



## Statement of Intent for ECO4

### South Tyneside Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

**Local Authority name: South Tyneside Council**

**Publication Date: 19/01/2023**

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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 Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (SoI), on the **19/01/2023** 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, or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 <sup>2</sup> , or the Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2020, published by the Scottish Government. *
Proxy 2)	Householders receiving a Council Tax reduction (based on low income only).
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.

	<b>South Tyneside Healthy Homes Project</b> – helping residents access a network of support through various voluntary sector, health and charitable partners including support to maximise income, advising and signposting on health issues, fire safety advice and providing energy efficiency advice and any other support that can be offered including referrals for ECO4 in line with the Statement of Intent ECO4 eligibility. The aim of the project is to help make the residents homes a healthier, warmer more secure environment and improve the resident’s wellbeing.
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.

**Declaration and evidence check confirmation**

All potentially eligible households should apply through South Tyneside Council’s Customer Services on 0191 4277000 or one of their approved ECO installers listed on the ‘Approved Installers’ list published on the website at [Approved-installers](#) to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or can be assessed by installers for eligibility under this or any other relevant 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 below will be responsible for checking and verifying declarations and associated evidence submitted on behalf of the local authority and any general enquiries relating to this SOI :

**Name: Debra Ralph**

**Job Title: Energy Efficiency Officer**

**Telephone: 0191 427 7000**

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**CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature**

The South Tyneside 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: Stuart Wright**

**Job Title:** Head of Environment

**Date of signature:** 23/01/2023