

Making Homes Warmer Forever

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Agenda

- Who is Energy Projects Plus?
- Energy efficiency Grants & Schemes
- How can Energy Projects Plus help?

Agenda

- Who is Energy Projects Plus?

WHO IS ENERGY PROJECTS PLUS?

We're a Wirral-based, award-winning charity. We've been providing free advice and support to the residents of Merseyside & Cheshire since 1996.

Our dual charitable aims are:

- a) Reduce fuel poverty**
- b) Mitigate the impact of climate change**

Both of these aims reduce energy bills.

WHO IS ENERGY PROJECTS PLUS?

In a typical year, we support around 8,000 households to reduce their household energy consumption and bills, while keeping warm and well at home through Winter.

Our headline outputs are:

- **£1m in financial benefit***
- **1,000 lifetime tonnes of CO₂e savings**

*Through a combination of energy bill reduction, cost savings (e.g. free boiler installation) and increased income.

Agenda

- Energy efficiency Grants & Schemes

GRANTS AND SCHEMES

National Grants and Schemes

BOILER UPGRADE SCHEME

Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS)

A key element of the UK's pledge to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050 is the decarbonisation of heat.



This scheme provides grants towards the cost of swapping gas central heating boiler with a low carbon alternative.

£7,500 is available towards Air Source Heat Pumps

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-boiler-upgrade-scheme>

ECO4**ECO4**

Starting with ECO1 in 2013, the “Energy Company Obligation” requires energy suppliers to commit millions of pounds to install energy efficient home improvements, through [Trustmark](#) accredited contractors.

3 aspects must be eligible

- The property
- The resident
- The improvement measures requested

ECO4

Property Eligibility

ECO4 is an energy-efficiency drive, so properties that are already deemed to be efficient will not have funds allocated to them.

Around half of all domestic properties have an Energy Performance Certificate. Where this shows the property is rated **E-G** (G being the worst), it is potentially in scope for ECO4 improvements.

ECO4**Property Eligibility**

HMOs are deemed to be one property, under the scheme.

This means only one of your tenants needs to qualify under the “Resident Eligibility” section, and they can open up improvements for the whole property.

There would of course need to be a lot more landlord involvement, to ensure the surveyors and contractors can gain access to all rooms.

ECO4**Resident Eligibility**

There are two groups who are eligible for ECO4:

- 1) “Help to Heat” group
- 2) Those deemed eligible by their Local Authority, through
“Local Authority Flexible Eligibility” (LA Flex)

ECO4

“Help to Heat” group

These are residents in receipt of means-tested benefits:

- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- Income Related Employment & Support Allowance (ESA)
- Income Support (IS)
- Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit (WTC)
- Universal Tax Credit (UC)
- Child Tax Credit (CTC)
- Housing Benefits
- Child Benefits, plus “low income”

ECO4**“Help to Heat” group**

Low income, based on household composition:

Household Composition	Maximum Income
You and 1 child	£19,900
You and 2 children	£24,800
You and 3 children	£29,600
You and 4+ children	£34,500
A couple and 1 child	£27,500
A couple and 2 children	£32,300
A couple and 3 children	£37,200
A couple and 4+ children	£42,000

ECO4

“LA Flex”

There are 3 “routes” through which a contractor can apply to the Local Authority, for a resident to be deemed eligible for ECO4:

Application Process

- Grant Store Ltd is Cheshire West & Chester’s appointed delivery partner:
- <https://grant-store.com/energy-grants/cheshire-flex/>

ECO4**Route 1: Low Income**

- Gross, total household income less than £31,000

ECO4**Route 2: “Fuel Poverty Proxies”**

- Households must meet two of the following proxies of fuel poverty (Note: Proxies 1 & 3 can't be used together):
 1. Top 30% most deprived neighbourhoods
 2. Resident receiving Council Tax Rebate
 3. Vulnerable to cold, as per NICE guidance
 4. Household receiving free school meals
 5. Household being supported by Local Authority
 6. Household being supported by Citizens Advice

ECO4**Route 3: “Health Referrals”**

- Support for an occupant having a severe and/or long-term health condition that falls under one of the four umbrella conditions:
 - Cardiovascular
 - Respiratory
 - Immunosuppressed
 - Limited mobility

ECO4**Route 3: “Health Referrals”**

- Confirmation letter must be signed on behalf of one of the following:
 - NHS Trust
 - NHS Foundation Trust
 - A general medical practitioner provider
 - A Health Board
 - A Local Health Board

ECO4

Measure eligibility

- Measures available through ECO4 include:

Measures	Tenure Type
Measure Description	Private Rented Sector (PRS)
	SAP Band E to G
First time central heating	✓
Electric Storage Heater	✓
External/Internal Wall Insulation	✓

GREAT BRITISH INSULATION SCHEME

Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS)

Formerly known as “ECO+” the Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS) supports residents who aren’t eligible for funding through ECO.



A single insulation measure can be offered to residents who:

- Live in Council Tax bands A-D
- Have an Energy Performance rating of D or worse

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-great-british-insulation-scheme>

GREAT BRITISH INSULATION SCHEME

Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS)

Measures	Tenure Types
Measure Category	Private Rented Sector (PRS)
	SAP Band D to G
Cavity Wall Insulation	✓ ¹
External/Internal Wall Insulation	✓
Loft Insulation	✓ ¹
Other Insulation	✓

Key	
✓	Eligible subject to other scheme rules detailed in the ECO4 Delivery Guidance
✓ ¹	Eligible if the household contains a member of the low income eligibility group.

GRANTS AND SCHEMES

Regional Grants and Schemes

WARM HOMES: LOCAL GRANT**Warm Homes: Local Grant**

Cheshire West & Chester awarded £7.79m, in collaboration with Cheshire East and Warrington.

- Scheme began officially in April 2025, and expected to run till March 2028
- Free for homeowners. Landlords can receive one free grant, and then will have to contribute 50% towards any further properties.
- Grant award is dependent upon property need, up to £30,000.
 - Up to £15,000 can be spent on low carbon heating.
 - Up to £15,000 can be spent on other low carbon technology

WARM HOMES: LOCAL GRANT**Warm Homes: Local Grant**

Eligibility Pathways	
Pathway 1	IMD:ID Eligible Postcodes The household lives in a valid postcode that falls within eligible Income Deciles 1-2 of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD:ID 1-2).

There is a postcode checker available [here](#)

WARM HOMES: LOCAL GRANT**Warm Homes: Local Grant**

Eligibility Pathways	
Pathway 2	Income Proxies Means-tested benefits: The household is in receipt of a specified means-tested benefit, OR Route 2 of ECO Flex: Households meet the current ECO4 Flex criteria for Route 2.⁹

WARM HOMES: LOCAL GRANT**Warm Homes: Local Grant**

Eligibility Pathways	
Pathway 3	Household Income threshold The household's gross annual income is below the scheme's household income threshold (£36,000) – or the equivalised 'After Housing Costs' threshold for their household composition.

GRANTS AND SCHEMES

[Local Grants and Schemes](#)

PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY TOP-UP GRANT**Private Rented Sector Energy Efficiency Top-Up Grant**

Discretionary funds, provided by Cheshire West & Chester Council, where there is a shortfall in funding available to carry out energy efficiency improvements.

- Can be used for Warm Homes: Local Grant shortfalls
- Maximum grant: £5,000
- Landlords cannot own more than 4 rental properties

LEAP EASY MEASURES

LEAP Easy Measures

[Energy Projects Plus](#) delivers the “Local Energy Advice Partnership” within Cheshire & Merseyside, as part of a national network.

- Advice for residents on benefits/low income
- Onward referrals for benefits maximization
- Energy advice visits/calls can lead to “easy measures”

LEAP EASY MEASURES

LEAP Easy Measures

An “easy measure” is something relatively cheap to purchase, which can be installed on a DIY basis, e.g.



LEAP APPLIANCES

LEAP Appliances

Regional funding from Agility Eco, linked to Local Authority areas delivering LEAP home visits.

- Funding to replace fridge-freezers and electric cookers
- Must have an old, broken appliance to replace
- Referral is made in the home, by a LEAP assessor

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- How can Energy Projects Plus help?
- Q&A

HOW CAN ENERGY PROJECTS PLUS HELP?

Save Energy Advice Line

Freephone advice line, available 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri (apart from Bank Holidays and the 3 working days between Christmas & New Year).

- **0800 043 0151**
- advice@epplus.org
- www.epplus.org.uk/contact
- www.epplus.org.uk/referrals

