

Statement of Intent for ECO4

East Sussex ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name:

East Sussex County Council, Eastbourne Borough Council, Hastings Borough Council, Lewes District Council, Rother District Council, Wealden District Council

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Publication on web site:

www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

www.hastings.gov.uk

www.rother.gov.uk

www.wealden.gov.uk

This statement sets out **East Sussex's** flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) scheme from April 2022 – March 2026. As permitted in the BEIS guidance on flexible eligibility local authorities in East Sussex delegate functions for identifying eligible households in its area to Hastings Borough Council.

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 Councils welcome the introduction of the ECO4 Flex eligibility routes as it helps the Councils achieve their plans to improve the homes of those in fuel poverty or vulnerable to the cold.

The Councils are publishing this Statement of Intent (SoI), on the **17/10/2022** to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the three 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 the three most deprived Lower-layer Super Output Area (LSOA) deciles (1-3) of the English Indices of Deprivation 2019 ¹
Proxy 2) Householders receiving a Council Tax rebate (rebates 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 ² . 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 the East Sussex Warm Home Check service (www.eastsussex.gov.uk/keepwarm) which supports low income and vulnerable households to keep warm and well at home (a single-point-of-contact health and housing referral service for East Sussex residents, as described in NICE Guideline NG6).
Proxy 6) A household referred to an East Sussex local authority for support by their energy supplier or Citizens Advice, 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 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.

¹ The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 (IoD2019)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835115/IoD2019_Statistical_Release.pdf

² Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes, NICE guideline [NG6] <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6>

This is because the Councils have 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.

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through **Hastings Borough 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.

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

Name: Sharon Irving

Job Title: Housing Licensing Support Officer

Telephone: 01424 451031

Email: fuelpoverty@hastings.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

Hastings Borough Council will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process. The Managing Director 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: Darrell Gale

Job Title: Director of Public Health, East Sussex County Council

Date of signature: 29/09/2022



Signature:

Name: Ian Fitzpatrick

Job Title: Deputy Chief Executive, Eastbourne and Lewes Councils

Date of signature: 05/10/2022



Signature:

Name: Jane Hartnell

Job Title: Managing Director, Hastings Borough Council

Date of signature: 26/09/2022

Signature: *R. Parker-Harding*

Name: Richard Parker-Harding

Job Title: Head of Service, Rother District Council

Date of signature: 26/09/2022



Signature:

Name: Trevor Scott

Job Title: Chief Executive, Wealden District Council

Date of signature: 03/10/2022

For any general enquires relating to this SoI, please contact fuelpoverty@hastings.gov.uk