

Statement of Intent for ECO4

Braintree District Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Authority name: Braintree District Council

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This statement sets out Braintree District Council's 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. Braintree District Council has made a commitment to reducing its own emissions to net zero and supporting the district in achieving net zero by 2030, see link <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/advice-environment/climate-change/2> .

The Council has set up a Cost of Living Crisis group comprising internal and external partners, with the purpose of supporting residents in fuel poverty. This statement of intent will support the group's work, especially when the Council has limited funds to directly support residents.

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 (SoI), on the **9/11/2022** 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 an 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 1) Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-4 (LSOA) ¹ , or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-4 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 ² , or the Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2020, published by the Scottish Government ³
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 LA run scheme, that has been named and described by the LA as supporting low income and vulnerable households for the purposes of NICE Guideline.
Proxy 6) A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizen's Advice or Citizen's Advice Scotland, because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and gas bills.

* Note proxies 1 and 5 cannot be used together.

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.

¹ [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

² [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(full Index update with ranks\): 2019 | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)

³ [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

Route 4: SAP band D-G households that are referred under Route 4: Bespoke Targeting. 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.

Bespoke targeting

Criteria for identifying ‘Infill’ properties and vulnerability to the cold: To encourage multi-property solid wall insulation in private tenure, BDC may be able to provide declarations for households that are neither living in fuel poverty (FP) or living on a low income and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home (LIVC), known as ‘in-fill’ properties. This is designed to help the delivery of energy efficiency measures. If at least 50% of eligible households receive either of these measures, an adjacent property can also receive the same measure, if the number of these ‘in-fill’ properties does not exceed 50%. “In-fill” is only available for private domestic premises and only allowed for EEM. This does not include social housing.

BDC can declare a household as “in-fill” where they are:

- a) in an immediately adjacent building to; or
- b) are in the same building as a household that does meet those criteria; or
- c) in the same terrace as;

Summary of the requirements for property types

Property type	BDC Declaration requirements	Infill available
Project consisting of a minimum project comprising semi-detached properties.	At least one of the two properties must be declared by BDC as Fuel Poor or LIVC (i.e. 50% of the properties are Fuel Poor or LIVC).	The other private property to which it is directly adjoined is eligible for EEM.
Project consisting of any premises that are flats or maisonettes or similar construction.	All properties that are receiving a ECO Flex measure must be covered by a declaration. This applies to LIVC, Fuel Poor and infill properties. Up to 50% of total Fuel Poor or LIVC combined properties within the project can receive a measure.	The in-fill properties in the project are eligible for EEM, provided they are either in the same building, an immediately adjacent building or in the same terrace as the ones identified as Fuel Poor or LIVC.

Declaration and evidence check confirmation

All potentially eligible households should apply through **Braintree District** Council 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: Mark Wilson

Job Title: Sustainability Manager

Telephone: 01376 552525

Email: mark.wilson@braintree.gov.uk

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.

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: Dan Gascoyne

Job Title: Chief Executive

Date of signature: 09.11.22

For any general enquires relating to this SoI, please contact energyadvice@braintree.gov.uk