

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council ECO 4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Publication Date: 21st November 2023

Version Number: 1.0

Publication on website: 21.11.23

This statement sets out Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's (RCTCBC) flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO 4) Scheme from date of this Statement of Intent until March 2026, unless new versions are published, which will supersede this version.

The ECO4 scheme will focus on supporting low income and vulnerable households. The scheme will improve the least energy efficient homes that meet the private domestic premises requirement of the Guidance (i.e. owner occupiers, private rented homes and social rented homes where it is let at or above market rates), helping to meet the Government's fuel poverty and net zero commitments, by installing energy efficiency measures.

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".

RCTCBC welcomes the introduction of the ECO4 Flex eligibility routes as one approach to helping the Council achieve its plans to improve the energy efficiency of homes of those in fuel poverty or vulnerable to the cold.

The Council operates an Approved Providers List (APL) to assist residents to select suitable, accredited installers while also allowing direct referrals from Installers to the Council. Declarations will not be provided to Installers or Agents that are not on the approved list and not accredited to undertake ECO4 works. Householders will select their own installers using the APL list for information and all contractual relationships will be between the householder and their choice of installer direct.

The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (Sol) on the 1st September 2023 to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the available routes outlined below:

Route 1: Income

Households living in owner occupied homes with EPC rating (SAP band) D to G or private rented sector homes with EPC (SAP band) E to G

AND

with a gross annual income less than £31,000. Includes all sources of income from all household members including both non means and means tested benefits. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

Route 2: Proxies

Households living in owner occupied homes or private rented homes with EPC rating (SAP band) E to G that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:

Proxy 1) Homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple 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. 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) currently unavailable
Proxy 6) A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizen's Advice because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and gas bills.

¹ [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(full Index update with ranks\): 2019 | GOV.WALES](#)

** Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together. Proxy 5 currently unavailable.*

Route 3: NHS Referral

Households living in owner occupied homes with EPC rating (SAP band) D to G and private rented sector with EPC rating (SAP band) E to G

AND

where a household member is suffering from a severe and/or long-term health condition that is adversely affected by living in a cold home.

These health conditions may be cardiovascular, respiratory, immunosuppressed, or limited mobility related. This is because the Council recognises the negative impact for households with long-term health conditions living in less energy efficient homes and the effect on health and well-being.

All health conditions must be evidenced by a GP, Doctor or Health Practitioner from Local Health Board/NHS.

Route 4: Bespoke Targeting

Currently unavailable

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply directly to one of the Installers on the Council's Approved Providers List or directly to the Heat & Save Team at heatandsave@rctcbc.gov.uk or telephone 01443 281136 or online www.rctcbc.gov.uk/heatandsave

RCTCBC accepts no responsibility or contractual obligations with Installers/Suppliers and the applicant enters into their own contractual agreement with the Installer of their choice.

All installers working under this agreement will need to provide a completed application form provided by RCTCBC and all evidence required to confirm eligibility of an application (property and occupants eligibility) before making a direct referral to the Council.

Declarations will only be provided to Installers that are registered on the Council's Approved Providers List and those that have the relevant Accreditations for providing measures under the ECO scheme. Installers can apply to be registered onto the list via Sell 2Wales using ITT: itt_97734 - RCTCBC Delivery of Domestic Energy Efficiency Measures Approved Provider List.

Declarations will be valid for 12 months from date of signature.

The Officer responsible for checking and verifying declarations and associated evidence submitted on behalf of the LA:

Name: Housing Energy Officer within the Heat & Save Team, Housing Strategy Team

Telephone: 01443 281136

Email: heatandsave@rctcbc.gov.uk

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.

The decision on whether a household receives a measure under flexible eligibility or other ECO funding streams will be made by the energy supplier or their agent/ contractor and not the Council. The Council's role is to set eligibility criteria, assess applications and issue Declarations for eligible households. The issue of a Declaration by Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC will NOT guarantee installation of a measure, the final decision rests with the supplier.

Customer Contributions

RCTCBC has no influence over levels of funding available within the ECO Flex Scheme. Whilst it is expected that some measures through ECO Flex will attract levels of funding that will make the cost of the works completely free to the customer, others may only be partially grant funded. Any shortfall of costs will be notified to the customer following a survey via their selected Installer and the choice to proceed or decline will solely rest with the customer.

Administration/Referral Fees

The current market rate being charged is **£300** per application. It is important to note that fees are to be paid by the Installer/Agent/Energy Company and under no circumstances should they be passed on to the householder/customer.

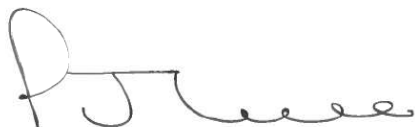
General Data Protection Regulations & Privacy Notice

In order to issue Declarations and administer the scheme to enable households to access ECO 4 Flex funding the Council will be processing and sharing personal data. All data will be managed and stored in accordance with GDPR requirements and relevant legislation. A copy of the Council's Privacy Notice stating how data is managed can be found [Heat & Save Referral Hub Service Privacy Notices | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council \(rctcbc.gov.uk\)](https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/heatandsave/privacy-notice)

CEO or 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 CEO of the Council will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO4 Flex.

Name: Paul Mee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Mee', written in a cursive style.

Job Title: CEO Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC (dedicated responsible person)

Date of signature: 13.10.23

For any general enquiries relating to this Statement of Intent please contact heatandsave@rctcbc.gov.uk