



Making a positive difference  
for energy consumers

## Guidance Note for the Carbon Saving Community Obligation (CSCO)

Determining whether a premises falls within an ECO area for the purposes of CSCO<sup>1</sup>

Under the Energy Companies Obligation (ECO), the Carbon Saving Community Obligation (CSCO) focuses on the provision of carbon saving measures to domestic energy users living in areas of low income, adjoining areas and rural areas ('ECO areas'). These areas are defined in the ECO Order<sup>2</sup>; they relate to the output areas and datazones defined by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and used for the 2001 census. The boundaries of the ECO areas will remain unchanged for the duration of the programme.

### 1. Accounting for postcode movement in ECO areas

Due to quarterly updating of postcode information by ONS, the postcodes at the boundaries of ECO areas may move into and out of an area over the course of the programme. To account for this we have defined a period of time called the 'relevant period'. An address represented by a particular postcode will be deemed to be within an ECO area if that postcode sits within the area *at any point in time* during the relevant period. We will accept that a postcode is within an ECO area even if that postcode falls out of that ECO area during the relevant period.

There are four relevant periods we consider when determining whether a measure was installed in an ECO area:

1. where we are assessing the notification of a completed measure to CSCO, the relevant period is 1 October 2012 to the actual date of notification;
2. where we are assessing an application for transfer to CSCO (under article 20 of the ECO Order), the relevant period is 1 October 2012 to the date of the application;
3. where we are assessing an application for re-election to CSCO (under article 22 of the ECO Order), the relevant period is 1 October 2012 to the date of application;
4. where we are assessing an application for excess action carry-forward to CSCO, the relevant period is 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012.

### 2. Demonstrating eligibility where a premises is in an ECO area but the postcode is not

In the event that a supplier disagrees with Ofgem as to whether a premises is in an ECO area the supplier must provide the location of the premises and the boundaries of the

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<sup>1</sup> This note supplements the ECO Guidance for Suppliers (v1.1): Chapter 6, paragraphs 6.10 to 6.20.

<sup>2</sup> The Electricity and Gas (Energy Companies Obligation) Order 2012

area on appropriate maps<sup>3</sup>, and Ofgem will determine whether the premises lies within the area. You should first contact Ofgem in such instances.

Please contact us at [eco@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:eco@ofgem.gov.uk) if you have any questions.

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<sup>3</sup> This should include a 1:25000 ordnance survey map with the ECO area boundary and the location of the premises marked. A second, more detailed map (1:1250) should also be provided that shows the individual premises marked within the ECO area boundary.