

# Somerset Independence Plus

20th June 2025 – SHF Wave 3 Away Day



**Somerset**  
Council

# Energy Retrofit



# Energy Retrofit

## What types of measures have we installed under ECO4?

Under ECO4 funding, the Council can retrofit a home in a number of ways using one or more of the following Measures:

1. Cavity Insulation
2. Loft Insulation
3. Solar PV
4. Quantum Storage Heaters
5. Air Source Heat Pumps



Somerset  
Independence  
Plus

## Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) is a government backed initiative in aimed at enhancing energy efficiency to address fuel poverty and lower carbon emissions. This scheme imposes an obligation on energy companies to implement energy-efficient measures in residential properties. A retrofit assessment is completed to determine recommended measures prior to installation being schedule at properties with tenants.

ECO grant funding is primarily accessible for properties not connected to gas. The objective is to contribute to tackling fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions within the housing stock. To date over 200 solar PV systems have been installed through this scheme with up to 400 being installed this calendar year, where required heating and insulation upgrades have been installed to accompany these PV installations.

SIP collaborates with contractors and delivery partners, specifically Evolve and The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), to contribute to the success of these projects.

## Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

As a result of the recent progress with ECO installations, the Council is scheduled to have replaced its last remaining oil heating systems by September 2025 and due to replace its last remaining LPG Gas Heating systems in the same timeframe via qualification through the ECO Grant scheme.

As a result of the qualification criteria for ECO means that on gas properties can become the focus of the SHDF grant programme to upgrade these properties that cannot be fully funded via ECO funding.

There have been positive outcomes following tenant engagement during the programme, residents who had previously been more reluctant to have older heating systems replaced were more likely to accept these upgrades where solar PV installations are included as a part of the offer, we encourage residents who are reluctant to accept installs to discuss with other residents who have recently benefitted had the installations to reassure them in accepting the upgrades.



## Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

There are a number of eligibility routes for the funding scheme which the CSE check during the customers application:

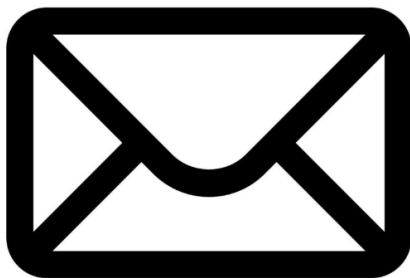
- Route 1 – Low Income (£31,000 or less)
- Route 2 – Income and Health (multiple Proxy's 1 – 6)
- Route 3 – NHS Referral
- Route 4 – Innovation (SAP band D – G)
- Social housing

List of measures that are included with ECO are the same as previously mentioned with insulation, loft and cavity measures, heating system replacements and Solar PV installations. The Council are looking to complete up to 400 installations in advance of March 2026.

## How to apply?

### Energy Retrofit

For customers who require advice about energy efficiency, fuel poverty and energy retrofit, please contact our delivery partners at CSE by telephone [0800 038 5730](tel:0800 038 5730) or email [safeandwarmsomerset@cse.org.uk](mailto:safeandwarmsomerset@cse.org.uk) and social housing tenants can direct any queries to the councils dedicated retrofit email address:- [eco.retrofit@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:eco.retrofit@somerset.gov.uk)



# CSE – Social Housing ECO

Funding available for EPC D properties and below which are off gas.

- ✓ Track record of delivering ECO, HUGS, SHDF
- ✓ Trained Retrofit Advisors, assessors, and coordinators
- ✓ Project management
- ✓ Funding until March 2026
- ✓ Housing stock analysis
- ✓ Smart Energy Action Plans





# National Context – Renewable Energy

- In 2024, renewable energy sources generated over half (50.8%) of the UK's electricity, marking a significant milestone as the first year renewables exceeded 50%. This is an increase from the previous high of 46.4% in 2023.
  - Between January 2024 and January 2025, 200,100 home solar PV installations and 22,667 home battery storage systems were installed. This was attributed to falling costs.
  - In the first quarter of 2025, the UK saw a significant surge in solar panel installations, with over 57,000 certified installations, marking the best start to a year since 2012.
  - The UK's generation has reached a record 7.6 terawatt hours (TWh) of electricity during January to May 2025.
  - This is some 42% higher than the 5.4TWh generated in the same period last year, as well as marking a much larger 160% increase in the past decade.
  - Solar hit a new half-hourly record of 13.2 gigawatts (GW) on 6 April and, for the first time, accounted for more than 10% of monthly electricity generation in two consecutive months (April and May).
  - The solar electricity generated in 2025 to date has avoided the need to import gas costing around £600m, which would have released 6m tonnes of carbon dioxide (MtCO<sub>2</sub>) when burned.
  - However, solar was still only the UK's sixth-largest source of electricity in 2025 to date, after gas (37TWh), wind (33TWh), imports (18TWh), nuclear (15TWh) and biomass (8.0TWh).
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- Source:- [www.carbonbrief.org](http://www.carbonbrief.org)

# Questions?

[eco.retrofit@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:eco.retrofit@somerset.gov.uk)

