

Statement of Intent for ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme

Stroud District Council ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: Local Authorities in Gloucestershire named below

Publication Date: 01/07/2024

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Publication on web site: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency-schemes/>

Warm & Well is managed by Severn Wye Energy Agency on behalf of the Local Authorities in Gloucestershire:

- Gloucester City Council
- Forest of Dean District Council
- Stroud District Council
- Cotswolds District Council
- Tewkesbury Borough Council
- Cheltenham Borough Council

Stroud District Council has been legally appointed lead authority for the Warm & Well programme and as such will take the lead on the Statement of Intent and the assignation of Declarations. All other Local Authorities have delegated powers to Stroud District as evidenced in Section 2 Declaration and evidence check confirmation.

This statement sets out Stroud District 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".

Warm & Well on behalf of the local authorities in Gloucestershire will identify households that may benefit from flexible eligibility. The householder must be an Owner Occupier or Private Sector tenant.

The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (SoI), on the **01/07/2024** to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below. Warm & Well will keep the criteria below under review, in relation to the number of referrals made, delivery of installed measures and the practices of other authorities. The tick boxes can be used to indicate to households which routes the council is using:

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:

Proxy 1) Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA) ¹ , or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 ² , or homes in Scotland in "data zone" 1-3 on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 ^{3*}
Proxy 2) A person living at the premises is entitled to a Council Tax reduction on the grounds of low-income.
Proxy 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*}
Proxy 4) A child living at the premises is eligible for free school meals, due to low-income ⁵

¹ Published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>. The deciles are published in "File 7: all ranks, deciles and scores for the indices of deprivation, and population denominators".

² Published at <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/WIMD-2019>

³ 2020v2. Published at <http://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020v2-ranks>

⁴ <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6/chapter/1-Recommendations#recommendation-2-ensure-there-is-a-singlepointofcontact-health-and-housing-referral-service-for>

⁵ Under section 512ZB(4) of the Education Act 1996 or section 53 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980

Proxy 5) A person living at the premises is supported by a scheme established by the LA/DA that is named and described within their Statement of Intent and established to support people living on a low-income and considered vulnerable to the cold under NICE Guideline NG6.

Proxy 6) 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.

* Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

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 identifying households in fuel poverty than the criterion offered under Routes 1 and 2.

Scheme eligibility

All potentially eligible households should apply through Gloucestershire Councils' energy advice service Warm & Well, in partnership with Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA) or one of their approved ECO / Great British Insulation Scheme installers to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme. Evidence will be required from all applicants.

Warm & Well will capture and store all relevant information during the initial enquiry to determine the relevant course of action for the household. Warm & Well will inform residents that they will be required to provide evidence and other information such as relevant health conditions to deter fraudulent claims.

Warm & Well will provide key information. The data above will include details of households assessed, how many were deemed eligible and ineligible, and how many received heating and insulation improvements.

All households for whom Declarations were made will be contacted three to six months post installation.

An LA officer (not a 3rd party working on behalf of an LA) will be responsible for checking, and verifying evidence, and issuing declarations.

Name: Maria Hickman

Job Title: Housing Renewal Manager

Telephone: 01453 766321

Email: Maria.Hickman@stroud.gov.uk

List of the designated officers at the time of the declaration hereby giving consent to Stroud District Council to make determination on whether a household meets the eligibility criteria of this scheme:

Local Authority	Name	Job Title	E-mail	Signature
• Gloucester City Council	Neil Coles	Housing Innovation Manager	Neil.coles@gloucester.gov.uk	<i>Neil Coles</i>
• Forest of Dean District Council	Paula Massey	Enabling Manager	Paula.massey@publicagroup.uk	<i>Paula Massey</i>
• Cotswolds District Council	Paula Massey	Enabling Manager	Paula.massey@publicagroup.uk	<i>Paula Massey</i>
• Tewkesbury Borough Council	Alastair Low	Environmental Health Manager	Alastair.low@Tewkesbury.gov.uk	<i>Alastair Low</i>
• Cheltenham Borough Council	Mark Nelson	Team Leader Private Sector Hosing	Mark.nelson@cheltenham.gov.uk	<i>Mark Nelson</i>

CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature.

Stroud District 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 Housing Renewal Manager 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 Gloucestershire Councils 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brendan Cleere', is shown on a light-colored background.

Signature:

Name: Brendan Cleere

Job Title: Strategic Director of Place

Date of signature: 01/07/2024