

# Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

[www.ofgem.gov.uk/domestic-rhi](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/domestic-rhi)

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Factsheet



## Installed before Domestic RHI opening?

Find out the differences that apply

This factsheet is only a snapshot. For the full picture read our [Essential Guide for Applicants](#)

### 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 the launch of the Domestic scheme (on 9 April 2014), you count as a 'legacy' applicant. (Check the commissioning date on your MCS certificate),

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, ie before 9 April 2015. 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 now
- if you received but did not use the RHPP vouchers, you can apply now
- if you applied for RHPP before 20 May 2013, you can apply three months after the scheme opening, ie from 9 July 2014 and before 9 April 2015
- if you applied for RHPP on or after 20 May 2013, you can apply six months after the scheme opening, ie from 9 October 2014 and before 9 April 2015.

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.



**Green Deal exemption:** The only people exempt from having to carry out a Green Deal Assessment are RSLs, local authorities and those who custom-build their own homes incorporating an eligible heating system. See [custom-build](#) in our website 'key terms' section.

Be sure to check your EPC to see it has a heat demand figure at the bottom of page four. If not, you'll have to get another EPC to apply (but you don't need a Green Deal Assessment).

## 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 the EPC that came with 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 'permitted exemptions' applies to you. See [insulation exemptions](#) in our reference document.



### Check if you need metering:

Read our factsheet, [Do I need metering?](#) If you think you may, read the [Essential guide to metering](#) If you do, contact your installer about getting meter(s) installed.



**Read our guide:** The [Essential guide for applicants](#) applicants will help get you familiar with the scheme rules and requirements.



## Other differences for legacy applicants

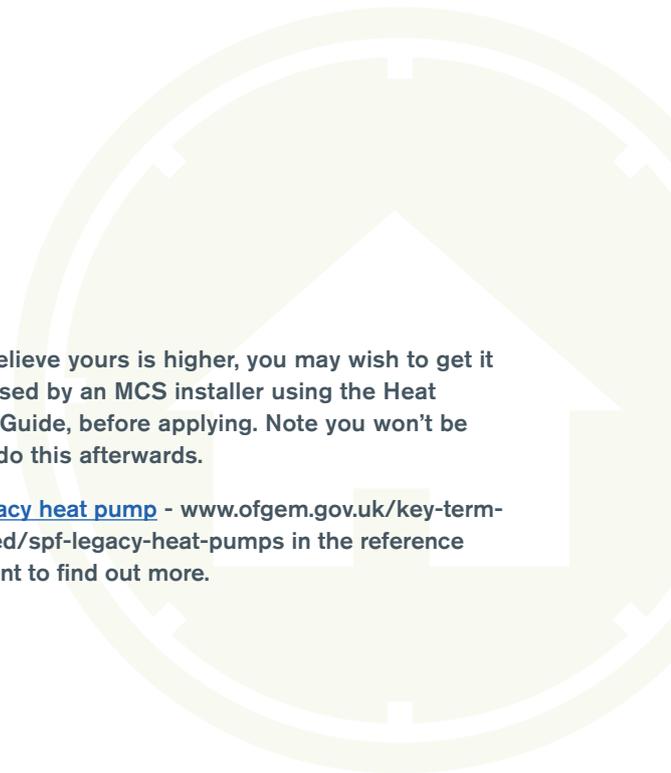
Although you must meet the eligibility requirements for the Domestic RHI, special provisions have been made for you.

See the [Essential guide for applicants](#) to find out more about each point:

- your renewable heating system doesn't have to meet current MCS standards, only the 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
- biomass systems don't need to be metered if they're not sized to provide heat for the entire property.
- heat pump systems will be assigned a seasonal performance factor of 2.5

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.

See [legacy heat pump](#) - [www.ofgem.gov.uk/key-term-explained/spf-legacy-heat-pumps](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/key-term-explained/spf-legacy-heat-pumps) in the reference document to find out more.



## Guide material

### Domestic RHI factsheets

[An introduction to the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive](#)

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

[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](#)

[Essential guide to optional monitoring - Metering and Monitoring Service Package](#)

### Domestic RHI reference document

[Domestic RHI reference document](#)

## Find out more

### Next steps

See our [Essential guide for applicants](#)

See our websites:

[Domestic RHI](#) [Non-Domestic RHI](#)

### For information about the Green Deal

The [gov.uk](#) site 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](mailto: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](#)