

Renewable Heat Incentive to open for applications

Businesses and communities across Britain are now able to apply for a heat tariff payment, ushering in a new era of clean green heat technology. The world's first Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) has opened to applicants as of Monday 28 November, providing payments for heat generated from renewable technologies including biomass boilers, solar thermal equipment and heat pumps installed since 15 July 2009.

Recipients will be paid up to 7.9p per kWh for biomass boilers, 8.5p per kWh for solar thermal and up to 4.5p per kWh for heat pumps.

Energy and Climate Change Minister Greg Barker said: "The RHI will usher in a new era in clean green heat technology. It's a world first and has the potential to put the UK at the forefront of a vibrant new green technology sector."

"Renewable heat will be a big win for our economy – it will support thousands of green jobs, reduce our dependency on imported fossil fuels, reduce our carbon emissions and help us meet our renewable target."

Many farmers are not aware of new Government support for renewable heat

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) gives financial support to businesses including farms, for heat that they generate and use from renewable sources, such as biomass.

National Farmer keeps track of new renewable energy grants and support available to the agricultural industry. As energy costs continue to rise, Biomass for heating is becoming more and more attractive for the agricultural sector. The RHI ensures renewable heat is financially as well as environmentally rewarding for any business, yet many farmers are not familiar with this new scheme.

This support has the potential to benefit farmers, particularly those with their own biomass fuel supply, providing payments of up to 7.9p per kWh for 20 years for heat generated from renewable technologies.

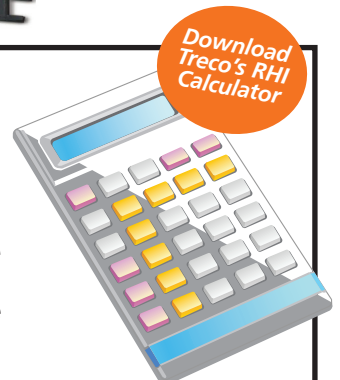
Typically RHI payments are likely to be between £5,000 and £20,000 per annum index linked for 20 years. Additionally fuel cost savings are likely to be between 40 to 70% over heating oil or LPG. It would not be unusual to find payback in as little as 4 years for a 100kW wood chip system, suitable for 'district heating' or perhaps heating a broiler house.



National Farmer will provide editorial every month for the next 3 months regarding the RHI and you can find out more by using the RHI calculator, which has been provided by national biomass boiler company Treco.

Treco have developed their own RHI Calculator, which is available as a download at www.treco.co.uk. This spreadsheet shows the revenue stream from switching to biomass, the fuel savings and the capital cost payback period over 20 years.

By inputting your fuel usage, you can see how the Renewable Heat Incentive will help you to heat your farm for less and receive payments under the scheme.



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