

Isle of Wight Council ECO Flexibility: Statement of Intent

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1) Introduction

The Isle of Wight Council is keen to ensure that all residents in fuel poverty have access to support under the Energy Companies Obligation (ECO) Help to Heat scheme. ECO funds energy efficiency measures to provide affordable warmth and reduce carbon emissions. Changes to the scheme introduced in April 2017, and known as 'Flexible Eligibility', allow local authorities to define a broader set of eligibility criteria so that certain households not in receipt of means-tested benefits now have access to ECO funding. The Isle of Wight Council is taking advantage of this new flexibility and introducing two schemes for households in **private tenure** (owner occupied or private rented) as follows:

1. **Fuel Poverty Scheme** – for households having difficulty affording to heat their homes to adequate levels.
2. **'In-fill' Scheme** – to allow solid wall insulation to take place in groups of properties where only some of the residents currently qualify for ECO support.

It should be noted that the final decision on whether a household receives an ECO measure is made by the energy suppliers or their agents/contractors. The Council cannot, therefore, guarantee the installation of measures, as the final decision will depend on i) a survey carried out by suppliers' agents/contractors and installation costs calculated, ii) the energy savings that can be achieved for a property, and iii) whether suppliers have achieved their targets or require further measures to meet their ECO targets.

2) How we intend to identify eligible households

(a) Criteria for identifying private households in fuel poverty

There are two fuel poverty schemes, depending on whether the property has an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) or not:

Scheme 1 (for properties with an EPC)

Income qualification – depending on the composition of the household, qualification will be achieved if income, after housing costs, is less than the figure shown in the table below:

Household composition	Annual household income after housing costs (2019)	Monthly household income Equivalent after housing costs (2019)
1 adult	£9,300	£775
and 1 child	£12,200	£1,017
and 2 children	£15,000	£1,250
and three children	£18,000	£1,500
and four or more children	£21,000	£1,750
2 adults	£15,200	£1,267
and 1 child	£18,200	£1,517
and 2 children	£21,100	£1,758
and three children	£24,100	£2,008
and four or more children	£26,800	£2,233

Plus

High fuel cost qualification - an existing EPC of D-G.

The household will qualify if it meets **both** the income and high fuel cost qualification.

Scheme 2 (for properties without an EPC)

Income qualification – depending on the composition of the household, qualification will be achieved if income, after housing costs, is less than the figure shown in the table below:

Household composition	Annual household income after housing costs (2019)	Monthly household income Equivalent after housing costs (2019)
1 adult	£9,300	£775
and 1 child	£12,200	£1,017
and 2 children	£15,000	£1,250
and three children	£18,000	£1,500
and four or more children	£21,000	£1,750
2 adults	£15,200	£1,267
and 1 child	£18,200	£1,517
and 2 children	£21,100	£1,758
and three children	£24,100	£2,008
and four or more children	£26,800	£2,233

Plus

High fuel cost qualification – use of questionnaire as shown below with a score of **-10 or more (for clarity, a score of -15 would not qualify whilst a score of -5 or +2, for example, would qualify)**. Reflecting local priorities, households containing ex-service personnel or carers will attract a score of 15 points:

Question	Response	Score
How many bedrooms are there in the home?	1	0
	2	10
	3	17
	4	27
	5 or more	36
	No response	17
Are energy payments made by Direct Debit?	Yes	-7
	No	0
	No response	-7
What type of house is it?	Semi detached	-4
	Detached	6
	Mid Terrace	-10
	End Terrace	-4
	Converted Flat	-9
	Purpose built flat, high rise	-20
	Purpose built flat, low rise	-34
	Bungalow	0
	No response	-4
Was the home built before 1964?	Yes	17
	No	0
	No response	17
What is the main fuel type?	Gas	-14
	Electricity	0
	Oil	12
	LPG	12
	Coal	12
	Other	-10
Does at least one member of the household spend most of the day in the home?	Yes	1
	No	0
Are you a Carer	Yes	15
	No	0
	Yes	15

Are you ex-Services personnel	No	0
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The household will qualify if it meets **both** the income and high fuel cost qualification.

(b) Details of scheme requirements for Solid Wall Insulation (SWI) “in-fill” projects

In order to encourage multi-property solid wall insulation projects in private tenure, the Isle of Wight Council will provide declarations for households that are **not** living in fuel poverty (FP) in certain limited circumstances. These properties are known as “in-fill”.

Where a household does not meet the criteria for FP, the council will declare a household as “in-fill” where they are:

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

In-fill only applies to SWI projects where a minimum percentage of households are in FP. These requirements are summarised as follows:

Table 1 - Summary of the requirements for property types under ‘in-fill’

Property Type	Declaration Requirements	In-fill available
Project consisting of a pair of semi-detached houses or bungalows , or a building containing no more than two domestic premises .	At least one of the two properties must be declared by the council as FP (i.e. 50% of the properties are FP).	The other private property to which it is directly adjoined is eligible for solid wall insulation.
Project consisting of any premises that are contained in the same building (e.g. flats), immediately adjacent buildings (e.g. neighbouring properties) or in the same terrace .	At least half of the properties on the list must be declared by the council as FP (i.e. at least 50% of the properties are FP).	The other half of private properties in the project are eligible for solid wall insulation, provided they are either in the same building, an immediately adjacent building or in the same terrace as the ones identified as FP.

If any of the FP properties named on the declaration are removed from a project for any reason, this will not invalidate the eligibility of any of the private properties identified as in-fill on the same declaration.

3) Governance

The council's ECO Flexibility Scheme will be delivered through Warm Up Wight, Distinction Energy and City Energy Networks Ltd, all of which have achieved the Isle of Wight Council's approval under its ECO Code of Conduct. Warm up Wight has been in operation on the Island since May 2016 and is delivered by J&J Crump & Son Limited. The Distinction Energy scheme launched in summer 2020. City Energy's 'Warmer Wight – Heat & Save' scheme was approved in December 2021.

All applicants for ECO funding will receive a home visit from a Warm Up Wight, Distinction Energy or City Energy surveyor during which income and property eligibility for ECO funding will be assessed. If the householder qualifies under the ECO Flexibility criteria specified in this Statement, the council will sign a Declaration to that effect. The Declaration will be signed by Alan Barnes, Commissioner for Housing Renewal, alan.barnes@iow.gov.uk

The Declaration is confirmation that the household qualifies for ECO under the flexible eligibility rules. However, this is not a guarantee of funding since that will depend on both a technical survey of the property and the availability of funding from a fuel supplier as outlined in section 1.

4) Referrals

Households can refer themselves for ECO funding by contacting Warm Up Wight using any of the following methods:

Telephone: 0800 032 8322
Email: warmupwight@jjcrump.co.uk
Online: www.warmupwight.co.uk

Or Distinction Energy:

Telephone: 07720 202213
Email: cp@distinctionenergy.co.uk

Or City Energy 'Warmer Wight – Heat and Save':

Telephone: 029 2049 9183
Email: info@cityenergy.co.uk
Online: www.cityenergy.co.uk

The Footprint Trust charity has been working on the Island for many years supporting those in fuel poverty. If you would like to discuss the ECO schemes or any issue relating to home heating, contact the Footprint Trust on 01983 822282, info@footprint-trust.co.uk or www.footprint-trust.co.uk

The council is keen to develop a wider referral network to maximise the benefit of the ECO Flexibility Scheme and to reach households in need. People working with vulnerable residents can refer them directly to the scheme or, if you would like more information, contact Jim Fawcett, Principal Officer (Low Carbon Projects), Isle of Wight Council 01983 821000 x6302, jim.fawcett@iow.gov.uk

5) Evidence, monitoring and reporting

The council will monitor the effectiveness of the Flexibility Scheme in reaching households in need and will, if necessary, modify the scheme accordingly. This can be done at any time.

Through its existing arrangements with Warm Up Wight, Distinction Energy and City Energy, the council will receive regular reports on the number of households supported through ECO Flexibility, the measures that have been installed and the effects of these in terms of estimated fuel cost savings and carbon reduction.

In providing information on household status and income, the applicant will be asked to sign a declaration to confirm that the information is true and accurate. Checks may be carried out by the council and its agents.

As the information will need to be shared between numerous agencies, applicants will also be asked to sign a Privacy Notice and Consent Statement which the Warm Up Wight / Distinction Energy / City Energy surveyor will explain. All information collected will be handled in accordance with Data Protection regulations.

6) Expiry

This Statement of Intent is valid until 30th June 2022.

7) Signature



Name: Wendy Perera

Position: Assistant Chief Executive

Date: 3rd May 2022