



East Renfrewshire Council
ECO4 – Flexible Eligibility
Statement of Intent

Statement of Intent for ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme

East Renfrewshire Council ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: East Renfrewshire Council

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This statement sets out East Renfrewshire Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) and Great British Insulation schemes which run until 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 Great British Insulation Scheme will support the ECO4 scheme in the delivery of predominantly single measures targeted at a wider range of households.

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" and "Great British Insulation Scheme Flex".

The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (Sol), on the 21/08/2024 to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below:

Route 1: Owner-occupied and private rented sector households with a gross annual income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

Route 2: Owner-occupied and private rented sector households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:

1. Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA) , or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 , or homes in Scotland in "data zone" 1-3 on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 *
2. A person living at the premises is entitled to a Council Tax reduction on the grounds of low-income.
3. A person living at the premises is considered to be vulnerable to the cold under the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance NG6: Recommendation 2, for a reason other than their low-income *
4. A child living at the premises is eligible for free school meals, due to low-income.

<p>5. A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizens Advice or Citizens Advice Scotland, because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and/or gas bills.</p>
<p>6. [Please note, this proxy is for supplier owned debt data and is listed here for information only]. Households identified through energy supplier debt data. This route enables obligated suppliers to use their own debt data to identify either non pre-payment meter households (non-PPM), or pre-payment meter households (PPM)*.</p> <p>a) Non-PPM customers: These are customers who have been in debt for more than 13 weeks ending with the day on which the declaration is made, and are in a debt repayment plan with their energy supplier or repaying their fuel debt through 3rd party deductions.</p> <p>b) PPM customers: Suppliers may also identify PPM households who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have either self-disconnected or received supplier Discretionary/Friendly credit within the last 13 weeks ending with the day on which the declaration is made; or • are in a debt repayment plan with their energy supplier; or • repaying their fuel debt through 3rd party deductions.*

* Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

* Proxy 6 cannot be used in combination with proxy 5.

Route 3: Owner-occupied and private rented sector households that have been identified by either a person registered in the General Practitioner Register, a Scottish Health Board, a Welsh Health Board, an NHS Foundation Trust, or an NHS Trust as vulnerable, with an occupant whose health conditions may be adversely affected by living in a cold home. These health conditions must be cardiovascular, respiratory, immunosuppressed, or limited mobility related.

Route 4: [applicable to ECO4 Flex only]: Owner-occupied and private rented sector households that are referred under Route 4: Bespoke Targeting. Suppliers and LAs can submit an application to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero where they have identified new methods to identify low-income and vulnerable households. Applications need to demonstrate a number of factors, including that the proposed methodology is more effective at identify households in fuel poverty than the criterion offered under Routes 1 and 2. **East Renfrewshire Council do not currently support this.**

East Renfrewshire Context

The Scottish House Condition Survey (2019) estimated that 24.6% (approximately 613,000 households) of all households in Scotland are in fuel poverty. A household is said to be in fuel poverty when it is spending at least 10% of all income on fuel costs, and after paying for household costs and child care, the household cannot sufficiently afford to maintain an acceptable standard of

living. In East Renfrewshire has the lowest rate of fuel poverty of all Scottish Local Authorities, with only 13% of households believed to be experiencing fuel poverty. This is significantly lower than was estimated in the 2015 edition of the Scottish House Condition Survey, and East Renfrewshire Council will continue to take action to mitigate this, whilst faced with the challenges of an ageing population and the cost of living crisis.

With approximately 40,000 households in East Renfrewshire, 13% being in fuel poverty represents some 5,200 households. Of those, 7% are said to be in extreme fuel poverty – spending at least 20% of all income on fuel costs, and after paying for child care, the household cannot sufficiently afford to maintain an acceptable standard of living. Again this is the lowest rate of the 32 Scottish Local Authorities, which have an average of rate of 12%.

11% of those experiencing fuel poverty in East Renfrewshire are owner-occupiers. The National Records of Scotland also estimate that East Renfrewshire has an average of 2.38 people per household, higher than any of Scotland's other local authorities – nationally, the average is 2.14.

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation identifies parts of two data zones in East Renfrewshire as being in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland. Both of these zones, within Auchenback and Dunterlie, East Arthurlie and Dovecothall are located in Barrhead. One part of the Dunterlie, East Arthurlie and Dovecothall area has been identified in the 5% most deprived areas in Scotland.

SMID data is an important tool for identifying households' risk of fuel poverty as their ranking is determined by considering seven categories, four of which (income, health, employment levels and geographical access) are linked to fuel poverty.

East Renfrewshire Council will support the most vulnerable households, which are in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland, according to SMID.

East Renfrewshire Council will utilise Flexible Eligibility to reduce fuel poverty in our communities, targeting homes in 20% most deprived SMID data zones and those locally where there are high levels of deprivation, relating to housing, household income, employment and health, despite not being in the 20% most deprived areas.

A 'Referral Network' and process will be managed by East Renfrewshire Council's Housing Service, who will promote, evaluate, prepare, quality control and consult on all applications prior to being given Declaration Approval. The Network will include local health practices, partner organisations and charities supporting the vulnerable subject to fuel poverty.

Households will be identified by the 'Referral Network' during the sign up process to identify the opportunity of funding support to enhance the energy efficiency of their homes. They will also ensure the householder has been provided with the Ofgem Privacy Notice, explaining how their data will be used. East Renfrewshire Council's Housing Service's use and management of data will conform to existing GDPR provisions, as detailed on our website, accessible at:

<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/housing-services-privacy-notice>

East Renfrewshire Council's Housing Service's will also confirm current Referral Network Practices are compliant with GDPR Regulation prior to being accepted on to the Referral Network.

Scheme eligibility

All potentially eligible households should apply through East Renfrewshire Council or one of their approved ECO / Great British Insulation Scheme installers, if a list of approved installers is available, to see if they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme.

An East Renfrewshire Council officer (not a 3rd party working on behalf of East Renfrewshire Council) will be responsible for checking, and verifying evidence, and issuing declarations. For any general enquiries relating to this Sol please contact:

Signature: 

Name: Louise Hampson

Job Title: Energy Efficiency Officer

Telephone: 0141 577 8579

Email: Flex.Eco@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature.

East Renfrewshire Council will administer the ECO4 Flex scheme according to the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2022 (ECO4 Order).

The Council will administer Great British Insulation Scheme Flex according to the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2023 (ECO4A Order).

The CEO/ dedicated responsible person of the Council will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO Flex and Great British Insulation Scheme Flex. The Council will notify Ofgem of households that declarations have been issued for via the declaration notification template.

All personal data collected or processed by East Renfrewshire Council for the purposes of ECO4 Flex or Great British Insulation Scheme Flex will be processed and stored in accordance with: the Council's obligations under UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, the Council's data protection policy, the Information Commissioner's Office Data Sharing Code and other guidance, and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero guidance.



Signature:

Name: Suzanne Conlin

Job Title: **Senior Housing Manager**

Date of signature: 21st August 2024

For any general enquiries relating to this Sol, please contact Flex.Eco@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk