

# Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

www.ofgem.gov.uk

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Factsheet



## Do I need metering for the Domestic RHI?

When you do and when you don't

### 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.

### Overview

Most people joining the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) won't need to install meters to receive payments, but some will have to. There are a few different situations where they apply and this factsheet explains when metering is needed.

There are a number of detailed requirements your installer must follow. They should know a lot about metering already, but make sure they are aware of MCS requirements, that they read the Essential Guide to Metering (which we'll publish when the scheme opens and that they provide you with a metering handover pack.

**Solar thermal for heating domestic hot water never has to be metered, even if you have another renewable system heating the property. If that's all you have installed, you don't need to read this document.**

### Why most don't need metering

Most people joining the scheme will live in the same home all year round and have one renewable heating system that supplies the whole property. We can (and have to) base their payments on the property's estimated annual heat use. It's straightforward and makes the scheme more efficient. For biomass we get this figure from your Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). Likewise for heat pumps, although it's design efficiency (seasonal performance factor) is factored in to calculate payments. For solar thermal we get the figure from the MCS certificate, which is based on a calculation by your installer.

### Why some do need metering

Some people won't live in their properties permanently. Others have back-up heating systems installed. Some have a heating system that doesn't supply the entire property. In these instances and others, the equipment is likely to be generating less heat than specified on the EPC. It means these properties will have to be metered and submit regular readings, so we can allocate payments appropriately. More information is in our Essential Guide to Metering, which will be published when the scheme opens.



## What does need metering?

### You need metering if you have back-up heating

Your system must be metered if:

- you have a renewable system eligible for the Domestic RHI, like a biomass boiler and also another that isn't, like an oil boiler. (As outlined above, solar thermal for heating water doesn't count).
- your heat pump is capable of using another fuel as well as the renewable source. For example, if it's a heat pump with a fossil fuel system like a gas boiler.
- you have more than one renewable heating system for space (e.g. room) heating. This can be complicated, so if you do have more than one renewable system, you'll be able to read more information about 'multiple' products in our reference document, when the scheme opens.

#### Back-up heating that doesn't count

You don't need metering if your back-up heating is only designed and installed to heat a single room, such as an open fire or a plug-in electric heater. Similarly, immersion heaters and supplementary electric heaters (that some heat pumps have) don't count. There are also some other exemptions. See our Essential Guide to Metering when the scheme opens.

### You need metering if your home is only partially occupied

Homes that are occupied for less than half the year must be metered. This includes second homes or tenanted properties, which a landlord expects to be empty for six months in a year.

### You need metering if your biomass boiler or stove doesn't heat your entire property

If you installed after the scheme opening date and your biomass boiler is not sized to meet all of your heating needs, then we can't pay you the same amount as if it did and your heating system must be metered. Check with your installer to see if this applies to you.



## What your installer should do

- Inform you if metering is required.
- Label the meter 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 the initial reading. You can submit this one if you apply to the scheme within two weeks. If later, you'll have to take a new reading and submit it when you apply. After that you'll submit readings to us quarterly.
- Your installer will be responsible for providing the answers to the metering questions that you submit as part of your application. They'll complete a paper copy of these and hand to you when they design your renewable heating system.

If you're interested in analysing your heating system and monitoring how it's performing, then you could apply for a Metering and Monitoring Service Package, for which you're paid an additional amount.

For more information, please see our [Metering and Monitoring factsheet](#).



## 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 to metering

See our website:

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

## 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](#)