



Appendix 2:

Powys County Council Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent - Version 2

This statement sets out Powys County Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the ECO3: Help to Heat programme from April 2019 forward. The scheme is supported from the ECO commitment provided by utility companies and the availability of funding is beyond the control of Powys County Council and may be closed at any time. It aims to support households living in Powys who are most likely to experience fuel poverty and those vulnerable to the effects of a cold home.

Introduction - Powys County Council welcomes the introduction of Flexible Eligibility and intends to utilise it for the purposes of reducing fuel poverty and tackling hard to heat homes across the county.

What is flexible eligibility - Local Authorities working with Energy suppliers obligated under ECO, have the opportunity to extend eligibility criteria for energy efficiency measures to households not covered by existing schemes of support.

Identifying households - Funding is only available for owner occupiers and private tenants. Qualification for the scheme is restricted to those **in fuel poverty** (spending more than 10% of income on household fuel). Eligibility will be determined by criteria listed below and requires a signed declaration by the owner/tenant.

Qualifying measures - The energy efficiency measures that can be installed in eligible properties include new central heating systems, heating upgrades and insulation.

Contractors – Only agents identified on the authorities list of known contractors currently published on the council's website may submit applications to the council. The council reserves the right to suspend, remove or bar any agent from the scheme without notice where we suspect conditions have been breached. Additional terms and conditions will be imposed on companies on this list at the council's discretion, to be detailed as part of a tender or otherwise.

Liabilities -

Powys County Council accept no responsibility or liability resulting from any negative consequence, damage or loss arising from an ECO FLEX grant being accepted or arising from works or efforts connected to the preparation, application or survey prior to a grant.

Powys County Council do not endorse any specific energy supplier, grant agent, installer or company connected to the application or installation of ECO flex grants or products. This also applies to those identified on the published list of known contractors.

In the event of liability against an agent/contractor, the maximum liability the council would entertain is for the refund of the declaration fee.

Any grievance or issue raised against grant works or application process, should be taken up with the installing party / agent / financier. Powys County Council's involvement in the scheme is limited to the declaration of eligibility for a grant, should you wish to have the declaration explained in further detail, please email - privatesectorhousing@powys.gov.uk

Final decision - The decision on whether a household receives a measure under flexible eligibility or other ECO funding streams will be made by the **energy supplier** or their **agent/contractor**. Qualification in the statement of intent or the Declaration by Powys County Council will **NOT** guarantee installation of any measures, as the final decision will **lie with the supplier**.

Any declaration issued under a previous Powys County Council statement of intent, shall remain valid under any subsequent version. A replacement declaration may be reissued for the purpose of correcting or updating a previous declaration. Any installs performed under a declaration certificate issued under a previous statement of intent, shall comply with the charges and fees of said statement.

Question 1 - Qualifying Criteria

To qualify:

- i) You must be in fuel poverty (whereby you spend 10% or more of your income on fuel) demonstrated via self-disclosure of gross household income (rounded to the nearest £500), and self-disclosure of household heating expenses (rounded to the nearest £250).
- ii) In addition to point i) the property must have a current EPC rating of **F or G**. An **E** rating will also be accepted where an occupant meets a qualifying vulnerability as identified in question 2 below.

(All EPC scores will be taken at face value from www.epcregister.com any property with an expired EPC will be considered to have no EPC.)

If the property has no EPC then it must score 15 points or more in Table 1 below;
If the property scores more than 10 points, it can also be accepted where an occupant meets a qualifying vulnerability as identified in question 2 below.

Properties with an EPC of A, B, C or D will not qualify. Properties scoring below 15 points, or below 10 without a vulnerability will not qualify.

Table 1 - Property Condition

| House features | Type | Points | Tick box | Score |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|----------|-------|
| Bedrooms | 1 | 1 | | |
| | 2 | 2 | | |
| | 3+ | 3 | | |
| Household occupants | 1 | 1 | | |
| | 2 | 2 | | |
| | 3+ | 3 | | |
| Loft Insulation | None | 5 | | |
| | Up to 150mm | 3 | | |
| | 150mm and above | 1 | | |
| Wall Type | System built | 5 | | |
| | Solid stone/brick | 3 | | |
| | Cavity construction/Unknown | 1 | | |
| Wall insulation | External | 1 | | |
| | Internal | 1 | | |
| | Cavity | 2 | | |
| | None | 5 | | |
| Heating fuel | Mains gas | 1 | | |
| | Oil | 2 | | |
| | LPG | 3 | | |
| | Electric | 5 | | |
| | Solid fuel | 5 | | |
| Central Heating system age | Less than 10 years old | 1 | | |
| | Over ten years old | 3 | | |
| | Broken system | 5 | | |
| | No system | 5 | | |
| | | | Total | |

Question 2 - Client Vulnerability

(Demonstration of a vulnerability is not necessary if the property has an EPC of F or G or No EPC and more than 15 points)

If it is necessary to demonstrate that householders are at a greater risk to the effects of living in a cold home, Powys County Council adopt the following approach:

Powys County Council will target households containing people from the following list, which reflects the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) 2015 guidance on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold homes.

'Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes' states that: a wide range of people are at greater risk to the cold. This is either because of a medical condition, such as heart disease; a disability that, for instance, stops people moving around to keep warm, or makes them more likely to develop chest infections; or personal circumstances, such as being unable to afford to keep warm enough.

A member of the household is/has

- i. Aged over 60 (proof of age necessary)
- ii. Children under 5 and those in primary and secondary school education or is pregnant
- iii. Respiratory disease (COPD, asthma)
- iv. Cardiovascular disease (e.g. ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease)
- v. Moderate to severe mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar disorder)
- vi. Substance misusers
- vii. Dementia
- viii. Neurobiological and related diseases (e.g. fibromyalgia, ME)
- ix. Cancer
- x. Limited mobility
- xi. Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia)
- xii. Severe learning disabilities
- xiii. Autoimmune and immunodeficiency diseases (e.g. lupus, MS, diabetes, HIV)

Signed declaration by doctor or health practitioner necessary to confirm any health related issues listed above (iii – xiii).

Governance

The following Private Sector Housing Officers will be responsible for signing declarations on behalf of the Local Authority -

Private Sector Housing Lead, Environmental Health Officer, Housing Standards & Improvement Officer, Affordable Warmth & Renewable Energy Officer.

Cost Associated with Powys Declaration

The administration charge levied by Powys County Council in providing the declaration necessary for clients to access the ECO Flexible Eligibility scheme is £125 plus vat. This charge must be paid by the energy supplier or their agent submitting the application to the council and may **NOT**, under any circumstances, be passed on to the client receiving assistance via the scheme. This fee applies to every individual application the council receives, irrelevant of whether the job is later cancelled or withdrawn. The client shall not be subject to any fee, should they withdraw from the process at any point.

No fee of any kind may be levied on the client, other than a contribution towards the costs of work. A contribution fee may only be requested from the client, should the agent consider a contribution is necessary to cover a shortfall between the amount of money required for works and actual grant available. Any contribution fee may only be requested with payment expected on completion of install via submission to the client of a formal written invoice. The client must be made aware of this beforehand and be given the chance to withdraw from the process at no cost, should they not wish to proceed.

Clients may be charged a fee to perform a new EPC survey if necessary, as this is considered to be separate from the application and delivery process. The fee for performing this shall not exceed £100 including vat.

Monitoring

Information regarding the number of households contacted and eligible for ECO Flexible Eligibility, together with the number of ECO Flexible Eligibility funded measures installed along with numbers of homes improved will be recorded by Powys County Council. This information must be supplied by agents on request.

Enactment -

Signature: xxxxxxxx

Date: xxxx

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, Powys County Council

URL of published Statement of intent – xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Publication date - xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx