

## Statement of Intent for ECO4

### **East Lothian Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent**

**Local Authority name: East Lothian Council**

**Publication Date: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**Publication on website: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

This statement sets out East Lothian 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".

The Council welcomes the introduction of the ECO4 Flex eligibility routes as it helps the Council to achieve its plans to improve the energy efficiency of properties to those in fuel poverty or vulnerable to the cold. The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (SoI), on the 15/05/23 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 occupiers and E-G private renting households with an income of less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

**Route 2:** SAP bands E-G households that meet a combination of two the following proxies.

<b>Proxy 1)</b> Homes in Scotland in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA) <sup>1</sup> of the Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2020, published by the Scottish Government.
<b>Proxy 2)</b> Householders receiving a Council Tax rebate (rebates based on low income only, excludes single person rebates).
<b>Proxy 3)</b> 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'.
<b>Proxy 4)</b> A householder receiving free school meals due to low-income.
<b>Proxy 5)</b> 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.  Details of scheme: N/A
<b>Proxy 6)</b> 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 occupier and E-G private renting 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 occupier and E-G private renting 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.

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

2 [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(full Index update with ranks\): 2019 GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)

3 [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 – gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

## **Declaration and evidence check confirmation**

**East Lothian Council may not be prepared to make declarations using all of the eligibility routes at any one time. The Council will only make declarations through those Contractors who are procured by the Council to carry out work for us can ensure compliance with this Statement.**

All potentially eligible households should apply through East Lothian Council or their approved ECO installer to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme.

Contracts for works will be separate individual contracts between the property owner and the installer carrying out the ECO funded works.

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

**Name: John Durkin**

**Job Title: Senior Energy Officer**

**Telephone: 01620827325**

**Email: [jdurkin1@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:jdurkin1@eastlothian.gov.uk)**

## **CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature**

**East Lothian Council 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: Wendy McGuire**

**Job Title: Head of Housing**

**Date of signature: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact [jdurkin1@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:jdurkin1@eastlothian.gov.uk)**