installer or an agent and you wish to process ECO Flex declarations please speak to the administration officer(s) noted in this document, we will supply an installer pack and ask that all contractors, read and sign a Data Sharing Agreement and Code of Conduct and supply evidence of all relevant accreditation documents before any promotions or work begin. Thereafter you will be added to our list of 'Approved Installers.'

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

Householders

Householders who believe they may be eligible for ECO Flex should contact South Tyneside Council's Customer Services on 0191 4277000, or an installer listed on the 'Approved Installers' list published on the website at www.approved-installers_list to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or can be assessed by installers for eligibility under this or any other available programme.

NOTE: Any Declaration of Eligibility issued by the Council is not a guarantee that the eligibility criteria has been met or that funding is available. The final decision on ECO Flex rests entirely with the obligated Energy Supply Company and their appointed contractor(s) who will conduct an assessment to decide which measures the resident should receive that will improve the energy performance of their property. This decision will be based upon the information provided to the Energy Supply Company by the client household at the time of survey and will depend upon:

- Survey conducted by suppliers, or their agents / contractors and installation costs calculated,

- the energy savings that can be achieved for a property,
- Whether suppliers have achieved, or are close to achieving their ECO targets, and
- Other commercial considerations

The officer(s) below will be responsible for scheme administration, checking and verification of declarations and associated evidence submitted on behalf of the local authority:

Name: Debra Ralph

Job Title: Energy Efficiency Officer, Environmental Health

Telephone: 0191 427 7000

Email: environmental.healthmailbox@southtyneside.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

South Tyneside Council will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The Chief Executive Officer 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: Stuart Wright

Job Title: Head of Environment – Development Services

Date of signature: 13th October 2022

For any general enquires relating to this SoI, please contact environmental.healthmailbox@southtyneside.gov.uk.