

Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

www.ofgem.gov.uk

October 2013

Non-Domestic



Easy guide to the Non-Domestic RHI

An introduction to the scheme

What it is

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is a government environmental programme that provides financial incentives to increase the uptake of renewable heat. Broadly speaking the Non-Domestic RHI makes regular payments for 20 years to scheme participants that generate and use renewable energy.

Traditionally we've relied on fossil fuels for heating and hot water, but by changing to renewable sources, that's naturally replenished energy, the RHI scheme can help the UK reduce its carbon emissions.

Many people are interested in finding out more about the Renewable Heat Incentive to see whether or not it's relevant for them. This guide is only intended as a general introduction. For more detailed information on how to apply and to remain in compliance with the Non-Domestic RHI scheme, please refer to our main guidance, which in case of doubt will take precedence.

[RHI Guidance Volume One:
Eligibility and How to Apply](#)

[RHI Guidance Volume Two:
Ongoing obligations, payments](#)

Who is it for?

The Non-Domestic RHI is for industrial, commercial, public sector and not-for-profit organisations. This includes for example, businesses, hospitals and schools as well as district heating schemes such as in the case of where one boiler serves multiple homes.

Eligibility overview

Eligible technologies

The technologies currently covered by the scheme are: biomass; solid biomass contained in municipal waste, heat pumps (ground source and water source), solar thermal, geothermal, biomethane and biogas.

Key eligibility criteria

- applicant must be the owner of the installation
- equipment installed and first commissioned on or after 15 July 2009
- equipment new at time of purchase
- grants not received for purchase/installation
- medium of heat transfer must be liquid or steam, ie no direct air heating
- MCS or equivalent EN45011 if installed capacity is 45kW or under - a requirement for solid biomass, heat pumps and solar thermal
- biomass boilers must meet air quality requirements and be designed to use biomass as the primary fuel source
- the metering arrangements are correct- the right type of meters calibrated and placed in correct locations
- you can't use the equipment to heat a single domestic home.

Eligible heat uses

For space, water, carrying out a process in an enclosed building or outside for commercial cleaning/drying.

For more about eligibility see our [Easy Guide to Eligibility](#). For more detailed information about eligibility requirements for the Non-Domestic RHI scheme, see [RHI Guidance Volume One: Eligibility and How to Apply](#), particularly chapters 3, 4, 5 and 6, pages 27-66.

Becoming a participant

This shows a high level process for an applicant and then as a scheme participant after accreditation.
All applications are subject to the detailed scheme rules:



Scheme applicants

1	Owner decides to install a renewable heating system.	4	Owner uses the guides to prepare in advance and gathers all evidence and documents required for an application.
2	Owner and installer understand the RHI eligibility requirements.	5	Owner completes the online application form on the Ofgem website and provides all supporting evidence and documents required.
3	Owner and installer plan for the RHI requirements as part of the design and installation process.	6	Ofgem accredits the installation (subject to the rules) and the owner becomes an RHI scheme participant.

Scheme participants

1	Owner regularly submits meter readings and periodic data.	3	Owner is aware of their responsibilities to remain compliant with the scheme and signs an annual declaration.
2	Ofgem makes regular financial incentive payments.	4	Ofgem selects installations for audits and inspections on an ongoing basis.

The application process

What helps speed it up?

Advance preparation is important. Make good use of our guide material before going online to complete your application. Don't miss our [Easy Guide to Applying](#) and see our [How to Apply](#) web page.

What slows it down?

Our observations have shown that when people try and complete the application form without having referred to the RHI Guidance they quickly become unstuck. They're unprepared for the technical questions and don't have the documents that we need as evidence to verify whether they meet the eligibility requirements of the scheme. In those cases the application process can be stop/start and frustratingly slow.



Keeping compliant

You've prepared properly, submitted your application form and all supporting evidence and received official confirmation from us that you've been approved for the scheme. Now you have fulfil your responsibilities to make sure you keep compliant with the scheme rules. We call these your 'ongoing obligations' and they include:

- submitting meter readings and periodic data to us regularly in order to receive your RHI payments
- if you have a biomass installation, starting a fuel log and keeping fuel receipts
- maintaining and servicing the equipment as per manufacturer instructions and keeping a log and receipts
- informing us of any change to your installation
- signing an annual declaration.



For more about your responsibilities see our
Easy Guide to Compliance and [RHI Guidance Volume 2: Ongoing obligations, payments](#)

Easy guides series

[**Easy Guide to the Scheme**](#)

[**Easy Guide to Eligibility**](#)

[**Easy Guide to Applying**](#)

[**Easy Guide to Metering Requirements**](#)

[**Easy Guide to Compliance**](#)

[**Easy Guide to Periodic Data**](#)

Contact us

Ofgem.gov.uk/RHI

Should you have a query please contact us:

Telephone: **0845 200 2122** Email: rhi.enquiry@ofgem.gov.uk

(Non-Domestic RHI enquiry line open Monday to Thursday 9am-5pm and to 4.30pm on Fridays) Note: Calls may be recorded.