

Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

Domestic

www.ofgem.gov.uk/drhi

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Factsheet: Do I need metering for the Domestic RHI?

What is metering for payment, what is metering for performance and when you need it.

This factsheet is only an outline. For the full picture read our [Essential Guide to Metering](#).

The Government published its [response to the consultation](#) on Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) reform in December 2016. The first stage of changes came into effect on 20 September 2017. Subject to Parliamentary approval, the other changes announced in the December 2016 reform are planned to follow later in 2017/2018. For information on what the Government changes mean for you, please see our [changes to the scheme](#) webpage.

Overview

There are two types of metering that can be required under the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme: 'metering for performance' and 'metering for payment'.

Subject to Parliamentary approval, metering for performance is planned to come into effect later in 2017/2018. There are different situations where applicants may need to install one or both types of meters to meet the requirements of the scheme.

After the planned regulations come into force later in 2017/2018, 'metering for performance' will be an eligibility requirement for all new heat pump applications. 'Metering for payment' is different, and depending on other circumstances, may be an eligibility requirement for heat pumps and biomass stoves and boilers. You may be required to install both, or neither. This factsheet explains the difference and when you need them.

Solar thermal for heating domestic hot water isn't required to be metered. If that's all you have installed, you don't need to read this document.

Please note: The Government published its [response to the consultation](#) on Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) reform in December 2016. Subject to Parliamentary approval, metering for performance, and other changes announced in the December 2016 reform are planned to follow later in 2017/2018.

For information on what the Government changes mean for you, please see our [Factsheet: Important Changes to the Domestic RHI scheme](#).

Any new incoming regulations that are planned are subject to Parliamentary approval. Any changes to draft or new regulations may not be reflected in this factsheet.

What is metering for payment?

There are some circumstances that will require you to install heat and electricity metering to receive payments from the Domestic RHI scheme.

Heat meters are used to measure the amount of heat the renewable heating system produces. Most people will receive payments based on estimated annual heat use or generation. For some circumstances where we can't easily estimate this, people need to install meters and submit readings regularly which we use to work out how much to pay them.

A few common examples of these circumstances include:

- If your property has been occupied for less than 183 days in the 12 months before the application is made (unless your property is a [custom-build](#), in which case the 183 day rule doesn't apply);
- If you have a back-up heating system installed; and/or,
- If you have a biomass heating system that isn't designed to supply heat to the entire property.

In these instances and others, you're required to install meters for payment. This is because your renewable technology is likely to be generating less heat than specified on the [Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) relating to your heating system.

In these circumstances, your renewable technology will have to be metered for payment and you'll have to submit regular meter readings every three months, so that we can calculate payments appropriately. These payments are still subject to the new [heat demand limits](#) introduced on 20 September 2017, if you have a heat pump or biomass system.

For a full overview and examples of scenarios that need metering, please read our [Essential Guide to Metering](#).

What is metering for performance?

Subject to Parliamentary approval, metering for performance is planned to come into effect later in 2017/2018.

If you don't have a heat pump, this section doesn't apply to you.

In March 2016, the Government published a consultation on changes to the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme. After taking account of the feedback it received, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) published its [consultation response](#) on 14 December 2016. These changes are planned to be introduced in two stages.

The first stage of changes came into effect on 20 September 2017. The Government has published the [Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme \(Amendment\) Regulations 2017](#).

Subject to Parliamentary approval, the second stage of regulation amendments are planned to follow later in 2017/2018. When the planned second stage of changes come into effect, all new applications for heat pumps to the Domestic RHI scheme will be required to have electricity metering arrangements alongside their heating system. BEIS is introducing this change to enable people better to understand their heat pump system's electricity usage and efficiency.

To read more about these changes, please see our [Factsheet: Important changes to the Domestic RHI Scheme](#).

Metering for Payment

When do you need metering for payment?

Solar thermal systems never require metering.

These are some common scenarios where you will need metering for payment. This list is not exhaustive. For exhaustive examples of situations where you need metering for payment, please read our [Essential Guide to Metering](#).

If you have a back-up heating system:

- **Where a renewable heating system is installed alongside a fossil fuel space heating system.** For example, where there's a biomass boiler and a back-up oil boiler.
- **Where a hybrid heat pump (a combination of a heat pump and a fossil fuel gas/oil boiler located in one 'box') has been used.** This needs to be metered for payment as we need to take into account the non-renewable portion of the heat generated. This can be done by either:
 - a) Metering the total heat produced by the hybrid heat pump (ie both the renewable and fossil fuel generated heat); and then subtracting the equivalent heat output based upon the metered fossil fuel input; or,
 - b) Metering the renewable heat output portion only - this would likely require metering inside the hybrid heat pump 'box'.
- **Where your renewable heating system is installed alongside another renewable heating system** that isn't solar thermal. There are a few situations where this could apply:

- a) Where two different types of renewable space heating system (eg biomass and a heat pump) are installed in the same property. This applies regardless of whether they were installed at the same or a different time.
- b) Where two of the same type of eligible space-heating system (eg two air source heat pumps) were commissioned at different times.

If two of the same renewable heating systems are commissioned at the same time (eg two air source heat pumps) we'll consider these as one heating system, so it will not require metering for payment.

Back-up heating that doesn't count:

You don't need metering if your back-up heating is:

- **A supplementary electric heater controlled by the same control system as the control system for the renewable system, such as an electric fan heater.**
- **Anything designed and installed to provide heat to only a single room.** For example, a stand-alone electric plug-in heater or wood burning stove.
- **Additional electric immersion heaters for domestic hot water.**
- **A mechanical ventilation system that heats the incoming fresh air using heat generated by the renewable technology alone** (these are popular in the construction of new properties but if you're not sure, speak with your installer).

Metering for Payment continued

If your property is or has been occupied for less than half the year:

- **Homes that have been occupied for less than 183 days in the 12 months** before application, and any time after you're a member of the scheme. This includes second homes or tenanted properties.

If you're an eligible [custom-builder](#), you don't need to install meters if you've just moved in when you apply.

If you have a biomass heating system that isn't designed to heat the whole property.

- **If your biomass boiler or stove isn't sized to meet all of your heating needs**, we can't pay you the same amount as if it were. This means your heating system will need to be metered. Check with your installer to see if this applies to you.

How are your payments calculated?

If your heating system is metered for payment, you'll receive quarterly scheme payments based on the amount of renewable heat it produces, or the [heat demand limit](#) - whichever is lower.

We work this out by taking the total heat generated by your heating system, and in some situations we must also deduct any heat from non-renewable sources, such as the electricity input for heat pumps, or the contribution of any backup heating system.

The maximum we pay you is 'capped' so it will never exceed the amount we'd have paid if your system had not been metered and payments were instead based on your property's estimated annual heat use. We work this out from your EPC, and information on the MCS database. Please read the [Essential Guide to Metering](#) for full details on payments.

What your installer should do

There are a number of detailed requirements your installer must follow. They should know a lot about metering already, but make sure they're aware of the [MCS requirements](#), that they've read the [Essential Guide to Metering](#) and the [Essential Guide for Installers](#), and that they provide you with a metering handover pack.

Your installer should:

- Inform you if metering for payment is required (bearing in mind that your installer will only know if you have occupied your property for less than 183 days if you tell them so);
- Label the meter(s) clearly (there could be more than one meter and more than one type (ie heat, electricity, gas or oil) and teach you how to take meter readings;
- Take an initial meter reading. You can submit this reading if you apply to the scheme within two weeks of the reading being taken. If you apply later you'll have to take a new reading and submit it when you apply. After that you'll submit readings to us every three months. We can't start making RHI payments until you've given us the initial meter reading plus your first quarterly reading;
- Provide the answers to the Installer Metering Questions (there are different ones for [biomass](#) and [heat pumps](#)) that you submit as part of your application. They'll complete a paper copy of these and hand them to you when they install your meters; and,
- Fill out and leave for you the [Installer Checklist](#). It will provide you with all the important information needed when you apply for the scheme.

Metering for Performance

Subject to Parliamentary approval, metering for performance is planned to come into effect later in 2017/2018.

When do you need metering for performance?

If you don't have a heat pump, this doesn't apply to you. You can go back to the [metering for payment section](#).

The Government is planning to introduce the second stage of changes to scheme Regulations later in 2017/2018. If you apply to the Domestic RHI on or after the date these regulations come into effect, you'll be required to install metering for performance.

When these regulations come into force, all new applicants to the Domestic RHI applying with ground source and air source heat pump systems will be required to have electricity metering alongside their heating system to monitor performance. This will be a new eligibility requirement for the scheme.

How are your payments calculated?

If you're only required to install meters for performance, your Domestic RHI payments will continue to be based on the deemed heat demand figure of your property listed on your EPC or the new [heat demand limit](#) – whichever is lower. Payments for heat pumps will continue to be made only on the renewable portion of the heat demand.

If you're also required to have metering for payment, your RHI payments will be based on your meter readings (but capped to the EPC or the heat demand limit). Please read the previous section – [metering for payment](#), as it applies to you.

What are your metering options?

To meet the metering for performance requirement, there are three options available to you:

- *electricity metering**
- *on-board electricity metering**
- Metering and Monitoring Service Package (MMSP)

MMSP is an existing option available to Domestic RHI scheme participants. Out of the three options, MMSP provides consumers with the most detailed data on the performance of their heat pump system. You can read more about MMSP in our [Essential Guide to Metering and Monitoring Service Packages](#).

You can ask your installer for more details on these three options.

If you have a separate supplementary heater or immersion heater controlled by the same system, you will need to have its electricity metered separately.

BEIS are planning to introduce these changes later in 2017/2018. If you have a solar thermal system or biomass system, metering for performance will not apply to you.

* To learn more about this term, please see our [Factsheet: Important Changes to the Domestic RHI Scheme](#).

Guide Material

We update our guide material regularly. Check the website for the latest versions, to be sure you're reading the most up-to-date information.

See our website:

[Domestic RHI](#)

[Non-Domestic RHI](#)

Domestic RHI Factsheets

[Factsheet: The Renewable Heat Incentive – Domestic or Non-Domestic?](#)

[Factsheet: A Metering and Monitoring Service](#)

[Package for the Domestic RHI](#)

[Factsheet: Tariffs and Payments](#)

[Factsheet: Do I Need Metering?](#)

Domestic RHI Essential Guides

[Essential Guide for Applicants](#)

[Essential Guide for Installers](#)

[Essential Guide to Metering](#)

[Essential Guide to Metering and Monitoring Service](#)

[Packages \(MMSP\)](#)

Domestic RHI Reference Document

[Domestic RHI Reference Document](#)

Find out more

Next steps

See the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

[Domestic RHI Payment Calculator](#)

Ask your installer to fill out and give to you:

[Installer Checklist](#)

For Help

For queries regarding Domestic RHI scheme requirements and eligibility and for free impartial general information on how to save energy in the home:

Energy Saving Advice Service

(England or Wales) **0300 123 1234**

Calls are charged at the standard national rate

Email energy-advice@est.org.uk

Home Energy Scotland

(Scotland) **0808 808 2282**

Calls are free from landlines and most mobile networks

[Online email form](#)

For consumer protection information:

Renewable Energy Consumer Code (RECC)

www.recc.org.uk

The Home Insulation and Energy Systems Contractors Scheme (HIES)

www.hiesscheme.org.uk

The Glass and Glazing Federation (GGF)

www.ggf.org.uk

If you need help with a Domestic RHI application:

Domestic RHI Applicant Support Centre

Telephone: **0300 003 0744**

Email: DomesticRHI@ofgem.gov.uk

Monday to Thursday: 9:00 to 17:00

Friday: 9:00 to 16:30