

HETAS EXPLAINS THE
DOMESTIC
RENEWABLE
HEAT
INCENTIVE
FOR
HOMEOWNERS



WHAT IS THE RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE?

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is being implemented by the Government to try and encourage individuals and businesses to reduce the carbon emissions that Great Britain is currently producing. The RHI is the world's first long-term financial support programme for renewable heat and is the main scheme of the Government's heat strategy.

The RHI pays participants of the scheme that generate and use renewable energy to heat their buildings.

The domestic RHI scheme will give financial support for an eligible renewable heating system that heats a single domestic property in Great Britain. Payments will go to the owner of the heating system.

The domestic RHI launched in April 2014.

Primarily aimed at homes off the gas grid, the scheme aims to support around 750,000 renewable heat installations by 2020. There is however, no requirement for applicants to be off-gas grid. Owners of all eligible renewable heating systems installed on or after 15 July 2009 can apply.



WHO CAN APPLY?

Administered by Ofgem, the scheme covers single domestic dwellings: owner/occupiers, private landlords, Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and self-builders. New properties other than self-build will be ineligible.

The domestic RHI applies to England, Wales and Scotland.

It supports the following renewable technologies:

- biomass-only boilers and biomass pellet stoves with back boilers (including condensing biomass boilers)
- ground and water source heat pumps
- flat plate and evacuated tube solar thermal panels.
- air-to-water heat pumps

By increasing the generation of heat from renewable energy sources (instead of fossil fuels), the RHI helps the UK reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet targets for reducing the effects of climate change and meeting the UK's target of an 80% overall cut in emissions of six major greenhouse gases by 2050.

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WHAT IS A BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM?

Biomass heating systems burn fuel such as wood pellets, chips or logs to provide central heating and hot water in a home.

The eligible types of biomass technologies are :

- Biomass-only boilers (covering all solid biomass, including logs and chips)
- Biomass pellet stoves with back boilers

All of the heat output of biomass systems is considered renewable under the Renewable Energy Directive, so payments are based on the estimated heat use from the EPC (see overleaf).

Domestic RHI payments for biomass are set at 7.14 pence per kW of renewable heat and there are many benefits to heating with biomass.*

- Receive money back for installing and running a biomass system
 - Annual fuel savings from £1,000 to £6,000 (depending on property and fuel)
 - Renewable, sustainable fuel.
 - Reduced dependency on traditional fuels such as gas and electricity.
 - Automation of appliances.
 - Self-supply of biomass for landowners.
- *subject to change

SUSTAINABLE FUEL

Biomass fuels are available as wood logs, wood pellets and wood chip. HETAS has prepared a Wood Fuel Guide for more information on biomass fuel, find it on our website.

To be eligible for and continue to receive RHI support for a biomass system, fuel needs to be sourced from a supplier registered on the Biomass Suppliers List (BSL). Details of the BSL at biomass-suppliers-list.service.gov.uk/ From autumn 2015 all biomass fuel used by households, businesses and other organisations claiming the RHI must meet a lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions target. Landowners looking to self-supply their own fuel are required to sign up to the biomass suppliers list as well.

METERING PACKAGES

Householders installing biomass-only boilers will be offered an optional additional payment for purchasing a Metering and Monitoring Service Package from their installer that meets DECC requirements.

These packages are similar to a service contract. The budget is expected to cover approximately 2,500 applicants in the first year of the Domestic RHI, and it is anticipated more will be available in years two to seven. You can get one installed when you apply or anytime afterwards during the seven years period.

OFFICIAL BODY FOR SOLID FUEL, WOOD HEATING SYSTEMS, FUELS AND SERVICES

WHAT TO DO NOW?

FOR HOUSEHOLDERS & CONSUMERS

Applicants are required to complete a Green Deal Assessment (GDA) before applying for RHI and to ensure they meet minimum energy efficiency requirements of loft and cavity insulation where required by the GDA.

The Green Deal is a scheme that can help you make energy saving improvements to your home without having to pay all the costs up front.



Where a GDA identifies that either/both of these measures are cost-effective and yet to be installed, the owner will need to complete the works and obtain an updated Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) as proof of installation.

Find out more at : bit.ly/GreenDealinfo

To apply for the domestic RHI you need:

- 1 Domestic Energy Performance Certificate (for your home)
- 2 MCS Certificate (from your installer)
- 3 Emissions Certificate (from the manufacturer of your appliance)
- 4 Green Deal Advice Report number
- 5 To ensure the MCS Product is RHI eligible.

FIND OUT MORE...

To find out more about the Renewable Heat Incentive, visit our website at this link:

www.hetas.co.uk/consumer/government-schemes/rhi
or these other useful sites;

MCS WEBSITE:

www.microgenerationcertification.org

OFGEM WEBSITE:

www.ofgem.gov.uk

DECC GREEN DEAL LINK: bit.ly/GreenDealinfo

To be eligible the system must be certified under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) and meet relevant standards for each technology.

The MCS is an industry-led and internationally recognised quality assurance scheme, supported by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

An *MCS Approved Product* must be fitted by an *MCS Approved Installer* with searches for both available at:



www.microgenerationcertification.org

MCS certified installers must also be members of the Renewable Energy Consumer Code which sets out standards that installers must meet in contracting with domestic consumers.

MCS covers heat generating technologies with a capacity of up to 45kW.

A non-domestic RHI is also available for larger installations - please visit the Ofgem website to find out more.