

Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

www.ofgem.gov.uk

February 2014

Factsheet



Already installed before Domestic RHI opening?

Find out the differences that apply

Advance information

The Domestic RHI is not yet open but is due to launch in spring. This factsheet provides some basic information in advance. It's only designed as a snapshot. For the full picture, you will definitely need to read our Essential Guide to Applicants, which we'll publish on scheme launch.

First movers

Many people got off to a head start and installed a renewable heating system after the plan to introduce the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) was first announced on the 15 July 2009.

If you installed a system with a first commissioning date between then and before the Domestic RHI opens (check the commissioning date on your MCS certificate), you count as a 'legacy' applicant.

You can apply to the scheme but there are some **differences** compared to other applicants that only affect you.

This factsheet is designed to help explain these.



What is a legacy applicant?

There are two types:

- people that received the Renewable Heat Premium Payment (RHPP), a one-off grant that helped cover some of the upfront cost of installing a renewable heating system
- people that financed the cost of their renewable heating system by other means.

What difference does it make?

If you received RHPP:

- it affects the dates you can apply – more about this overleaf
- to avoid a double subsidy, we deduct the amount you received in RHPP evenly from your Domestic RHI payments over the seven years' payment lifetime of the scheme. This is also the case if you received a grant from public funds from another source.

Timing for applying

All legacy applicants must apply to the Domestic RHI scheme within the first 12 months of its opening. Because of the large volume of RHPP recipients, we've staggered when you can apply to ensure you get the best level of service. It works like this:

- if you did not receive RHPP, you can apply at scheme launch
- if you received, but did not use the RHPP vouchers, you can apply at scheme launch
- if you applied for RHPP before 20 May 2013, you can apply three months after the scheme opens.
- if you applied for RHPP on or after 20 May 2013, you can apply six months after the scheme opens.

If, during the first year of the scheme, Government has to reduce tariffs for the Domestic RHI due to high uptake, you will not be affected and will continue to receive the original rate.

Preparing to apply

Just having installed the heating system isn't enough. To be able to apply within the 12 month deadline of the scheme opening, make sure you also do the following:

Get a Green Deal Assessment*:

As a renewable heating system works best in a well-insulated home, most applicants, whether or not you received the RHPP, must have a Green Deal Assessment carried out.

If you've already got one, you don't need another, provided you can supply the Green Deal Advice Report number. For example, it was a requirement for people applying as part of the RHPP from 20 May 2013.



Get insulated: If your Green Deal Advice Report recommends loft insulation or cavity wall insulation, you should install it and have a follow-up EPC, before you apply to the Domestic RHI. This is because to join, you need an EPC that does not show loft or cavity wall insulation as recommendations.

If it's not possible to install it, you can still apply for the scheme, if you can show that one of the 'insulation exemptions' applies to you. These will be in our reference document, which we'll publish when the scheme opens.



Check if you need metering:

Read our factsheet, [Do I need metering?](#) If you think you may, read the Essential Guide to Metering which we'll publish as soon as the scheme opens. If you do, contact your installer about getting meter(s) installed.



Read our guide: We'll publish the Essential Guide for Applicants as soon as the scheme opens. It will help get you familiar with the scheme rules and requirements.



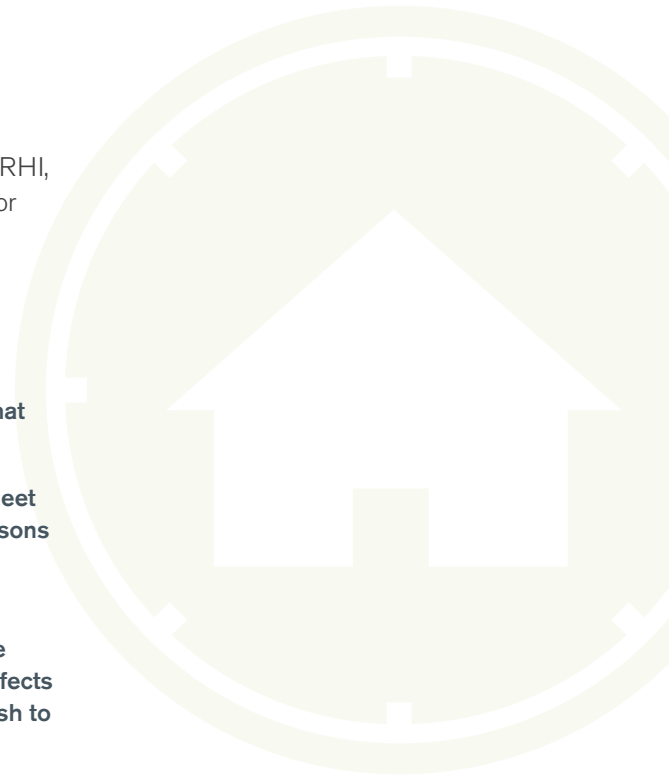
* The only people exempt from having to carry out a Green Deal Assessment are those who build or have built for them their own homes, and meet certain related requirements. This is because these houses would be built to recent building regulation standards.



Other differences for legacy applicants

Although you must meet the eligibility requirements for the Domestic RHI, special provisions have been made for you. See the Essential Guide for Applicants when it's published, to find out more about each point:

- **your renewable heating system doesn't have to meet current MCS standards, only standards that applied on the date when it was first commissioned**
- **biomass systems don't need to meet the air-quality requirements that will apply to other applicants when the scheme opens**
- **biomass systems don't need to be metered if they're not sized to meet 100% of the property's space heating requirement (unless other reasons for requiring metering apply)**
- **heat pump systems will be assigned a seasonal performance factor of 2.5. (When the scheme opens, we'll provide a link to our reference document so you can find out more about what this is and how it affects Domestic RHI payments.) If you believe yours is higher, you may wish to get it reassessed by an MCS installer using the Heat Emitter Guide, before applying. Note you won't be able to do this afterwards.**



Guide material

Our factsheets are ready, but the rest of our material will only be published when the scheme opens.

Domestic RHI factsheets

- [An introduction to the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive](#)
- [The Renewable Heat Incentive – Domestic or Non-Domestic?](#)
- [Already installed before Domestic RHI opening?](#)
- [Do I need metering for the Domestic RHI?](#)
- [A metering and monitoring service package for the Domestic RHI](#)

Domestic RHI essential guides

- Essential guide for applicants
- Essential guide for installers
- Essential guide to metering for applicants
- Essential guide to metering for installers

Domestic RHI reference document

Domestic RHI reference document

Find out more

Next steps

See our Essential guide for applicants

See our websites:

- [Domestic RHI](#) * web holding page until the scheme opens
- [Non-Domestic RHI](#)

For information about the Green Deal

The [gov.uk](#) website explains simply what the Green Deal is and how it works. It also has a list of approved Green Deal assessors.

For help

For all general queries about the Domestic RHI contact:

The Energy Saving Advice Service,
if you live in **England or Wales:**

- Call **0300 123 1234**.
Calls are charged at the standard national rate.
- Email energy-advice@est.org.uk

Home Energy Scotland, if you live in **Scotland:**

- Call **0808 808 2282**. Calls are free from landlines and most mobile networks.
- [Online email form](#)