

Carmarthenshire County Council Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent.

This statement sets out Carmarthenshire County Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the ECO: Help to Heat programme from August 2018 forward. The scheme will be subject to funding and may be closed at any time. It aims to support households living in Carmarthenshire who are most likely to experience fuel poverty and those vulnerable to the effects of a cold home.

Introduction - Carmarthenshire County Council welcomes the introduction of Flexible Eligibility and intends to utilise it for the purposes of reducing fuel poverty within the county. The Council has worked for many years to improve homes across Carmarthenshire with the aim of increasing energy efficiency and reducing fuel poverty.

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 private owner occupiers and private rented tenants. Qualification of flexible eligibility in Carmarthenshire 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 property owner.

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

Contractors - Energy suppliers and/or their agents involved with flexible eligibility surveys and identified works, will be expected to comply with the Data Protection Act. They will need to undertake work in accordance with Ofgem requirements and act in accordance with industry best practice in relation to consumer care and quality standards.

Cost Associated with Carmarthenshire Declaration - The administration charge levied by Carmarthenshire County Council in providing the declaration necessary for clients to access the ECO Flexible Eligibility scheme is £150. This charge must be paid by the energy supplier or their agent on completion of works and may **NOT** under any circumstances, be passed on to the client receiving assistance via the scheme.

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 Carmarthenshire County Council will **NOT** guarantee installation of any measures, as the final decision will **lie with the supplier**.

Question 1 - Qualifying Criteria

To qualify:

- i) You must indicate you are in fuel poverty by answering **yes** to the initial qualifying question and sign the declaration at the end of the form.
- ii) The property must be rated an **F or G** on an **EPC** or score **15 points or more** in Table 1 below; or.
- iii) the property must have a rating of an **E** on an EPC or have a score between **10 and 14** points in Table 1 below **and** a member of the household is **vulnerable** and at greater risk

due to living in a cold property. Vulnerability is ascertained by answering **yes** to one or more of the situations/conditions in Question 2.

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

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

Carmarthenshire 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 -

Home Improvement Agency Manager
Home Improvement Team Leader

Monitoring

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 Carmarthenshire County Council.

Signature:

Date:

Head of Homes & Safer Communities, Carmarthenshire County Council

Carmarthenshire 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.

Carmarthenshire 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.

Any grievance or issue raised against grant works or application process, should be taken up with the installing party / agent / financier. Carmarthenshire County Council limit our involvement to the declaration of eligibility for a grant, should you wish to have the declaration explained in further detail, please email – hit@carmarthenshire.gov.uk