

Fuel Poverty & Energy Efficiency

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Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

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ECO is a government energy efficiency scheme. It aims to improve the least energy efficient homes. The scheme places a legal obligation on suppliers to reduce heating costs for low-income and vulnerable households by delivering energy efficiency and heating measures.

- Child Benefit
- Pension Guarantee Credit
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income Support
- Tax Credits (Child Tax Credits and Working Tax Credits)
- Universal Credit
- Housing benefit
- Pension credit saving credit
- Boiler / heating upgrades
- Insulation (wall, floor, roof and loft)
- Draught proofing
- Windows/doors

1) Does the property require any of the above measures, and 2) Is your tenant in receipt of?

Households that meet the eligibility criteria for ECO can apply through any of the obligated energy suppliers (energy companies), households can contact any energy supplier, they do not need to buy energy from them.

Link: [ECO - Guidance for homeowners and tenants | Ofgem](#)

Link: [ECO - List of obligated suppliers and contact details | Ofgem](#)

ECO4 Local Authority Flexible Eligibility (ECO4 LA Flex)

Households that are not eligible through the main ECO scheme may still be eligible under **ECO4 LA Flex**.

Under **ECO Flex**, Local Authorities (LAs) can issue declarations for private tenure households that's it considers to be living in fuel poverty or on a low income and vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home, LAs must publish a **Statement of Intent (Sol)** confirming their intent to participate in the scheme and the eligibility criteria.

Link to SOI: [City of Wolverhampton Council - Statement of Intent](#)

Link to webpage: [Energy Company Obligation \(ECO\) | City Of Wolverhampton Council](#)

Eligibility:

Route 1: Income less than £31,000 (EPC E-G households).

Route 2: Meeting a combination of x2 proxies below (EPC E-G households):

- Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA) - [postcode-lookup](#)
- Householders receiving a Council Tax rebate (excludes single person rebates).
- Householders vulnerable to living in a cold home as identified in the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance.
- A householder receiving free school meals due to low-income.
- 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 utility bills

Route 3: NHS Referrals (EPC E-G households) that that have been identified by their doctor or GP as low-income and vulnerable, with an occupant at risk and suffering from a severe and/or long-term health condition that falls under one of four umbrella conditions (cardiovascular, respiratory, immunosuppressed, or limited mobility).

Guidance for householders can be found of the Council's webpage confirming the process.

ECO4 will be a **4 year scheme** and is intended to run until March 2026. The scheme is administered by **Ofgem** and behalf of the **Department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)**.

City of Wolverhampton Council Involvement:

We limit our involvement to ECO4 LA Flex only and the declaration of eligibility and are not responsible for:

- Issuing funding
- Appointing contractors
- Installing the works
- Checking the quality of the completed work
- Completing applications

The Council do not endorse any company connected to the application process, installation of measures – this includes energy companies, ECO installers/contractors, grant agents.

Households will need to contact an energy supplier or ECO installer and should undertake any necessary checks to ensure they are happy with the company and the works and also obtain permission from their landlord.

All installers must be TrustMark accredited with a registration number. To check an installer visit [Find A TrustMark Trader](#).

Sustainable Warmth Competition

Local Authority Delivery (LAD3) and Home Upgrade Grant: Phase 1 (HUG1)

The Council has been allocated funding through the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) through the Sustainable Warmth Competition.

The funding is to upgrade private tenure homes both on and off gas by improving energy efficiency rating of low-income households.

Through the delivery of energy efficiency measures the programme will help to alleviate fuel poverty, cut energy bills, and save carbon.

Local Authority Delivery (LAD) 3

- Up to £10,000 of energy efficiency measures per household
- On-gas properties
- EPC rating D-G
- Private tenure
- Gross income under £31k

Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) 1

- up to £25,000 per household.
 - £15,000 for E rated properties
 - £20,000 for F rated properties
 - £25,000 for G rated properties
- Off-gas properties
- Private tenure
- Gross income under £31k

The Project has a delivery end date of 31 March 2023.

Future funding....

Home Upgrade Grant: Phase 2 (HUG2)

HUG2 scheme is expected to run from **April 2023 to March 2025**, will be a follow on from Home Upgrade Grant: Phase 1 (HUG1).

The scheme will support the **phase out of off-gas grid fossil fuels** and transition to low-carbon heating systems by funding energy efficiency and clean heating upgrades to:

- Fuel poor, private tenure, off-gas grid homes with EPC rating D or below

Potential opportunities for landlords to work with the Council to improve their properties and the homes of their tenants.

Landlord contributions: required to make a minimum contribution of one third towards the total cost of works, in line with the scheme's cost caps (for example, total works £3k, landlord contribution is £1k).

Eligibility: 4-property portfolio cap, meaning that only landlords who own 4 or fewer rental properties will be eligible for HUG2.

Link to webpage: [Home Upgrade Grant: Phase 2 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Above ALL subject to funding and GOV.UK guidance.

ECO+

ECO+ is a proposed new £1 billion scheme which will run from 2023-2026 and will be in addition to the current ECO4 & ECO4 LA Flex schemes.

The scheme will deliver rapid installation of energy efficiency measures to a wider pool of households, extending to those in least energy efficient homes in the lower Council Tax bands, as well as targeting the most vulnerable.

We now await further guidance to be released.

Link: [Government joins with households to help millions reduce their energy bills - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-joins-with-households-to-help-millions-reduce-their-energy-bills)
(www.gov.uk)

Useful links

- [GOV.UK | Find energy grants for your home \(Help to Heat\)](#)
Find out if your property is eligible for Help to Heat funding.
- [GOV.UK | Boiler Upgrade Scheme](#)
Eligible if you own the property you're applying for a property you rent out to tenants
- [GOV.UK | Find ways to save energy in your home](#)
Provides recommendations for home improvements that could make your property cheaper to heat and keep warm. For each recommendation you can see an estimated cost, how much you could save on your bills and next steps if you want to make the improvement
- [GOV.UK | Help for Households](#)
 - [Energy saving tips to save money - Help for Households](#)
 - [Help with your energy bills - Help for Households](#)
- [Energy Saving Trust](#)
- [GOV.UK | Find an energy certificate](#)