

# Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

www.ofgem.gov.uk/drhi

Version 5.0 May 2018

Domestic



## 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 overview. For more detailed information 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. The second stage of regulations were laid on 7 February 2018 and came into effect on 22 May 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](#)'. There are different situations where applicants may need to install one or both types of metering requirements to meet scheme eligibility.

'Metering for performance' is an eligibility requirement for all new **heat pump** applications (not other technology types). '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 of 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 factsheet.**

**Please note: The Government published its [response to the consultation](#) on Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) reform in December 2016.** The first stage of the changes came into effect on 20 September 2017. The second stage of changes came into effect on 22 May 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 to receive RHI payments. This is because your renewable technology is likely to be generating less heat than specified on the [Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) for 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 an overview and examples of when you need metering, please read our [Essential guide to metering](#)

## What is metering for performance?

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

If you apply and are successfully accredited to the Domestic RHI on or after 22 May, **all new applications** for air source heat pumps and ground source heat pumps will be required to have electricity metering arrangements alongside their heating systems to be eligible for the scheme. This means that even if you do not meter your heat pump for payment, it will still need at least one electrical meter.

If your heat pump is connected to any supplementary electric and/or immersion heaters on the same control system, you may also be required to install at least one other meter to measure the electrical input into them.

If your heat pump is metered for payment, you're already required to have electricity and heat metering, which may already fulfil your requirements for metering for performance. You would not need to install further electricity metering if the current one(s) already measure the input into any supplementary electrical and immersion heaters.

For further information on Metering for performance, please read our [Essential Guide to Metering](#).

If you're only required to have meters for performance, your Domestic RHI payments will continue to be based on the deemed annual heat demand of your property based on the figure in your EPC – or the relevant [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 require metering for performance, there are three metering options which can be used alone or in combination:

1. [Standalone electricity metering](#)
2. [On-board electricity metering](#)
3. [Metering and Monitoring Service Package \(MMSP\)](#)

For more information about other changes to the scheme, please read: [Factsheet: Important changes to the Domestic RHI Scheme](#).

## Metering for Payment

### When do you need metering for payment?

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 on 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:

**Please note:** Solar thermal systems never require metering

- 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 for payment 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 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 further 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 for application and membership on the scheme.

## Metering for Performance

The second stage of regulations were laid on 7 February 2018 and came into effect on 22 May 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](#).**

If you apply to the Domestic RHI on or after the 22 May, you'll be required to install metering for performance.

This change has been introduced to enable consumers to monitor the performance of their heating system and to provide a better understanding of the heat pump system's electricity usage. Efficient heat pumps are essential to deliver savings on energy bills for consumers.

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 is 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:

- [Standalone electricity metering](#)
- [on-board electricity metering](#)
- [Metering and Monitoring Service Package \(MMSP\)](#)

The meter(s) will be required to record and display:

- electricity used by the plant to generate heat;
- electrical input into any supplementary electric heater controlled by the same control system as the heat pump; and
- electrical input into any immersion heater for a domestic hot water cylinder where the immersion heater is controlled by the same control system as the heat pump.

This will need to be added on your MCS Certificate.

### 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 renewable heating system. You'll also receive additional payments towards the cost of installing the package. You can read more about MMSP in our [Essential Guide to Metering and Monitoring Service Packages](#)

**Note:** If there are multiple supplementary or immersion heaters controlled by the same control system as the heat pump, a single meter can be installed to record the total combined electrical input; or, each heater can be metered separately. Metering input to each heater separately could help identifying if there is an issue with an individual immersion heater/supplementary heater.

## Guidance

We regularly update our guidance. 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](#)

[Packages \(MMSP\) for the Domestic RHI](#)

[Factsheet: Tariffs and Payments](#)

[Factsheet: I have a newly built house. Am I eligible?](#)

### 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 questions about Domestic RHI scheme requirements and eligibility and for free impartial information on how to save energy in the home:

### Energy Saving Advice Service

(England or Wales)

Email [energy-advice@est.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.recc.org.uk)

### The Home Insulation and Energy Systems Contractors Scheme (HIES)

[www.hiesscheme.org.uk](http://www.hiesscheme.org.uk)

### The Glass and Glazing Federation (GGF)

[www.ggf.org.uk](http://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](mailto:DomesticRHI@ofgem.gov.uk)

For opening hours, please see [our website](#).