



Energy Company Obligation (ECO3): Help to Heat

Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

St Albans City and District Council [06/04/2021] VERSION 6

1) Introduction

St Albans City and District Council is working in partnership with YES Energy Solutions and the National Energy Foundation (NEF) to provide the St Albans Warmer Homes scheme. This is a District-wide scheme to support households in or near fuel poverty or vulnerable to the cold, to receive energy efficiency interventions that improve health and wellbeing outcomes and fuel efficiency of their homes. This partnership will be used to deliver Local Authority Flexibility.

As set out in the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2018: Help to Heat Local Authority Flexible Eligibility ('ECO flex') criteria is only applicable and relevant to private tenure households (i.e. private rented sector and owner occupier sector). Social housing is excluded from flexible eligibility.

2) Benefits:

The St Albans Warmer Homes scheme contributes towards the following priorities:

- It contributes to the following St Albans City and District Council's [Corporate Plan](#) priority outcomes to Manage the Climate Emergency; Support our communities; and Be a business-friendly Council
- It helps fulfil St Albans City and District Council's objectives in our developing [Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy](#) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the District
- It contributes to the goal of improving physical health and wellbeing across St Albans and Hertfordshire, including the objectives to reduce the number of excess winter deaths and reducing inequalities in health outcomes and life expectancy between most and least affluent.

3) How the Local Authority intends to identify eligible households

St Albans City and District Council wish to utilise ECO Flex to its fullest to help St Albans Warmer Homes achieve its aims and reach a wide number of residents.

It should be noted that the final decision on whether any individual household will benefit from energy saving improvements rests with obligated energy suppliers or their contractors. Inclusion in a Declaration of Eligibility issued by the Council to a supplier will not guarantee installation of measures.

The final decision will depend on:

- i) identification of measures eligible under Help to Heat;

- ii) the supplier's assessment of the cost-effectiveness of installing measures in relation to achieving its obligation; and
- iii) Whether the supplier has achieved their targets or requires further measures to meet their Energy Company Obligation targets.

To be eligible the applicant must meet criterion 1 AND either criteria a) OR b) in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Criteria for identifying households living in fuel poverty OR low income and vulnerable to cold.

Eligibility	Criteria
1.Low Income	Gross household disposable income (after rent or mortgage has been paid) is less than £20,000 per annum and savings are less than £25,000
AND either	
a) High energy costs	Property with at least one of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100mm or less loft insulation • Unfilled cavity walls • Uninsulated non-cavity walls • No working central heating or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPC rating of D or below
OR	
b) At least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) health condition made worse by the cold ii) vulnerable to the cold a home-owner or those on a private tenancy agreement (or member of the household) is in receipt of long-term health or disability benefit	Resident or full-time household member either has/is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) health condition made worse by the cold as defined in table 2 below or ii) vulnerable to the cold as defined by table 2 below iii) one of the following eligible benefits: Carer's Allowance, A Disability Benefit (incl. Attendance Allowance, Disabled Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment)

Table 2 Eligible health conditions and those vulnerable to the cold

a) Health conditions made worse by the cold	b) Vulnerable to the cold
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Cardiovascular conditions (e.g. coronary heart disease, stroke, hypertension, transient ischemic attack) II. Respiratory conditions (e.g. chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and childhood asthma) III. Neurological or neurobiological condition (e.g. dementia, Parkinson's disease, MS, epilepsy, fibromyalgia, ME) IV. Musculoskeletal conditions (e.g. arthritis, limited mobility) V. Blood conditions (e.g. Sickle cell disease, thalassemia) VI. Moderate to severe mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression where receiving regular treatment) VII. Severe learning disabilities VIII. Autoimmune or immunodeficiency diseases (e.g. lupus, diabetes, HIV) IX. Terminally ill 	Full time resident who is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Aged over 65, particularly those over 75 ii. Aged under 5 iii. Pregnant iv. Have substance addictions v. Have attended hospital due to a fall in the last year vi. Diagnosed with dementia vii. Are recent immigrants or asylum seekers

X. Suppressed immune systems (e.g. from cancer treatment or HIV) XI. Other illness exacerbated by cold (confirmed by GP) XII. Entitled to free prescriptions where otherwise chargeable	
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Source: Adapted from National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Quality Statement and guidance 2015 on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold

4) Governance

The St Albans Warmer Homes Assessor (provided by YES Energy Solutions) will receive, log and follow-up initial referrals. The Assessor will check if the client is potentially eligible for ECO Flex and request relevant supporting information. Once provided, the Assessor will liaise with the Local Authority to obtain a signed 'Local Authority Declaration' confirming eligibility.

Responsible officers

The officer(s) below will be responsible for signing Declarations on behalf of the local authority:

- John Frost | Private Sector Housing Officer | 01727 819 443 | john.frost@stalbans.gov.uk
- Candice Luper | Sustainability Projects Officer | 01727 819466 | Candice.Luper@stalbans.gov.uk

5) Referrals and Declaration Requests

This SOI relates to the St Albans Warmer Homes scheme managed primarily by YES Energy Solutions. All customer referrals should be identified through the St Albans Warmer Homes scheme by calling YES Energy on 01422 880100.

Other installers wishing to use this SOI to qualify residents for ECO will need to join the NEF's Supplier Network. For information on how to register with NEF contact suppliernetwork@nef.org.uk

6) Evidence, monitoring and reporting

YES Energy will provide the central administration and management of Energy Company Obligation flexible eligibility for the St Albans Warmer Homes Scheme. The scheme reports on ECO Flex activity including SOI qualifying reason, household information and installation progress.

For any ECO Flex installations outside the scope of the St Albans Warmer Homes scheme. NEF will provide reports on declarations issued to members of their Supplier Network including qualifying reason, household information, estimated savings and installation progress.

7) Grants and Top-ups

The Council does not provide any financial top-up support to applicants. We do have a relationship with a grant-making charity (The Older People's Trust) who may contribute to cover some or all the outstanding amount if that applicant is over 60 years old and deemed to meet their criteria.

Each case will be reviewed on its own merits and if a customer does not meet the above income and saving guidelines but has particular circumstances such as high housing costs or high care costs, the Older People's Trust may choose to still give a grant towards partially funding the item.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF ST ALBANS CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL by

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Signature:

Chief Executive Officer
Date: 06 May 2021