

# The Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

## RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY INCLUDE:

Air source heat pumps, biomass systems, ground source heat pumps and solar thermal technologies.



## What is renewable heat?

Renewable heat means that a system uses a renewable source of energy to generate heat, rather than a fossil fuel – for example using an air source heat pump rather than oil or gas.

## What is the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive for households and is it available now?

The Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is a long-term Government financial support scheme for homeowners, social and private landlords to install renewable heating systems in their homes in England, Wales and Scotland.

This is a financial incentive scheme that launched in April 2014 and is open to anyone to apply for, but those who live off the gas grid are most likely to benefit.

If you apply and comply with the scheme rules, you'll receive **quarterly payments for seven years**. The size of your payment depends on the size of your property and the type of renewable heating system that you choose to install.

The Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive will cover certain types of hot water and heating systems. These include heat pumps, biomass boilers and solar thermal systems. You can get more detailed information about eligible technologies from the Energy Saving Advice Service.

## Does the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive work with the Green Deal?

You need to have a Green Deal assessment to apply for the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive. Renewable heating systems work best in a well-insulated home and a Green Deal assessment ensures you meet minimum energy efficiency requirements of loft and cavity insulation.

You can pay for some of the cost of installing renewable technologies through a Green Deal Finance Plan.

## How do I find out if I am eligible for the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive for households?

If you are homeowner, booking a Green Deal assessment is the first step in applying for the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive with a trained expert surveying your property and explaining how a renewable heating and hot water system could transform your energy use and reduce your bills.

**GET  
HELP**

To find out more about the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive for households or to book a Green Deal Assessment, call the Energy Saving Advice Service (England and Wales) on 0300 123 1234 or Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282. Alternatively, visit [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)

## What is the application process and what do I need to do next?

Once your home has been assessed, should you wish to switch to renewable technologies, you will need to choose an installer to carry out your work. The product and installer you go with must be certified under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS), Solar Keymark, or equivalent. You must also ensure that you have all the necessary planning and environmental permissions in place, before any work is carried out.

Some homes that already have a renewable heat system installed may qualify for the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive financial support. Conditions do apply, but to find out if you are eligible please contact the Energy Saving Advice Service (England and Wales) on 0300 123 1234 or Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282.

## What are the next steps and what happens after I have applied?

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## Look out for the quality marks

### Renewable Heat

The Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive must use a Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) or Solar Keymark certified installer and product or equivalent. Please see [www.microgenerationcertification.org](http://www.microgenerationcertification.org) for more details and to find an MCS certified installer in your area.



### Green Deal

Only Green Deal Assessors, Providers and Installers can use this quality mark. This shows they meet Green Deal standards and are authorised to operate under the Green Deal. The Green Deal quality mark says what they are authorised to do – e.g. to be an Assessor.



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