

Statement of Intent

Low Carbon City Team



Plymouth City Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: Plymouth City Council

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Publication on web site: [Energy Company Obligation \(ECO\) | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/energy-company-obligation-eco4)

This statement sets out Plymouth City Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) 4th 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.

'ECO4 Flex' is the term used to describe the approach taken by Plymouth City Council (PCC) in identifying fuel poor and vulnerable households who may benefit from heating and energy saving measures.

PCC 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 26/01/2023 to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below:

Route 1

Low-Income: A household with a registered SAP (Energy Performance Certificate) between bands D-G, with an annual income of less than £31,000.

This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

1. [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/671111/the-english-indices-of-deprivation-2019.pdf)

Route 2

Combined Proxy Eligibility: 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 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. 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 Plymouth City Council run scheme, that has been named and described by PCC as supporting low income and vulnerable households for the purposes of NICE Guideline. |
| Proxy 6: A household referred to Plymouth City Council for support by their energy supplier or Citizen's Advice, because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and/ or gas bills. |

* Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together

Route 3

NHS Referrals: SAP bands D-G households that have been identified & referred 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, but are not limited to:

- A cardiovascular condition
- A respiratory disease
- Immunosuppressed
- Limited mobility

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.

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

Route 4

Bespoke Targeting: SAP band D-G households that are referred under Route 4: Bespoke Targeting. Suppliers and LAs can apply to BEIS where they have identified a low income and vulnerable household, who are not already eligible under the exiting routes.

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through either Plymouth City Council, Plymouth Energy Community or a Trustmark approved ECO installer to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme.

Please note that when Route 2, Proxy 3 is used as part of an application, a written referral from either the NHS Trust or another supporting scheme or body must be submitted with the application as evidence to support this route.

Installers seeking to submit applications should contact the Low Carbon City Team via email address LowCarbonCityTeam@plymouth.gov.uk

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

Name: Nicky Turvey

Job Title: Low Carbon City Officer

Email: LowCarbonCityTeam@plymouth.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

Plymouth City Council will administer the scheme according to BEIS' ECO4 Order and will identify eligible households via Ofgem's application process.

The service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure 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: Paul Barnard

Job Title: Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure

Date of signature: 30/01/2023

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

For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact LowCarbonCityTeam@plymouth.gov.uk

Annex of Terms

SAP –

Standard Assessment Procedure is the UK government's recommended method and system for measuring the energy rating of a residential home

EPC –

Energy Performance Certificate is a certificate issued to a home summarising its energy efficiency. The certificate is also accompanied by a report which details recommendations of the most cost effective ways to improve your homes rating

EPC (SAP) Bands –

The certificate has 7 x bands. Each band is alphabetically labelled from A – G.

- A = Very Energy Efficient home for heating and power
- G= Inefficient home for heating and power

ECO –

Energy Company Obligation is a government funded scheme to tackle fuel poverty by providing eligible households with home improvements from installing insulation to replacing boilers, and many other measures to support the reduction in energy bills and improve the comfort of the home.

ECO 4 –

Energy Company Obligation 4 is the 4th edition of this government funded scheme, ECO4 is a live scheme, which runs now until 31st March 2026

ECO Flex –

Gives Plymouth City Council the flexibility & ability to support households that may not meet the ECO4 eligibility criteria, but it considers vulnerable to fuel poverty as identified through the home occupiers Health, Age, Household income; and Property type.

Trustmark Certified Installers –

Trustmark is a social enterprise that on behalf of the UK Government has produced a certification scheme that tradespeople must comply with when they carry out home improvements on behalf of the home owner through the ECO4 grant.

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

The Trustmark scheme is created to provide a high level of assurance and protection to homeowners.

The Trustmark Certificate ensures the tradesperson can evidence they have the correct level of technical knowledge and skills to provide the retrofit works within a homeowners property;³³ and that the tradesperson is qualified and competent to complete the works to the Trustmark standard.