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## Applications open for eco upgrades to Essex residences

*Essex County Council has launched two schemes to help low-income households and vulnerable residents reduce energy costs and emissions.*

Residents across Essex can apply to have solar panels, heat pumps and more energy-efficient measures installed for little to no cost.

[ECO4 Flex and the Great British Insulation Scheme Flex \(GBIS\)](#) are being offered by Essex County Council through [Better Housing Better Health](#) to help improve energy inefficient properties.

Both schemes are available to homeowners and tenants, with landlord permission, who have a household income below £31,000 and Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) between D and G. Residents with a property tax band between A and D can also apply for the GBIS.

Both schemes are also available to residents with a qualifying benefit or health condition. No income limit is applied to those with a qualifying health condition.

Eligible residents could save energy costs and improve their EPC rating with insulation, boiler replacements, low-energy lighting, air source heat pumps and solar panels.

Southend residents can ask their local authority about how to apply for ECO4 Flex and the GBIS. Thurrock residents can see what schemes are available on their [local council's website](#).

Councillor Schwier, Climate Czar and Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling at Essex County Council, said: "A low EPC rating can cost hundreds of pounds per year in energy bills, reduce the value of a property and ultimately harm the environment. However, improving it can come with an upfront cost many people can't afford.

"ECO4 Flex and the Great British Insulation Scheme Flex will help ensure low-income households and vulnerable residents are able to access valuable energy-saving measures. I strongly encourage Essex residents to [check their eligibility on our website](#)."

**ENDS**

### Notes to editors:

- Potential installations and any associated costs for residents are assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- Social housing tenants should contact their housing provider for information about alternative schemes.

- Essex County Council has partnered with Better Housing Better Health, run by the National Energy Foundation, to deliver ECO4 Flex and the GBIS. Residents can self-refer via the [application portal](#) or the contact centre helpline at 0800 107 0044. GPs, health professionals and advice organisations can also refer via these routes.
- In addition to ECO4 and the GBIS, Better Housing Better Health offers advice on saving energy, switching provider and fuel poverty assistance. This can include fuel vouchers and small grants depending on eligibility.

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