UK Heating Grant

Schemes

A complete guide to the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) and Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) — eligibility, applications & templates

Boiler Upgrade Scheme	**£7,500**
ECO4 Grant	**Up to £25,000**

Updated June 2025 | England & Wales

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Scheme Comparison: BUS vs ECO4

Feature	Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS)	ECO4 Grant
Who applies?	Your MCS installer applies on your behalf	Approved ECO4 installer applies for you
Who can get it?	Property owners in England or Wales	Homeowners, tenants & some landlords (England, Scotland, Wales)
Grant amount	£7,500 (ASHP / GSHP) £5,000 (Biomass boiler)	Up to £25,000 depending on measures
Income test?	No — open to all income levels	Yes — low income / qualifying benefits required
Property requirement	Valid EPC (any rating). No fossil fuel grant already received	EPC rating D, E, F or G
Who runs it?	Ofgem (gov-funded)	Major energy suppliers (obligation scheme)
Technology covered	Heat pumps & biomass boilers only	Insulation, boilers, heat pumps, solar panels & more
Scheme ends	December 2027 (planned)	December 2026 — no ECO5

Boiler Upgrade Scheme — Eligibility Checklist

Grant: £7,500

Heat pump or £5,000 biomass

✓ **You MUST meet ALL of these:**

- Property is in England or Wales
- You own the property (freehold or leasehold)
- Property has a valid EPC (not expired)
- You are replacing a fossil fuel heating system (gas, oil, LPG, electric)
- No previous BUS, RHPP or RHI grant received for this property
- No hybrid system (gas boiler + heat pump combined)
- Installer is MCS-registered
- Installation commissioned within 120 days of application

✗ Not eligible: New builds, social housing, existing renewable systems, commercial-only buildings, hybrid gas+HP systems

ECO4 — Eligibility Checklist

Property Requirements

- In England, Scotland or Wales
- EPC rating of D, E, F or G
- Not a student rental or HMO
- Homeowner or private tenant (landlords eligible in some cases)
- Must not have received ECO4 grant for same property before

Household Requirements

- Receive a qualifying benefit (see slide 5)
- OR household income under £31,000/yr (ECO4 Flex)
- OR referred by local authority (LA Flex route)
- Low-income/vulnerable households prioritised
- Renters need landlord consent to proceed

⚠ ECO4 closed March 2026 to new applications. Extension to December 2026 was offered in some areas. The Warm Homes Plan launches January 2027 as the successor.

ECO4 — Qualifying Benefits List

Universal Credit (UC)
Subject to income thresholds — varies by household size & children

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
Income-based variant only (not contribution-based JSA)

Income-related Employment & Support Allowance (ESA)
Income-related variant only

Income Support (IS)
No additional income test required

Working Tax Credit (WTC)
No additional income test required

Child Tax Credit (CTC)
Subject to income thresholds

Housing Benefit
No additional income test required

Pension Credit — Guarantee Credit
No additional income test required

Pension Credit — Savings Credit
No additional income test required

Child Benefit
Only qualifying benefit if household income is below set thresholds (varies by children & couple status)

BUS — How to Apply (Step by Step)

1 YOU

Check eligibility

Confirm your property is in England or Wales, you own it, and you have a valid EPC. You must be replacing a fossil fuel system.

2 YOU

Get 3 quotes

Contact at least 3 MCS-certified installers. Ask each to confirm BUS eligibility and provide a full quote with grant deducted.

3 INSTALLER

Installer applies for voucher

Your chosen MCS installer submits the voucher application to Ofgem before or after installation.

4 OFGEM

Ofgem contacts you

Ofgem will contact you directly to confirm the installer is acting on your behalf and verify consent.

5 YOU + INSTALLER

Installation

Heat pump or biomass boiler is installed. Must be commissioned within 120 days of the application date.

6 INSTALLER

Redemption & payment

Installer submits redemption claim within 120 days of commissioning. Grant is paid directly to installer — reducing your bill.

ECO4 — How to Apply (Step by Step)

1 YOU

Check eligibility

Confirm EPC D-G rating and that you receive a qualifying benefit, low household income (under £31k), or are referred by your local authority.

2 YOU

Contact an ECO4 Installer

Find a TrustMark or MCS-registered ECO4 provider. They handle the entire application on your behalf at no cost to you.

3 INSTALLER

Free home survey

A qualified surveyor assesses your property's energy efficiency and recommends suitable measures (10–15 min visit).

4 INSTALLER

Application submitted

Installer submits to the energy company including your benefit evidence, EPC, and property details. Takes 4–6 weeks to approve.

5 ENERGY CO.

Approval & scheduling

Once approved, installation is scheduled. You'll be contacted to arrange a convenient date.

6 INSTALLER

Installation (free)

Work carried out by certified installers — usually within 1 day to 2 weeks depending on measures. No cost to you.

Documents You Will Need

Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS)

Valid EPC certificate
Must be current (not expired). Get one at gov.uk if needed.

Proof of property ownership
Land registry, mortgage statement, or solicitor letter.

Heating system details
Details of the existing fossil fuel system being replaced.

MCS installer quote
Full written quote from your MCS-certified installer.

Commissioning certificate
Issued by your installer on completion — needed for redemption.

Consent & identity verification
Ofgem contacts you directly to confirm via an online portal.

ECO4 Grant

EPC certificate (D–G rating)
Property must have an EPC rating of D or lower. Get free assessment via gov.uk.

Proof of qualifying benefit
Benefit award letter, UC statement, or pension credit letter.

Proof of household income
Pay slips, bank statements, or tax returns (Flex route only).

Proof of identity
Passport or driving licence. Your installer may handle this.

Property agreement
Ownership documents or tenancy agreement (tenants need landlord consent).

Landlord consent letter
Required if you are a tenant — written consent to proceed with works.

Template: BUS Installer Instruction Letter

[Your Full Name]

[Your Address, Line 1], [Town], [Postcode]

[Date]

[Installer Company Name]

[Installer Address]

Re: Authority to Apply for Boiler Upgrade Scheme Voucher — [Property Address]

Dear [Installer Name],

I am writing to confirm that I, [Your Name], the owner of [Property Address], [Postcode], authorise [Installer Company Name] to apply on my behalf for a Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) grant voucher from Ofgem for the installation of an [Air Source Heat Pump / Ground Source Heat Pump / Biomass Boiler] at the above property.

I confirm that:

- I am the registered owner of the above property and it is located in England or Wales.
- A valid Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) exists for the property (EPC reference: [EPC reference number]).
- The property currently uses [gas / oil / LPG / electric] heating and I am replacing this with a low-carbon alternative.
- I have not previously received a grant under the BUS, RHPP, or RHI for this property.

I understand Ofgem may contact me directly to verify my consent and confirm the details of this application.

Replace all [bracketed] fields with your actual details before sending.

Template: ECO4 Household Declaration Form

HOUSEHOLD ELIGIBILITY DECLARATION — ECO4 GRANT SCHEME

To be completed by the householder and provided to your ECO4 installer

Full Name: _____ Date: _____

Property Address: _____

Postcode: _____ EPC Rating: ____ EPC Reference: _____

ELIGIBILITY ROUTE (tick one):

☐ I receive a qualifying benefit (see list below)

☐ My total household income is under £31,000 per year (ECO4 Flex — requires local authority approval)

☐ I have been referred by my local authority under the LA Flexible Eligibility route

QUALIFYING BENEFIT RECEIVED (tick if applicable):

☐ Universal Credit ☐ Income Support ☐ Income-based JSA ☐ Income-related ESA

☐ Working Tax Credit ☐ Child Tax Credit ☐ Housing Benefit ☐ Pension Credit (Guarantee or Savings)

☐ Child Benefit (income threshold applies — ask your installer for details)

DECLARATION:

I confirm the above information is accurate and I consent to my installer submitting an ECO4 application on my behalf. I understand that providing false information may result in grant recovery.

Signature: Date:

Note: Your installer will have their own official forms — this is a reference template only

What Comes After ECO4?

ECO5 has been scrapped — the Warm Homes Plan replaces it

July 2022	ECO4 launched
March 2026	ECO4 original close. Some areas received extension to Dec 2026
Dec 2026	ECO4 ends permanently. No ECO5 scheme
Jan 2027	Warm Homes Plan launches (gov-funded, up to £15bn investment)

Warm Homes Plan: Targets low-income households, fabric-first approach, government-funded (not supplier obligation). Watch gov.uk for details.

Always check gov.uk and ofgem.gov.uk for the latest scheme information