

# Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

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Factsheet



## The Renewable Heat Incentive - Domestic or Non-Domestic?

For those who aren't sure which scheme to apply to

### 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.

### What is it?

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is a government financial incentive to promote the use of renewable heat.

By switching to heating systems that use renewable energy, we can help the UK reduce its carbon emissions.

### Two schemes

There are two Renewable Heat Incentive schemes – **Non-Domestic** and **Domestic**. This factsheet will help if you don't know which to apply to, as you can only join one.

Each has its own website and application process, together with different tariffs, joining criteria and scheme rules.

### Key for Domestic RHI

To join the Domestic RHI, the property your renewable heating system is in, must be capable of getting a domestic **Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)**. The EPC is the proof we need that your property is assessed as a domestic 'dwelling'. Without one, you won't be able to apply and can't join the scheme.

### About the EPC

An EPC gives information about a property's energy use, plus recommendations on how to reduce energy and save money. It's required every time you buy, sell or rent a property. An EPC is included as part of a Green Deal Assessment, which is a requirement for most to join the Domestic RHI scheme.

You can check to see if you have an existing EPC at your property:

- for England and Wales, see the [Landmark Register](#)
- for Scotland, see the [Scottish EPC Register](#)

If your property doesn't have an existing EPC, and you're unsure whether you will be able to get a domestic one, you may wish to talk to an EPC assessor directly.



## Which is for me?

Which of the two schemes to apply to is clear cut for most.

If your renewable heating system only heats a single home for which you have a domestic EPC, then you can apply to the Domestic RHI scheme. This can include people that own the homes they live in, social and private landlords for properties where one heating system only serves a single household, and people that build their own homes, or have them built for them and meet certain other requirements.

The Non-Domestic RHI is generally for those with renewable heating systems in commercial, public or industrial premises. This can include small and large businesses, hospitals, schools and organisations with district heating schemes where one heating system serves multiple homes.

## Where it can be more complicated

If your property set-up doesn't quite fit into the standard descriptions above, or if your renewable system supplies heat to more than one building, it can be more difficult to decide which scheme to apply to. Or, if you'd be eligible to join either.

It depends on several factors but very generally:

- **properties with a home office within a house that has, or can get a domestic EPC, should be eligible for Domestic RHI.**
- **properties with annexes attached to the house are normally covered by one domestic EPC and should be eligible for Domestic RHI.**
- **properties with a main house and a self contained outbuilding (with its own bathroom and kitchen), both heated by a renewable heating system would normally have an EPC for each, and would not be eligible for the Domestic RHI. They may be for the Non-Domestic scheme.**
- **properties with a main house and other outbuildings, all heated by a renewable heating system would not be eligible for the Domestic RHI. They may be for the Non-Domestic scheme.**

As a starting point, you could check for what buildings your EPC was issued, with your EPC advisor.

We'll provide more information about eligibility for renewable systems that heat multiple buildings in the reference document, when the scheme opens.



## 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 websites for:

- [Domestic RHI](#) \* web holding page until the scheme opens
- [Non-Domestic RHI](#)
- [Non-Domestic RHI guidance – eligibility and how to apply](#)

## 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](#)