

Renewable Heat Incentive: Premium Payments

The Scheme:

The scheme has been created in order to help householders (or tenants, providing that they have permission from their landlord) to being able to pay the capital expenses for renewable energy heating systems before the launching of the domestic RHI in late 2012. It does not exclude them from being eligible for the RHI revenues.

Duration of scheme: 1st of August 2011 until 31st of March 2012.

Location: England, Wales and Scotland.



Eligibility Criteria:

- The renewable heating systems must supply heat to **permanent residential** buildings (i.e. the scheme excludes mobile homes, caravans, house boats, swimming pools and such to be eligible for Premium Payments) and only to one property/building.
- Solar thermal is available to any householder. Other technologies are only available for households not currently using gas heating.
- The systems installed on or after the **21st of July 2011** are eligible for the scheme, although installing before applying for a voucher does not guarantee Premium Payments.
- Householders/tenants must prove that:
 - The dwelling in question is their **main home** and that they are **occupying** it.
 - All planning and environmental **permissions** have been purchased.
 - They have **basic energy efficiency measures** in place (loft insulation to 250mm and cavity wall insulation, where appropriate).
 - Both the product and installer are **MCS accredited** (or equivalent, e.g. Solar Keymark for solar thermal products). A non-MCS installer can install the system as long as a MCS certificated installer commissions the system after the installation (in which case the MCS certificated installer must fill out a completion certificate and the applicant must provide all invoices related to the installation).

Grants:

DECC has a limited budget of **£15m** and, towards the end of the scheme, may choose to restrict the vouchers to some technologies in order to insure a fair spread amongst them.

It is possible to apply for more than one type of technology although applications must be made separately. It is however **NOT possible to apply more than once** for the same technology at the same installation address.

All Houses	Houses not heated by mains gas (i.e. heated by oil, liquid gas, solid fuel or electricity)
Solar Thermal £300 Voucher valid for 3 months	Biomass Boilers £950 Voucher valid for 6 months
	Air Source Heat Pumps £850 Voucher valid for 5 months
	Ground & Water Source Heat Pumps £1250 Voucher valid for 6 months

Applications are to be sent to the **Energy Saving Trust** via their website: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk (or call an advisor on 0800 512 012)

If eligible, applicants will receive a **voucher** which will have a **validity** of a few months (see above) or up to the 31st of March 2012, whichever is sooner. Once the voucher has been redeemed and before the money is transferred to the householder/tenant's bank account, the householder/tenant must return to EST:

- A signed version with a copy of the invoice
- A certificate from the MCS

Applicants should receive a notification of confirmation or refusal within **24h** by email. If the case is complex and requires further investigation, the applicant will be notified of EST's decision within **5 working days**.



After Approval:

Once the householders have been granted a Premium Payment, they will have to fill in **2 surveys** (separated by a 6 months period) of which the contents will be published at the same time as the launching of the scheme (they should include questions on the heating and electricity bills before and after the installation of a renewable energy system, opinions on the kit etc.). Information such as where the surveys should be sent back will be revealed closer to the time. For any delays in replying, DECC can withhold any RHI payments until reception of the requested information.

In addition, some dwellings will be picked up at random to install **additional meters** (free of charge) to their system for DECC's interest.



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