

Statement of Intent for ECO4

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: Solihull

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Publication on web site:

<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/your-future-solihull/energy-efficiency-grants>

This statement sets out Solihull 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. It aims to 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 13 December 2022 to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined in the table below:

Four routes for Flexible Eligibility Criteria

Route 1:	EPC bands D-G households with an income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.
Route 2:	EPC bands E-G households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:
	Route 2 - Proxy 1) Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA) *(see note below).
	Route 2 - Proxy 2) Householders receiving a Council Tax rebate reduction. (Rebates based on low income only, excludes single person rebates).
	Route 2 - 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' * (see note below).
	Route 2 - Proxy 4) A householder receiving free school meals due to low-income.
	Route 2 - 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. Solihull is not currently referring under this proxy, we will look to develop this in the future based on need identified.
	Route 2 - 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.
	Route 2 - Proxy 7) Non pre-payment households in debt for 13 weeks or more and in a debt-repayment plan with their supplier or repaying their fuel debt through third party deductions.
	Route 2 - Proxy 8) Pre-payment meter households who have been self-disconnected (due to low income) or received discretionary/friendly credit in the last 13 weeks, or in a debt-repayment plan with their supplier or repaying their fuel debt through 3rd party deductions.
Route 3:	EPC 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.
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 exiting routes.
NOTE : *	Route 2 Proxy's 1 & 3 cannot be used together for Route 2. Route 2 - Proxy 6 (energy debt) cannot be used in conjunction with proxy 7 and 8. Private rented homes differ and can receive assistance under flex routes 1- 4 if their property is EPC (SAP) rated E-G.

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through Act On Energy by contacting advice@actonenergy.org.uk, the 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: Paul McGrath or Delegated Officer

Job Title: Climate Change & Fuel Poverty Officer

Telephone: 0121 704 8001 (Solihull Connect)

Email: ecoflex@solihull.gov.uk

Solihull Council, with Support from Act On Energy, will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The CEO / delegated 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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MBM', followed by a horizontal line underneath.

Name: Mary Morrissey

Job Title: Director of Economy and Infrastructure

Date of signature: 13 December 2022

For any general enquires relating to this ECO flex 'Statement of Intent' please contact ecoflex@solihull.gov.uk.