



Statement of Intent for ECO4

Mid Devon District Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of

Intent Local Authority name: Mid Devon District Council

Publication Date: 04 April 2023

Version number: V.1

Publication on web site: www.middevon.gov.uk

This statement sets out Mid Devon District 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".

Across Mid Devon it is estimated that up to 67% 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.

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 (Sol), on the **04 April 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 England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA)¹
- **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'.
- **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 Guidelines. ****Please note Proxy 5 is not in use currently****
- **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.

* Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

Route 3: SAP bands D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-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: 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 BEIS where they have identified a low income and vulnerable household, who are not already eligible under the existing routes.

¹ [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
V.1.0

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 to be paid by the installer or energy supplier installing the measure(s).

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 Mid Devon 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 Customer Relationship Manager system. A referral will then be made to an obligated supplier or installer who has signed the Code of Conduct.

Data Protection

Mid Devon District Council will hold data securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and only use this data for the purposes it was collected. Please refer to the council's privacy notice that provide more detail on the handling of personal data. <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/privacy-notice/>

Authorised Signatory

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

Name: Mrs Jo Pope

Job Title: Team Leader - Community


Telephone: 01884 255255

Email: health@middevon.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

The Mid Devon District Council will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The Corporate Manager for Public Health Regulation and Housing 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:  .

Name: Simon Newcombe

Job Title: Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing

Date of signature: 04 April 2023

For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact health@middevon.gov.uk.