

Appendix 1

Statement of Intent for ECO4

North Somerset Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: North Somerset District Council

Publication Date: XX/XX/XXXX

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This statement sets out North Somerset Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) scheme from the publication date to March 2026, subject to amendment as necessary.

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".

In North Somerset, it is estimated that over **70%** of properties have an EPC rating of D or below. Increasing SAP ratings to band C, through the installation of energy efficiency measures, fits with the council's aims of addressing fuel poverty and reducing carbon emissions.

Eligibility identification

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 **XX/XX/XXXX** 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 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 households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:

Proxy 1) Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA) ¹
Proxy 2) Householders receiving a Council Tax Support (based on low income only, excludes single person rebates).
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'.
Proxy 4) A householder receiving free school meals due to low-income.
Proxy 5) A householder supported by a North Somerset Council scheme, that has been developed by the council as supporting low income and vulnerable households for the purposes of NICE Guideline.
Proxy 6) A household referred to North Somerset Council for support by their energy supplier or Citizen's Advice North Somerset, because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and gas bills.

* Note proxies 1 and 5 cannot be used together.

Route 3: SAP bands D-G households that have been identified by their doctor, GP or specialist consultant 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 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://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households will need to apply for ECO Flex through the Home Energy Team at the Centre for Sustainable Energy. There is an administration fee of £60 for each measure being proposed on each ECO Flex declaration (to be paid by the installer or energy supplier installing the measure).

If you are an installer or managing agent and you wish to process ECO Flex declarations then you will need to contact the Centre for Sustainable Energy and sign their Code of Conduct (contact installers@cse.org.uk for more information). They will then process the applications in line with the BEIS guidance including contacting the household to check their eligibility and then preparing the declarations for sign-off. The information will be passed to their ECO supplier according to the ECO application process.

Householders who believe they may be eligible for ECO Flex should contact the Home Energy Team directly (0800 082 2234 or <https://www.cse.org.uk/advice/contact-us>). The Home Energy Team provides impartial energy advice to residents of North Somerset and will check ECO Flex eligibility in their initial conversation with the resident. They will also check that the resident is happy for their data to be stored and shared with a third party for the purposes of the scheme. The eligibility information will be recorded on a secure CRM. A referral will then be made to an obligated supplier or installer who has signed the Code of Conduct.

Data Protection

North Somerset Council is committed to working within the bounds of the Data Protection Act 1998 (the DPA 1998) and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as and when it becomes applicable. This act requires the Council to respect principles of fair processing when handling personal information.

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/council-democracy/data-protection-freedom-information

Dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

The Council will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The Director of Public Health and Regulatory Services or a delegated officer (listed below) under the Council's Constitution 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:

Name: Matt Lenny

Job Title: Director of Public Health and Regulatory Services

Date of signature: 22 September 2022

For any general enquires relating to this SoI, please contact Claire.baxter@n-somerset.gov.uk

Delegated Officers (August 2022)

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