

Statement of Intent for ECO4 Flex



Hart District Council Local Authority ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: Hart District Council

Publication Date: 7th April 2025

ECO4 Flex Statement of Intent Guidance

Version number: V.1

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

This statement sets out Hart District Council's flexible eligibility criteria within the scope of the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) scheme from April 2025 – 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 authority is publishing this Statement of Intent (Sol), on the 7th April 2025 to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined.

below:

Route 1: Household income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

Route 2: Proxy targeting households in EPC rating E, F, G meet a combination of 2 proxies below however (1 – 3) cannot be used together.

Households must meet a combination of two of the following proxies:

Proxy 1. Homes in England with Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) 1-3

Proxy 2. Householders receiving a Council Tax rebate (rebates based on low income only, excludes single person rebates).

Proxy 3. Households living vulnerable to the cold identified in the National Institute of for Health Care Excellence (NICE).

Proxy 4. Households receiving free school meals for low income.

Proxy 5. Households Supported by local authority run scheme. The scheme as advised in the statement of intent.

Proxy 6. Referred by CAB, LA identified for struggling to pay energy bills

Proxy 7. Households identified through supplier debt data. This route enables obligated utilities to use their own debt data to identify either non prepayment Meter households (non PMM), or pre-payment meter households (PPM)

Route 3: NHS Referral 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 authority 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.

Households under this route can be referred by

- NHS Foundation Trust
- NHS Trust
- a Health Board
- a local Health Board
- a general medical practitioner provider

Route 4: Standard Assessment Procedure EPC D-G households that are referred under Route 4: Bespoke Targeting.

Suppliers and LAs can submit a proposal to BEIS where they have identified a low income and vulnerable household, who are not already eligible under the exiting routes. Methods must be checked by BEIS.

1. The proposed methodology would identify low-income households where more than 50% are not in the Help to Heat Group (i.e claim benefits) and

2. Where at least 75% of the households that meet the criteria are in owner-occupied premises and contain at least one person living in fuel poverty, or
3. At least 90% of the households that meet those criteria are in private rented premises that contain at least one person living in fuel poverty.

For example, this could include targeted referrals, campaigns of use of data – the proposal would be submitted to and assessed by a BEIS panel. If approved projects completed in households targeted using the method would receive a score uplift of 10%.

Evidencing Flex

Eligibility will need to be evidence will need to be collected by the installer and sent to the local authority to prove Sol criteria has been met. It will also need declaration and evidence check confirmation.

All potentially eligible households should apply through Hart Local Authority management agent Insta Group 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 authority:

Name: Insta Group

Job Title: Managing Agent – Insta Group

Email: info@instagroup.co.uk

Project Director: Alex Freeman

The Hart District Council and associated third party resource managing agent Insta Group will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households who qualify from residents expression of interest directly to the managing agent or Hampshire County Councils Hitting the Cold Spots affordable warmth project where the Environment centre could signpost residents to contact the managing agent Insta Group. The project is supported by statutory, voluntary and health sector partners across the country to reach the most vulnerable in the community.

The Climate Change team or administrative officer at Hart District Council will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO4 Flex and provide declarations.

The eligibility information data will be collected, processed and stored securely in line with the authority's data protection policy, Information Commissioner's Office Data Sharing Code, and BEIS guidance.

The managing agent Insta Group will maintain their data protection as per their privacy policy ([Insta group policy link to be added](#))

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Clark', with a stylized, flowing script.

Name: Graeme Clark

Job Title: Director of Corporate Services

Date of signature: 7th April 2025

For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact:
climatechange@hart.gov.uk