

Statement of Intent for ECO4

North Devon Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: North Devon Council

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This statement sets out North Devon 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 1st February 2023 to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to the route outlined below:

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.

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through North Devon 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.

It should be noted that the final decision on whether any individual household will benefit from energy saving improvements or heating rests with obligated energy suppliers or their contractors. Inclusion in a Declaration of Eligibility issued by the Council to a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures. The final decision will depend on;

- i) identification of measures eligible under Help to Heat
- ii) the supplier's assessment of the cost-effectiveness of installing measures in relation to achieving its obligation
- iii) whether the supplier has achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their Energy Company Obligation targets.

North Devon Council expects that energy suppliers or agents of energy suppliers involved in flexible eligibility surveys and works identified will comply with the Data Protection Act in accordance with Ofgem requirements, will act in accordance with industry best practice in relation to consumer care and quality standards and will comply fully with the requirements set out in The Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2018.

Companies and individuals must not falsely represent their association with the Council and must not use the North Devon Council logo on paperwork unless formally agreed.

At initial engagement with prospective clients, representatives must confirm who they are, which company they are working for, and whether that company has been subcontracted by another company or will be selling on householder details.

The administration charge levied by North Devon Council in providing the declaration necessary for clients to access the ECO Flexible Eligibility Scheme is £100 + VAT. This charge must be paid by the energy supplier or their agent and may not under any circumstances, be passed on to the client receiving assistance via the scheme. Billing will be monthly. Failure to pay a monthly bill may lead to declarations associated with the Energy Company being refused. The Council reserves the right to waiver administration costs where it is working in partnership with an Energy Company or its representatives.

ECO4 Flex Statement of Intent

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

Name: Wendy Slate

Job Title: Service Lead – Home Adaptations, Improvements & Energy Efficiency

Telephone: 01271 388264

Email: wendy.slate@northdevon.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

North Devon 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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Mann', written in a cursive style.

Name: Jeremy Mann

Job Title: Head of Planning, Housing & Health

Date of signature: 25/01/2023

For any general enquires relating to this SoI, please contact wendy.slate@northdevon.gov.uk