

Energy Company Obligation: Help to Heat ECO 3

Local Government Authority Eligibility Statement of Intent

Local Government Authority: Wokingham Borough Council

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1) Introduction

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) intends to use the Flexible Eligibility (FE) element of the ECO 3 Help to Heat scheme to assist houses likely to be fuel poor.

Under the Energy Companies Obligation (ECO) scheme energy companies can allocate up to 25% of their obligated funding to energy efficiency measures for vulnerable or fuel poor households based on criteria as detailed below in sections 2.A) & 2.B).

One of the causes of fuel poverty can be living in a property with a low EPC rating indicating that the residence is low energy efficiency thereby resulting in increased energy use and costs. Properties with a low EPC ratings use more energy for heating and lighting which also has a detrimental carbon footprint. Wokingham Borough Council intends to reduce fuel poverty by allowing for increased ECO funding to be made available based on a property having a low EPC score and the household having a low income.

Any and all final decisions regarding whether an individual household will benefit from energy improvements will be a matter for Energy suppliers or any ECO provider or contractor obtaining ECO funding via them. Where WBC has issued a declaration of eligibility this will not guarantee installation of energy improvement measures.

The factors considered for works to be undertaken are as follows:

1. Identification of eligible measures,
2. Supplier assessment of the cost effectiveness of installing measures in pursuit of achieving the obligation,
3. If the supplier requires further measures to fulfil their Energy Company Obligation targets or whether these have already been achieved.

Wokingham Borough Council will assist qualifying households to obtain funding on the basis set out in this documentation. Wokingham Borough Council expects all energy suppliers and contractors working on our behalf to comply with Ofgem requirements for the ECO scheme the Data Protection Act 2018 as well as working to a high standard of consumer care.

2) How Wokingham Borough Council intends to identify eligible households

2. A) Criteria for identifying 'Living in fuel poverty, but not in receipt of ECO qualifying benefits'

Householders are considered at risk of being in fuel poverty under the flexible criteria set out by WBC if they have 'high energy costs' or a 'low income'.

1. For the 'low income' eligibility criteria this will be assessed based on an income totalling below £35,000 after taxes.
2. For the 'high cost' element of the eligibility criteria this will be considered met due to an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D with a score of 60 or below. The Landmark online EPC register will be used to identify households qualifying based on EPC rating. If a property does not meet the 'high cost' criteria based on its EPC rating then it can qualify based on the following categories selected due to being likely to have high energy bills or being hard to treat:
 - Park homes and other permanent caravan residences (regardless of income)
 - Privately rented properties including HMOs (Regardless of income)
 - Properties heated by a fuel other than mains gas
 - Flats above commercial premises
 - System built properties
 - Sheltered housing for the elderly
 - Homes which require cavity wall insulation
 - Homes which require a loft insulation top up
 - Homes which require solid wall insulation
 - Homes with a boiler which meets the ECO Qualifying Boiler criteria
 - Homes which require connection to the mains gas network as part of a wider gas mains upgrade programme

This criteria will allow us to gauge whether a household has 'low income' and is likely to have 'high heating costs'.

2. B) Criteria for identifying 'low income and vulnerability to cold' (LIVC)

Wokingham Borough Council will assess whether a household is likely to be at risk of 'low income and vulnerability to cold' by 2 criteria elements.

a) The 'low income' element of criteria will be based on the household income threshold listed above; this means a household income totalling below £35,000 after taxes.

b) Persons vulnerable to cold

Wokingham Borough Council will target our scheme at households containing individuals with the following characteristics, which are based partly upon the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) 2015 guidance on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold homes:

- Cardiovascular Disease
- Respiratory Disease
- Pulmonary Disease
- Moderate to severe mental illness(e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar disorder)
- People with disabilities
- Aged over 65
- Children under 5
- Pregnant women
- People who move into and out of Homelessness
- People who have attended hospital due to a fall
- Recent immigrants and asylum seekers
- Substance misusers
- Dementia
- Cancer
- Neurobiological and immunodeficiency diseases
- Hemoglobinopathies
- Severe Learning Disabilities
- Autoimmune and other immunodeficiency diseases or a suppressed immune system(e.g. Lupus, MS, diabetes, HIV)

a) Governance

The following individual will be designated the 'Responsible Council Officer' and will have primary responsibility for signing declarations on behalf of the local authority:

Job title: Energy Officer

Council telephone number: 07714 226 772

Council Email address: matthew.johnston@wokingham.gov.uk

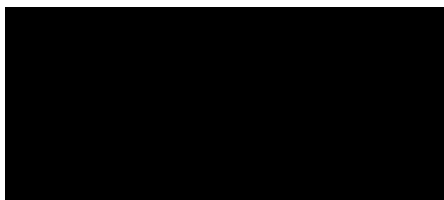
b) Referrals & Marketing

Referrals can be made from residents via front line staff or from any approved ECO provider approaching the responsible officer on behalf of a resident deemed likely to meet the criteria stated above. Wokingham Borough Council will aim to advertise its scheme where possible through our facilities to ensure an increased uptake within the borough.

c) Evidence, monitoring and reporting

- A) Data for residents seeking to be approved under ECO flexible eligibility criteria will be held on secure data systems by the ECO provider requesting LGA authority for LIVC flexible eligibility.
- B) Data on measures installed at a particular address will be provided to the council by the ECO supplier, including on the nature of works carried out.
- C) The data will be used by the council to prepare its HECA report and to report within the council internally regarding overall outcomes of the scheme.

Signature:



I hereby approve the implementation of Flexible Eligibility in the Wokingham Borough Council LGA area.

Chief Executive

Wokingham Borough Council

DATE: 28 September 2020