

Sunderland City Council ECO 4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

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This statement sets out Sunderland City Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO 4) scheme from April 2022 – March 2026.

The ECO 4 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 "ECO 4 Flex".

The Council welcomes the introduction of the ECO 4 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), to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below:

Route	Qualification Category	Qualification Detail
Route 1	Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) band D-G households with an income less than £31,000	This cap on income (gross household income) applies irrespective of the property size or composition.
Route 2	Owner occupiers in EPC bands D, E, F and G households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies; - or – Private rented tenants in EPC bands E, F, G households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:	<p>Proxy 1) Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA).</p> <p>Proxy 2) Households receiving Council Tax support (support based on low income only, excludes single person discount).</p> <p>Proxy 3) Householder(s) 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'.</p> <p>Proxy 4) A household member receiving free school meals due to low-income.</p> <p>Proxy 5) 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.</p> <p>Proxy 6) A householder supported by a LA run scheme that is named and described by the LA as supporting low income and vulnerable households for the purposes of NICE Guideline (should such a scheme be identified / established).</p> <p>* Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.</p>

Route 3	EPC band 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 are living off a low-income, with living in poorly insulated homes.
Route 4	EPC 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 existing routes.

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

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through the relevant LA or an approved energy supplier 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: Graeme Stephenson
Job title: Principal Energy Efficiency and Retrofit Officer
Email: sccecoflex@sunderland.gov.uk
Telephone: 0191 5205555

Dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

Sunderland City Council will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The dedicated person will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO 4 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:	Peter McIntyre
Position:	Executive Director City Development
Date:	

For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact sccecoflex@sunderland.gov.uk