

Are you taking advantage of the 'Flex' Opportunity?

'MEA's work on Flexible Eligibility for the Council has really provided Shropshire with much greater support for vulnerable households. MEA should be very proud of what it stands for and achieves'.

Les Poultney, Shropshire Council

MEA offers Local Authorities a bespoke 'Flex' management service bringing new funding for energy efficiency measures to disadvantaged householders in your area.

Flexible Eligibility (or 'Flex') was introduced in April 2017 as part of the Government's Energy Company Obligation scheme. Up to 25% of ECO3 can be spent this way. The scheme allows Local Authorities to determine eligibility criteria, allowing additional vulnerable householders to access grants for energy improvements such as insulation and energy efficient heating systems. Many Local Authorities have appointed a Third Sector partner to manage the process for them.

MEA, a registered charity and social enterprise, continues to work with local authority partners to manage their 'Flex' schemes as part of our work to tackle fuel poverty. We bring an expertise and experience working with diverse County, District and Borough Councils and have a strong track record in delivering high impact projects for disadvantaged householders.

We can offer local authorities a bespoke 'Flex' management service which could include:

- Getting your **'Statement of Intent'** right for your area, and publication ready
- Recruiting and managing **installers**
- Provision of a **freephone enquiry line** to check for eligibility, make referrals for measures and guide callers through the process to maximise the numbers going to install
- A programme of **promotion**, including with local partners, to identify fuel poor householders
- Issuing of **'Declarations'** and supporting evidence to council
- Guidance on **auditing**
- **Updates** on leads, funding rates and outcomes
- Project **reporting** to demonstrate impact
- A **flexible approach** to Flex – allowing local authorities to embrace new opportunities, especially around health and housing, as the scheme evolves

Managing your Flex through MEA offers an estimated 1:10 capital return on investment, bringing untapped resource into your region, as well as savings to low income and vulnerable householders and health services.

Contact Simon Ross at MEA 01743 277106 or simon@mea.org.uk to discuss your requirements.

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