



CONWY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ENERGY COMPANY OBLIGATION STATEMENT OF INTENT

Date of Publication:

Version Number: V1

Publication on Website:

1. INTRODUCTION

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is a government energy efficiency scheme to help reduce the carbon emission and reduce the number of households in fuel poverty. ECO Flexible Eligibility has been recently introduced to enable us as a local authority to engage with the energy companies on a new flexible criteria approach, to enable the energy suppliers to meet their obligations and to support households within fuel poverty or with occupants on low incomes and vulnerable to the effects of cold homes.

The final decision on whether a household receives an ECO measures is made by the energy suppliers or their installers/contractors. Please note that inclusion in a Declaration made by Conwy County Borough Council to a supplier will not guarantee ECO Funding, as the final decision will depend on;

- i) Survey carried out by suppliers installers/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.

ECO funding may not cover the full cost of measures, however households must be informed of any contribution required and agree in advance before any work is carried out.

CCBC expects any obligated energy supplier, or contractor to comply with the Data Protection Act and to follow Ofgem requirements for the Energy Company Obligation Help to Heat. They would also need to act in accordance with industry best practice in relation to consumer care and quality standards of any works that may take place.

2. HOW WE INTEND TO IDENTIFY ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS

CCBC will target high cost energy efficient and homes with;

- i) Poor energy performance homes
- ii) Households with low income and have health conditions, being particularly vulnerable to cold
- iii) Within designated low income areas

Only private owners and occupiers will be able to apply for this funding. The qualification criteria are listed below and will require a signed declaration by the property owner.

3. QUALIFYING CRITERIA

Households with high energy cost or are vulnerable to the effects of a cold home

Households must satisfy criteria i) or ii & iii) to qualify.

- i) Households with high costs;
The property must have a rating of E, F or G on a recent Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) or have a score of greater than or equal to 15 points in Table 1 below
or
- ii) Households who meet the low income threshold, refer to Table 2 below;
And
- iii) Households that are vulnerable to the effects of a cold home, refer to Table 3 below;

3.1. Household with High Cost

Property Details	Type	Points	Tick box	Score
Number of Bedrooms	1	1		
	2	2		
	3 +	3		
Number of people living in the property	1	1		
	2	2		
	3 +	3		
How much Loft Insulation is present	None	3		
	Up to 150mm	2		
	250mm and above	1		
What is the Wall Type	System built	3		
	Solid stone/brick	2		
	Cavity construction	1		
How much Wall insulation is present	External	1		
	Internal	1		
	Cavity	2		
	None	3		
What Heating fuel is used within the property	Mains gas	1		
	Oil	2		
	LPG	3		
	Electric	5		
	Solid fuel	5		
Is there a Central Heating system within the property and what age is this	Less than 10 years old	1		
	Over ten years old	3		
	Broken system	5		
	No system	5		
TOTAL				

3.2. Identifying low income households

The Council will use the table issued in the guidance for identifying the low income households (BEIS April 2017 ECO flex Guidance) as detailed below;

Income thresholds broadly consistent with those used under the Low Income High Costs indicator (2014)²³ inflated to represent 2017/18 prices.

Household composition	Annual household income	Monthly household income equivalent
1 adult (18 years and over)	£8,900	£740
and 1 child	£11,700	£980
and 2 children	£14,400	£1,200
and three children	£17,300	£1,440
and four or more children	£20,100	£1,680
2 adults (18 years and over)	£14,600	£1,220
and 1 child	£17,400	£1,450
and 2 children	£20,200	£1,680
and three children	£23,100	£1,930
and four or more children	£25,700	£2,140

Using the responses to the following questions, the household income threshold level will be determined;

Question 1 – How many people over the age of 18 normally live in your property, including yourself?

Question 2 – How many people under the age of 18 normally live in your property?

Question 3 – After paying rent or mortgage how much income does your household usually have left each month?

The income threshold will be determined based on the relevant household composition thresholds on the specified table less the household's rent/mortgage costs. This establishes whether the household's income, after housing costs is above or below the low income threshold.

If households are determined to have a lower income than what is specified on the income threshold table then they will move on to Table 3 which is to determine whether they are considered to be vulnerable to living in a cold home.

3.3. Identifying vulnerability to cold

Table 3 – Client Vulnerability	
A member of the household is/has	
1	Aged over 60 (proof of age necessary)
2	Children in education or a pregnant mother
3	Respiratory conditions (in particular, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma)
4	Cardiovascular conditions (e.g. ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease)
5	Moderate to severe mental illness or conditions (e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar disorder)
6	Substance misusers
7	Dementia
8	Neurobiological and related diseases (e.g. fibromyalgia, ME)
9	Terminally ill / Cancer
10	People with disabilities
11	Haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease, thalassaemia)
12	Severe learning disabilities
13	Autoimmune and immunodeficiency diseases (e.g. lupus, MS, diabetes, HIV)
14	People with addictions
15	People who have attended hospital due to a fall
16	Recent immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees (if living in private tenure)
17	People who move in and out of homelessness

A signed declaration by doctor or health practitioner to confirm health related issues 3 - 13.

The qualifying health conditions that are considered to make households vulnerable to cold are based upon those reflected within the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) 2015 Guidance on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold homes.

To qualify as being vulnerable to cold, households must have met at least one of the above health conditions. Any referral received that does not meet the above criteria will be considered by CCBC on a case by case basis.

Solid Wall Insulation “in-fill” projects

Where potential works have been identified households will be supported to take advantage of funding for solid wall insulation under “in-fill” category as set out in the BEIS guidance issued April 2017.

3.4 Households living within most deprived areas

The household is located within the 10% most deprived LSOA's from the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation Income domain. These LSOA's are the following (WIMD 2014):

Name	Code
Abergele Pensarn 2	W01001928
Glyn (Conwy) 2	W01000144
Tudno 2	W01000187
Llysfaen 1	W01000163

OR

Households living within a Targeted Regeneration Investment programme or similar area based schemes.

Solid Wall Insulation "in-fill" projects

Where potential works have been identified households will be supported to take advantage of funding for solid wall insulation under "in-fill" category as set out in the BEIS guidance issued April 2017.

3.5 Households identified as living in areas of severe fuel poverty via the Welsh Government's Arbed programme

Arbed am Byth have been appointed by the Welsh Government to deliver the Arbed, an area-based programme that sets out to alleviate and where possible eradicate fuel poverty across Wales. The aim of the programme is to provide a suite of measures, based on a whole house assessment, to improve the energy efficiency of properties in areas of severe fuel poverty.

In order to establish whether an area is in severe fuel poverty Arbed am Byth along with their lead subcontractor, The Carbon Trust, model against the following criteria and make an assessment.

(Note – not an exhaustive list and not all indicators need to be present for all schemes to demonstrate fuel poverty):

- a. Hard to heat (EFG EPC ratings)
- b. Hard to heat (archetype)
- c. Gas connection status
- d. Exposure Zone
- e. Poor health (Census)
- f. WIMD (income, employment, health, education and housing domains)
- g. Benefits (Council Tax, Housing Benefit, JSA, ESA & Incapacity benefits, Lone parents, Carers, Disabled, other income related benefits, other out of work benefits)
- h. Free school meals (% of children eligible/ receiving free school meals in local school/s)
- i. Need for local support groups (e.g. Flying start, food banks, fuel banks, etc.)
- j. HHSRS Category 1 hazards for Excess cold (e.g. high number of reports into the local authority for the archetype/s in the proposed scheme)

If this assessment provides evidence of severe fuel poverty Arbed am Byth then develop a highly detailed scheme proposal that indicates which measures need to be installed in order to lift the client out of fuel poverty. The Welsh Government oversee this process from an audit perspective to ensure they are comfortable with the investment being requested.

4 GOVERNANCE

The officers below will be responsible for signing declarations on behalf of the local authority.

- Ivor Jones - Housing Improvements Manager
- Siân Anwyl Jones - Housing Improvements Technical Surveyor

Note: Please allow 14 days for the declarations to be signed.

4. REFERRALS

From time to time referrals may come from various sources that are not currently defined.

5. EVIDENCE, MONITORING AND REPORTING

Information will be recorded on the number of unique contacts/referrals made to CCBC for ECO Flexible Eligibility and will be included in their annual performance reports to the Housing Team. This information will be split into those who are ineligible for assistance, and those who are eligible under the criteria for fuel poverty or for qualifying as low income, vulnerable to living in a cold home or in living in a deprived area.

Information will also be recorded on the type and number of measures funded and installed to eligible households under this scheme, the value of those measures and estimates of the anticipated financial and/or carbon savings they are expected to make.

6. SIGNATURE



Iwan Davies, Chief Executive
Conwy County Borough Council

Date: 6th March 2019