

Statement of Intent for ECO4

Angus Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: Angus Council

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This statement sets out **Angus** 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 **23/04/2023** 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 datazones 1-3 of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020 (<https://www.gov.collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>)

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' (https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6/chapter/What-is-this-guideline-about).
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 NG6.
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.
Proxy 7) Households identified through supplier debt data, which enables obligated suppliers to use their own debt data to identify either non-prepayment meter households, or Pre Payment meter households (PPM)

* Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

** Supplier proxy 7 cannot be used with proxy 6 as they are both using the same common proxy which is debt.

*** Proxy 5 refers to the 'HEAT' (Home Energy Action Team) In -Home Advice Service funded by the Local Authority and delivered by Scarf. The scheme has been set up by the LA to reduce the risk of death and ill health associated with living in a cold home. The aim is to help meet a range of public health and other goals. These include:

- Reducing preventable excess winter death rates.
- Improving health and wellbeing among vulnerable groups.
- Reducing pressure on health and social care services.
- Reducing 'fuel poverty' and the risk of fuel debt or being disconnected from gas and electricity supplies (including [self-disconnection](#)).
- Improving the energy efficiency of homes.

A wide range of people are vulnerable to the cold. This is either because of: a medical condition, such as heart disease; a disability that, for instance, stops people moving around to keep warm, or makes them more likely to develop chest infections; or personal circumstances, such as being unable to afford to keep warm enough.

The term vulnerable refers to a number of groups including:

- people with cardiovascular conditions
- people with respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma)
- people with mental health conditions
- people with disabilities

- older people (65 and older)
- households with young children (from new-born to school age)
- pregnant women
- people on a low income.

Route 3: SAP bands D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-G households that have been identified by either a person registered in the General Practitioner Register, a Scottish Health Board or an NHS Trust as 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 ESNZ where they have identified a low income and vulnerable household, who are not already eligible under the exiting routes.

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

Referrals for ECO Flexible Eligibility Affordable Warmth funding will only be accepted from Home Energy Scotland (HES) / SCARF / Council / Approved ECO 4 Framework Contractor. HES is funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by the Energy Savings Trust. SCARF are the Councils delivery agent for ECO4.

Telephone advisors can answer questions about heating and insulating your home, saving money and cutting costs. They can refer on to delivery partners where appropriate.

HES phone number: 0808 8082282

SCARF phone number: 01224 213 005

The final decision on whether any individual household can benefit from funding for energy saving improvements under ECO Flex will be made by the appropriate ECO supplier and their contractors/agents. Eligibility does not guarantee funding and the final decision of whether measures will be undertaken will depend upon:

- Surveys carried out by an ECO contractor/agent of properties and household circumstances and the installation costs calculated
- The energy savings that can be achieved the property.
- Whether suppliers have achieved their relevant Affordable Warmth targets or require further measures to meet such targets.
- Where the assessment process identifies that a household are required to pay a proportion of the cost of potential measures themselves, this which would be the subject of agreement between the parties.

The Council Officer below will be responsible for checking and verifying declarations and associated evidence submitted on behalf of the local authority:

Name: Colin McGarva

Job Title: Housing Policy Officer (Housing Strategy)

Telephone: 03452 777 778

Email: housingstrategy@angus.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

Scarf will administer the scheme according to the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2022 (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 ECO 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 ESNZ guidance.



Signature:

Name: Margo Williamson

Job Title: Chief Executive

Date of signature: 24/04/2023

For any general enquires relating to this SoI, please contact housingstrategy@angus.gov.uk