

## Statement of Intent for ECO4

**Local Authority name: South Hams District and West Devon  
Borough Councils**

**Publication Date: 4 November 2022**

**Version number: V.4**

**Publication on website:**

[South Hams](#)

[West Devon](#)

This statement sets out **South Hams District and West Devon Borough Councils** flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) 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.

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 Council 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 4 November 2022, to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below:

**Route 1:** SAP bands D-G households with a gross 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	Description
Proxy 1	Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA)
Proxy 2	Householders receiving a Council Tax rebate (rebates based on low income only, excludes single person rebates).

Proxy	Description
<b>Proxy 3</b>	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'.
<b>Proxy 4</b>	A householder receiving free school meals due to low-income.
<b>Proxy 5</b>	A householder supported under the Council's Better Homes, Better Lives Strategy. Established to support people living on a low income and vulnerable to the cold under NICE Guideline NG6. Householders are found through multiple referral routes including via installers, local Community Energy Groups, council communication and local networks. A dedicated officer will check and verify the evidence before being referred to an appropriate installer.
<b>Proxy 6</b>	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.
<b>Proxy 7</b>	<p>Households identified through 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>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>PPM customers: Suppliers may also identify PPM households who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• or are in a debt repayment plan with their energy supplier;</li> <li>• or repaying their fuel debt through 3rd party deductions.</li> </ul>

\* Proxies 1 & 3 and proxies 6 & 7 cannot be used in combination with each other.

**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.

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.

**Route 4:** SAP band E-G households that are identified in bespoke targeting new route, to identify low income and vulnerable households agreed with BEIS. Suppliers and LAs can submit an application 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 **South Hams District & West Devon Borough Councils** 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:** David Sexton

**Job Title:** Principal Environmental Health Officer

**Telephone:** 01822 813716

**Email:** dave.sexton@swdevon.gov.uk

### **CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature**

The South Hams District & West Devon Borough Councils 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.

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: Andy Bates

Job Title: Chief Executive

**Date of signature:** 11 November 2022

For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact [eco@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:eco@swdevon.gov.uk).