

# Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme

## FAQs

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## **General**

### **1. What is the RHI?**

- The Renewable Heat Incentive is a Government scheme that provides financial support to non-domestic renewable heat generators and producers of biomethane.

### **2. What technologies are included in the scheme?**

- Biomass boilers (Including CHP biomass boilers.
- Solar Thermal
- Ground Source Heat Pumps
- Water Source Heat Pumps
- On-Site Biogas combustion
- Deep Geothermal
- Energy from Municipal Solid Waste
- Injection of biomethane into the grid

### **3. Key principles of this policy/scheme:**

- The RHI provides a continuous income stream over twenty years to any organisation that installs an eligible renewable heating system, ensuring that it becomes more commercially attractive than fossil fuel alternatives. The RHI is important because it will help increase significantly the level of renewable heat in the UK, which is key to the UK meeting its renewable energy targets, reducing carbon emissions, ensuring energy security and helping to build a low carbon economy. The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) will help accelerate deployment by providing a financial incentive to install renewable heating in place of fossil fuels.

### **4. What is renewable heat?**

- Renewable heat is a term used to mean any heat that is generated using a renewable technology or source. For example, equipment that uses the sun, ground, or water as a means to generate heat. Also included are 'renewable' fuels such as sustainably-harvested wood and other plants, biogas and the biomass content of eligible waste streams.
- For the RHI, we will only support heat from renewable sources which is defined as renewable in the Renewable Energy Directive (RED).

## 5. How much money will I get for [x] technology?:

The level of support will vary depending on the type and size of technology. In order to calculate support, the appropriate tariff will be multiplied by the eligible heat used.

Levels of support					
Tariff name	Eligible technology	Eligible sizes	Tariff rate (pence/kWh)	Tariff duration (Years)	Support calculation
Small biomass	Solid biomass; Municipal Solid Waste (incl. CHP)	Less than 200 kWth	Tier 1: 7.6	20	Metering. Tier 1 applies annually up to the Tier Break, Tier 2 above the Tier Break. The Tier Break is: installed capacity x 1,314 peak load hours, i.e.: <b>kWth x 1,314</b>
			Tier 2: 1.9		
Medium biomass		200 kWth and above; less than 1000 kWth	Tier 1: 4.7		
	Tier 2: 1.9				
Large biomass	1000 kWth and above	2.6		Metering	
Small ground source	Ground-source heat pumps; Water-source heat pumps; deep geothermal	Less than 100 kWth	4.3	20	Metering
Large ground source		100 kWth and above	3		
Solar thermal	Solar thermal	Less than 200 kWth	8.5	20	Metering
Biomethane	Biomethane injection and biogas combustion, except from landfill gas	Biomethane all scales, biogas combustion less than 200 kWth	6.5	20	Metering

## **Scheme Details:**

### **6. Who/Where does it apply?**

- The RHI scheme will be available to generators of heat and producers of biomethane that meet the eligibility criteria, that are based in Great Britain i.e. England, Scotland and Wales.
- At the start of the scheme only non-domestic sectors will be supported.
- We intend to introduce a second phase of support from 2012, which will establish support for the domestic sector as well as a number of other technologies and fuel uses that we are unable to support from the outset.
- The non-domestic segment includes businesses; public sector; charities and not-for-profit organisations; and industry.

### **7. What is the duration of the scheme?**

- RHI support for the first phase is guaranteed for 20 years.

### **8. What is it trying to do?**

- The key objective of the scheme is to increase significantly the level of heat generated from renewable energy sources in Great Britain and thereby enable the UK to meet its binding targets to generate 15% of our energy from renewable sources by 2020.
- The Government is committed to the ambition that by 2020, 12 per cent of heating can come from renewable sources.
- We estimate that the RHI could save up to 44 million tonnes of carbon (MtCO<sub>2</sub>) by 2020 (36 MtCO<sub>2</sub> outside the EU(ETS) and 8 MtCO<sub>2</sub> inside the EU(ETS)). This works out as a saving of one million tonnes of carbon in the first carbon budget period (2008-2012), 15 million tonnes in the second carbon budget period (2013-2017) and 52 million tonnes in the third budget period (2018-2022).

### **9. How is the RHI being funded?**

- £860million have been made available from central Government funding to support the RHI over the period 2011-2014. The Government has decided not to take forward previous administration's proposals for an RHI levy.

**10. What do you expect the benefits of the RHI to be on non-domestic installations?**

- By 2020, we estimate the RHI support levels are expected to bring forwards around:
  - 13,000 installations in industry; and
  - 110,000 installations in the commercial and public sector.

These installations are expected to generate around 57TWh of renewable heat.

**11. And what about domestic installations. Don't you need those too to meet your target?**

- YES, and we expect the RHI to deliver those too. But we cannot give estimates of numbers as we have not determined tariff levels and other issues around the operation of the RHI for domestic installations. In 2011-12 we will be providing a simple one-year payment to cover part of the installation costs, and this will be followed by regular incentive payments under the RHI from 2012.

**12. What benefits will the RHI have for British jobs?**

- We are already seeing the evidence of an increase in the number of jobs coming forward in the renewables sector. In the case of wind and marine renewable industries there has been a significant increase in jobs with now over 10,000 (full-time equivalent) working in 2010 compared to 6,000 in 2008, with this expected to increase even further in the future. We would hope to see a similar push in the renewable heat sector once the RHI is established. We expect to see 500,000 jobs created by the end of the decade in the renewables industry with the RHI stimulating £4.5 billion of capital investment.

**13. How much renewable heat can this funding deliver?**

- We have estimated that by 2020 across all sectors, a contribution of 57TWh of renewable heat is expected as a result of the RHI

scheme. This is expected to result in 11% of the UK's energy demand coming from renewable heat by 2020. The Government remains committed to the ambition that by 2020, 12% of heating can come from renewable sources.

#### **14. How will the RHI trigger an increase in renewable heat generation?**

- The RHI aims to provide compensation for the additional cost of renewable heating technology compared with the cost of conventional fossil fuel equivalents. The RHI will therefore remove the barrier of the additional cost, helping to create a level playing field between renewable and conventional heating technologies and widen the choice of heating options.
- It is expected that over time, the cost of renewable heating technologies will fall as technologies enter the mainstream and the benefits from economies of scale become more efficient.
- Ultimately, renewable heat needs to be able to compete on its own without Government support.

#### **Non-domestic and Domestic RHI:**

#### **15. What do you mean by non-domestic installation?**

- **A non-domestic installation is a renewable heat unit that supplies heat to a building which is not used as a domestic premises.** . This includes small businesses, hospitals, schools etc as well as district heating schemes (e.g. one boiler serving multiple homes).

#### **16. What criteria determines a domestic installation?**

- A domestic unit is defined as being a single renewable heat installation serving a single domestic premises (single house or flat). So for example, a social landlord installing individual heat pumps in multiple homes would also be considered as a domestic installation). However, due to state aid rules there may be limits to how the Premium Payment is applied to landlords.

#### **17. Why are you delaying the scheme for the Domestic Sector?**

- We are phasing the RHI to target the more cost-effective and bigger emitting sectors first: The industrial, business and public sectors which contributes a significant 38% of the UK's carbon emissions.
- The Government is committed to providing a long-term incentive for renewable domestic heating and intends to honour the previous commitment that anyone who has installed renewable heat since 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009 will qualify for support. This means domestic eligible installations will receive payments from 2012. These payments will not be backdated to the start of the scheme. However support for domestic will be available through the Renewable Heat Premium Payment .
- The Government will take a phased approach to implementing the RHI. From 2011, the non-domestic sector will be supported. This sector – which covers everything from large-scale industrial heating to small businesses and community heating projects that will provide the vast majority of the renewable heat needed to meet our targets, and is the most cost-effective approach. The Government therefore wants to introduce support now in the non-domestic sector so installations can start being built.
- A second phase of support will then be introduced from 2012, for those areas that won't be supported from the outset, including domestic installations. There are a number of important factors, specific to the domestic sector, that we need to consider further before we can launch a full RHI scheme for domestic buildings and ensure we pursue the most cost-effective way of increasing renewable heat at this scale. These include issues about how renewable heating systems operate in various types of homes and in combination with solar thermal panels; what the impact of changing the heating system is on the householder in terms of different behaviour, how long the RHI payback period should be, given the frequency with which people move house and the ways in which households raise and pay back finance; lessons learned from the Feed-in Tariff programme in terms of getting a good spread of technology take-up; and the way in which renewable heat installations need to align with Green Deal measures on energy efficiency.
- We will therefore bring the domestic sector into the RHI alongside the launch of the Green Deal in 2012 to support sustained growth in that market. The Government is committed to providing a long-term incentive for renewable domestic heating and intends to honour the previous commitment that anyone who has installed renewable heat

since 15th July 2009 will qualify for support. This means domestic eligible installations will receive payments from 2012.

- In the interim we will run a short-term, focused and targeted support scheme, the Renewable Heat Premium Payment Scheme. This scheme will be aimed at those who are off the gas grid and currently rely on more expensive forms of fossil fuel heating and will involve upfront payments to help with equipment and installation costs. For those installations who receive support through these interim measures, support will still be available to them through the RHI once introduced. Further details of who will benefit and how the scheme will be distributed will be provided shortly.

**18. The exclusion of the domestic sector at this stage will seriously affect this industry.**

- We do not expect the phased approach to have an adverse impact on the renewables industry. We anticipate that the demand from the first phase of the RHI programme will provide the stimulus and the incentives necessary for the renewables industry to establish and strengthen their supply chains and systems.
- The RHI should help to stimulate the British renewables industry – in terms of R&D, manufacturing, installation and the supply chain. It also has the potential to encourage further innovation and bring down the cost of renewable heating technology.
- We will bring the domestic sector into the RHI alongside the launch of the Green Deal in 2012. The Government will also honour the previous commitment that anyone who has installed renewable heat since 15th July 2009 will qualify for support. This means domestic eligible installations made now will receive payments from 2012 (providing they meet their eligibility criteria).
- In the interim we will run a short-term, focused and targeted support scheme, the Renewable Heat Premium Payment Scheme. This scheme will be aimed at those who are off the gas grid and currently rely on more expensive forms of fossil fuel heating and will involve upfront payments to help with equipment and installation costs. For those installations who receive support through the



interim measures, support will still be available to them through the RHI once introduced. Further details of who will benefit and how the scheme will be distributed will be provided shortly.

### **Scheme Eligibility:**

#### **19. How will I know if I am eligible for the scheme?**

- Ofgem, who will administer the scheme, will produce guidance setting out all the eligibility criteria. Once the scheme is up and running, organisations can apply to Ofgem for support.

#### **20. I've already built/incorporated renewable heat technology in my business/community centre. Am I eligible for the RHI?**

- Eligible equipment installed after 15 July 2009 (when we published our decision to introduce the RHI) will be supported under the RHI.

#### **21. I've received a grant for my installations can I still get the RHI?**

- You cannot receive a grant which contributed to the direct costs of an installation and receive the RHI.
- However, if you installed equipment between 15 July 2009 and the date when the RHI regulations come into force then you will be given the option to pay back your grant and instead receive support under the RHI. Examples of public funding typically would be the Low Carbon Building Programme II and Bio Energy Capital Grants (and Scottish equivalents) but also include public funding made by Local and Regional authorities, and European schemes.
- This option only applies for equipment installed up to the time the RHI Regulations come into force (Summer 2011); after that time if you receive public funding you will not be eligible to apply to the RHI.

### **Scheme Management/Administration:**

#### **22. How will the scheme be managed?**

- Ofgem will administer the RHI. It will deal with applications for support, assessing whether applicants meet the eligibility criteria; making the incentive payments to participants; and ensuring compliance with the rules and conditions of the scheme.

### **23. Administration/Accreditation/Ofgem:**

- The RHI scheme will be administered by Ofgem.
- Details of the scheme, including eligibility criteria, tariff levels and technologies supported, along with other information, are set out in the RHI Policy Document which is available on the DECC website: [www.decc.gov.uk/RHI](http://www.decc.gov.uk/RHI).
- In due course, Ofgem will produce guidance on the scheme.

### **24. Queries as to whether an installation is or would be RHI eligible:**

- Eligibility for RHI support is a matter for Ofgem, who administer the RHI scheme in accordance with the RHI Regulations. DECC cannot comment on eligibility matters in individual cases.
- In due course, Ofgem will produce guidance on the scheme.

### **25. Is it possible to assign and transfer payments to an appointed individual such as a lender?**

- No, the current legislation only allows payment to the owner of the equipment. To enable any changes in the payment system, the primary legislation would need to be amended which would result in delays in implementing the legislation.
- Additionally, the RHI payments cover the cost of running the equipment ( maintenance , fuel) which the operator would wish to retain. We believe contractual agreements between parties can address this issue.

### **26. If only `owners' qualify for RHI, how can housing associations etc deliver holistic low carbon housing schemes?/ Are Social landlords able to receive support.**

- Social landlords and housing associations installing renewable heating equipment in individuals households will not be support through the RHI from the start of the scheme, as this would constitute a domestic installation. However, we intend to introduce support for the domestic sector in the RHI from 2012, alongside the Green Deal, at which point they will be able to apply for support.
- In order to receive support they will need to be the owner of the installation and retain the rights and liabilities of the equipment.

- The Government is also honouring the previous commitment that installations installed and first commissioned on or after the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009 will be eligible for support once support is introduced, providing they meet the final eligibility criteria.
- Where a housing association installs a renewable district or common heating system serving multiple dwellings, which meets the eligibility criteria, support through the RHI will be available from the outset.

**27. How will the RHI payments be made ?**

- RHI payments for the non-domestic sectors will be paid quarterly over a 20 year period, based on metered generation.

**28. How often will RHI payments be made?**

- Payments will be quarterly for Phase 1 non-domestic participants based on metered generation.

**29. Surely the lack of upfront payments will prevent many organisations and businesses from even applying for this scheme?**

- It is a commercial calculation – the income from the RHI is designed to cover both installation and running costs.
- We expect financing options to be offered by various players, eg: Energy Suppliers, Banks and other commercial lenders, Energy services companies and possibly public sector financing facilities.

**30. How do I apply for support?**

- Applications for support will need to be made to Ofgem once the scheme is launched and open for business. Details of how to apply for support will be available in due course.

**31. What is accreditation?**

- The Renewable Heat Incentive will only be paid when a heat installation has been accredited by Ofgem. Accreditation is the

process of assessing whether an installation meets the eligibility criteria for example, whether the technology is eligible for support and whether the correct metering arrangements are in place.

- Ofgem will publish guidance on the accreditation process nearer to the scheme's launch.

### **32. How will the `Accreditation Process' work?**

- Ofgem will publish guidance on the accreditation process in due course.

### **33. Are generators charged when they apply for accreditation?**

- No there will be no charge to generators. Ofgem will publish guidance on the accreditation process in due course.

### **34. What obligations form part of accreditation in the RHI scheme?**

- Once Ofgem E-serve is satisfied that all eligibility criteria are being met and that the applicant has agreed to comply with the obligations of the scheme, Ofgem E-serve can then accredit the installation and the applicant then becomes a participant in the RHI scheme and hence eligible for support.
- The obligations that fall to the participant are as follows:
  - Particular issues re use of equipment;
  - Maintenance requirements
  - Measurement and reporting on their fuel use, where appropriate
  - To submit regular meter readings to Ofgem E-Serve
  - To co-operate with Ofgem E-serve.

### **35. What guarantee is there that my newly planned plant will qualify for the RHI?/Why should I even consider thinking about using renewable heat for my future plants?**

- Ofgem will produce detailed guidance on the eligibility criteria in due course. This will outline all the conditions that generators will have to meet in order to receive support.

- We also intend to allow for preliminary accreditation. This will allow potential generators to submit plans for a renewable heat installation, demonstrating that once built, it will meet the eligibility criteria. Where Ofgem is satisfied that the criteria will be met, it will be able to grant 'preliminary accreditation'. This should help provide a greater degree of certainty to developers that once built an installation will be eligible for the RHI.
- Plans for these proposed installations can be submitted to Ofgem E-serve together with evidence that the installation will meet eligibility criteria. Ofgem E-serve will grant preliminary accreditation if they're satisfied that all the criteria will be met.
- An organisation can only apply for preliminary accreditation once the scheme is up and running.
- Preliminary accreditation will only be available for the more complex renewable systems.
- Ofgem will produce guidance on this in due course.

**36. At what point can an application for pre-accreditation be submitted?**

- Ofgem will produce guidance on this in due course.

**37. How will payments be calculated?**

- Payments will be calculated by multiplying the appropriate tariff, depending on the technology and size of the installation by the metered amount of eligible renewable heat generated.
- For steam boilers, CHP and systems supplying heat to premises or processes located on different sites, metering will also be required at the point of usage and payments will be calculated according to the individual contribution of each renewable heat installation to ensure that payments are not made for heat that is wasted.
- Payments will be made over a period of 20 years and adjusted annually in line with inflation.

## **Technology Specific Queries:**

### **38. Are there any technologies that may be included in a later Phase of the RHI?**

Yes, we are considering including:

- Air Source Heat Pumps
- Direct air heating (e.g. kilns)
- Large solar thermal (above 200 kW)
- Large biogas (above 200 kW)
- Bioliquids
- Separate tariff for deep geothermal (currently treated like ground source heat pumps)

There are a number of complex issues around these technologies which still remain to be resolved and our focus will be on resolving these issues going forward.

### **39. Which technologies are excluded from the scheme:**

- Co-firing of biomass with fossil fuel
- Exhaust air heat pumps
- Transpired solar thermal panels
- Fossil fuel fired CHP
- Waste heat from fossil fuel

As these do not constitute 'renewable' heat sources.

### **40. What technical information has been collected to inform the tariffs:**

- We commissioned several consultants to research the economic and technological characteristics of the technologies included in the RHI. In addition, we have listened to the views of stakeholders from the previous consultation.
- We have published one consultancy report on the DECC website, and the remaining reports will be published shortly.

## **District Heating:**

### **41. Will the RHI support District Heating schemes?**

- YES. District heating will be eligible for the RHI, where the heat is produced by an RHI-eligible installation. District heating will be treated in the same way as an installation for that technology and fuel type providing heat for on-site use.
- The renewable heat for this type of heating can be produced using any of the RHI eligible technologies, though biomass boilers and large heat pumps are most commonly used.
- There is no extra support/ uplift for district heating installations; for costs incurred in constructing a network of pipe work etc.

### **42. I already receive support under the RO for my CHP installation – am I eligible for the RHI?**

- For CHP plants completed after 15 July 2009, if you are claiming the RO plus the 0.5 ROC CHP uplift, you will not be eligible to apply for the RHI. However we will review this in Phase II of the RHI due to come into effect in 2012. As part of that review we will consider whether to offer RO eligible CHP stations accredited after 15 July 2009, a one off choice to claim the RO + uplift, or the RO (minus uplift) plus the RHI. Operators of CHP stations will be able to make this choice up until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.
- If you only claim basic RO currently, you can apply for RHI; however this option applies only to CHP plants accredited for RO from 15 July 2009.

### **43. Why aren't bioliquids covered from the start?**

- We recognise there are valuable uses of bioliquids in renewable heat generation and combined heat and power, including those developed from wastes such as used cooking oil and those made from advanced technologies.
- However, there are complex issues we want to better understand and be able to address. These include potential competition for

feedstocks with other sectors and sustainability reporting commitments under the Renewable Energy Directive (RED). We will consider supporting bioliquids from 2012.

**44. Is energy from waste covered?**

- Yes. At the introduction of the scheme in 2011 all wastes used to create biogas through anaerobic digestion will be eligible for the RHI. Eligible waste feedstock for combustion, gasification and pyrolysis will be limited to solid biomass from municipal solid waste (MSW), including solid recovered fuel (SRF) from MSW. We will be tracking ongoing technological developments in this area, with a view to being able to allow other waste streams into the RHI from 2012. We need to ascertain a more reliable fuel measurement methodology for ascertaining the renewable content in mixed waste streams, such as solid recovered fuel.
- In addition, other wastes where at least 90 per cent of their energy content is comprised of solid biomass will receive support. Examples of such wastes include waste wood and residues from the paper manufacturing industry.

**45. What are the arrangements for using municipal solid waste ?**

- Participants who burn MSW will receive the biomass tariff, adjusted pro-rata for the solid biomass content of their waste. Unless participants prove a higher percentage of biomass content, the pro-rata content will be deemed at 50 per cent. This is in line with the arrangements for deeming MSW under the Renewables Obligation. Analysis into the possibility of a dedicated tariff for MSW is underway and we will consider introducing a specific tariff from 2012 providing sufficient evidence is available.

**46. Why aren't all types of mixed wastes and SRF eligible for combustion, gasification and pyrolysis ?**

- In due course we would like to extend eligibility to mixed wastes and SRF from waste streams other than municipal solid waste. We have noted industry's concerns regarding the need for a more reliable and cost-effective methodology for establishing the renewable content of mixed wastes and work is underway to address this issue.



#### **47. Why isn't landfill gas included at the start of the scheme ?**

- Work is still underway to consider the costs of biogas or biomethane injection from landfill gas. In many cases this regards landfill gas sites which are already producing electricity, and would likely have lower costs of switching to heat or biomethane than other biogas options. It would therefore not be appropriate to include landfill gas within the general tariff for biomethane; pending the outcome of our work on landfill gas.

#### **48. Why are you restricting Anaerobic digestion to waste?**

- Our policy on AD is focussed on the use of waste, to reduce the amount going to landfill (and so reduce greenhouse gas emissions) and to reduce problems associated with the spreading of manures and slurries on land.
- However, we do recognise that some crops may need to be added to manure-based AD to ensure efficient operation.

#### **49. Why can't we operate AD plants the way they do in Germany (i.e, using crops)?**

- It is not our policy to encourage farm-grown feedstocks but we do not object if they are grown as part of a normal agricultural rotation or on land which is not suitable for the production of food crops. We do recognise that some farm-grown feedstocks may need to be added to manure-based AD to ensure efficient operation.

#### **50. What are you doing to remove the other barriers to AD?**

- Government is working with industry to draw up an AD Strategy, to be published in May 2011. This will set out a joint programme of work for Government and industry to tackle the barriers to deployment.

#### **51. Is combined heat and power covered?**

- Yes, we want to ensure that useful renewable heat is supported both where generated in dedicated heat installations or in combined heat and power. The proposed tariffs apply to both situations.

**52. Is injection of biogas into the gas grid covered?**

- Yes, we believe injection of biomethane into the gas grid can play an important part in increasing renewable heat.

**53. How does RO decision on co-firing affect RHI?**

- The RHI will require that where a generating station generates heat from both biomass and fossil fuel, the biomass fuel must only be burned in a dedicated biomass boiler. This ensures that the RHI only rewards the renewable heat output. The requirement under the RO that stations co-firing fossil fuel and biomass with CHP must do so in separate boilers to allow the energy produced from the separate fuels to be measured is consistent with this.

**54. Why are air source heat pumps not being supported?**

- We would like further work undertaken to better understand the costs associated with the technology. For air to air heat pumps, we have not developed a solution to measuring direct air heating rather than water and steam based measurements. Also, we need to consider further how best to support a technology which will, in many cases be used for air conditioning as well as heating. We will continue to look at how we can include this technology from 2012.

**Biomass and bioliquids:**

**55. What are you doing to ensure that biomass used for heat is sustainable/ why is your initial approach so weak?**

- Our initial requirement is for generators of 1MWth and above to provide quarterly reports on the biomass they have used including quantity, type and form, country of origin, and whether an environmental accreditation has been met.
- This will provide valuable information to help us develop an efficient and effective set of sustainability criteria for biomass heat.
- We expect to consult on mandatory sustainability criteria for introduction in the RHI from 2013 onwards.

**56. Will you take the exact same approach for biomass used under the RHI as being introduced for the Renewables Obligation (RO)?**

- For simplicity and clarity, it is sensible to take a complementary approach where possible; some generating companies may claim both the RHI and RO.
- However, we recognise that there are some differences in the biomass heat compared to the biomass electricity market. In particular that we expect a large number of small biomass heat generators will come forward.
- We will monitor the Renewables Obligation (RO) closely, when it introduces reporting on GHG savings and compliance with land use criteria this April.
- We expect to consult on mandatory sustainability criteria for introduction in the RHI from 2013 onwards.

**57. Your 1MWth threshold for the quarterly biomass reporting requirement is much too low/too high?**

- The 1MWth threshold was a compromise between setting it high reflecting the excellent energy conversion efficiency for heat and hence reduced sustainability concerns, with setting it low as small heat plants may come forward in a significant number collectively consuming a large amount of biomass.
- We also sought to balanced these sustainability considerations against the cost and administrative burdens involved in demonstrating the use of sustainable fuels for our small scale heat generators.

**58. Why are you restricting the type of wood that can be used / What will you do to stop quality timber being burnt for energy?**

- We do not expect high quality timber to be used for energy. The market pays a premium for high quality wood – i.e. wide, straight and with minimal knots. We have set the RHI support at the level we considered is needed to bring forward new biomass heat fuelled with lower quality, lower cost wood.
- If evidence shows high grade timber is being diverted into heat with adverse sustainability impacts, then measures will be introduced to prevent this.

## **Tariffs:**

### **59. Will the tariff levels change?**

- Once an installation is accredited under the scheme they will receive a fixed level of support which will be adjusted annually in line with inflation. . However, to ensure the scheme is cost effective the tariffs are likely to change over time and the new tariffs will be applied to anyone joining the scheme.

### **60. What is degression?**

- Degression is where trigger levels are built into the RHI scheme which allows tariff levels to reduce automatically once a certain point is reached – for example, a certain level of installed capacity. Degression is a measure to maintain the cost effectiveness of the scheme and we intend to introduce it in 2012 as part of Phase 2.

### **61. What is the duration of the scheme?**

- The scheme will remain open until at least 2020 with payments to non-domestic installations guaranteed for 20 years from entry to the scheme.

### **62. The tariffs aren't high enough to stimulate growth/ ensure take-up?**

- The support levels provided under the RHI are based on data collected through extensive analysis and consultation with stakeholders. Based on this analysis we believe that the tariffs are sufficient to stimulate significant renewable growth in the commercial, industrial and public sectors, creating strong pathway towards the 12% renewable heat ambition by 2020.
- We will monitor actual deployment data renewable heat technologies once the RHI goes live and use the regular reviews to adjust support levels as deemed appropriate in order to allow us to deliver our overarching ambition.

### **63. Why are the RHI rates of return higher than FITs?**

- The higher rate of return under RHI reflects the fact that renewable heat is still relatively unknown in the UK and that from this low starting position, the renewable heat market needs a kick-start in order to encourage high growth quickly.

- Renewable heat technologies also face more non-financial barriers associated with their installation and, in the majority of cases, do not have the potential to export heat as there is no national grid for heat.

**64. How can you justify such generous tariffs?**

- The types of greener heating systems supported under the RHI are less well-known than their electricity counterparts.
- The RHI tariffs reflect our ambition to increase the amount of heat generated by renewables from 1% today to 12% by 2020.
- Govt has been promoting and supporting green electricity for many years through a number of mechanisms. This is our first and only mechanism for promoting renewable heat.

**65. You said on the FITs that the rate of return is guaranteed. Is it the same for the RHI?**

- Under the RHI installations that have entered the scheme are guaranteed the RHI tariff (adjusted by inflation) for 20 years provided they continue to meet the relevant eligibility criteria.

**66. Will the tariffs be adjusted for inflation like in FITs?**

- Yes.

**67. Why does solar thermal get a lower rate of return?**

- Solar thermal is a well-known technology, and it's relatively easy to install. In addition solar thermal heat is, at present, more costly per unit of energy than other technologies. In order to keep the costs of the scheme under control the Government has therefore concluded that the tariff for solar thermal installations will be set at 8.5p/KWh in line with what is considered to be the marginal cost effective technology required to deliver the UK's 15% renewable target.

**68. Why is there no solar thermal tariff above 200 kW?**

- Cost data for larger solar thermal installations is sparse, making it difficult to set appropriate tariff levels. Work on larger-scale tariffs is

ongoing, and subject to successful conclusion of this work, we will consider providing larger-scale solar thermal tariffs from 2012.

**69. Are you providing an additional export tariff for biogas injection similar to the FITs export tariff?**

- No – those injecting biomethane into the grid will get RHI support, and in addition they will be free to negotiate a sale price for the biogas.

**70. Why is there no tariff for heat from biogas combustion above 200 kW when there are FITs for electricity from biogas combustion at all scales?**

- We are keen to ensure that biogas is encouraged and used in the most effective way, be it as electricity or heat from biogas, or both in the form of CHP, or biogas injection into the gas grid. However going forward we will be considering the possibility of including the RHI greater than 200KW plants if evidence becomes available to support this.

**71. What about technologies that aren't getting a specific tariff like deep geothermal, syngas, water source heat pumps?**

- We are not providing individual tariffs for every eligible technology. We have based tariffs on the principle of cost based tariffs, where tariff levels vary depending on the cost of the technologies at different scales and with a focus on :
  - compensating for the additional cost of the renewable technology over fossil fuel heating
  - providing an incentive to overcome non-financial barriers, and
  - providing a return on the additional capital invested.
  - Going forward, we will consider whether need more specific treatment for innovative technologies and those which are not currently commercially deployed in GB and for which it is more difficult to develop a specific tariff.

## **Public Sector**

### **72. Can public sector organisations claim the RHI and receive tariffs e.g. school, hospital?**

- Yes, public sector organisations can claim the RHI providing they own the installed renewable heating equipment.
- Public sector buildings will often have greater potential, for example more space, for onsite renewables. Their size and location could lead them to play a critical role in the viability of community heat and energy networks.

### **73. How much renewable heat do you expect the public sector to deliver?**

- We want the public sector to lead the way in the shift to renewables. For example, we are very keen to see schools take-up the incentive as we believe this would be an invaluable way of teaching and informing young people and local communities about the potential for local renewable generation and ensuring there is a real shift in the way we perceive heating our homes and buildings.
- Difficult to estimate the precise level of renewable heat that this sector can deliver but public sector involvement is a key part to realising our ambition for renewable heat.

## **Communities:**

### **74. How can the RHI help communities?**

- We believe the RHI presents a big opportunity for community schemes linking public sector buildings, such as a school or hospital, with housing and businesses.
- Local authorities and housing associations have an opportunity to consider the replacement of their uneconomical communal systems with more efficient systems supported by the RHI and tailored to local energy needs.
- The RHI scheme allows local authorities and social landlords to claim the RHI.
- The opportunities are wide, from setting up anaerobic digestion plants using local waste to establishing community-owned biomass cooperatives, sourcing fuel from sustainable local woodlands.

- In some situations of district and community renewable heating, whether in the form of a central boiler for an apartment building, or as a network of pipes delivering heat from a central installation to a number of local households or businesses, can be a useful and cost-effective alternative to installing individual heating systems in individual properties. Action such as this can also encourage investment by giving developers greater confidence of the ability to sell heat from central plant.

### **Role of Local Authorities:**

#### **75. Can a local authority/ social landlords (e.g. housing associations) claim the RHI?**

- A local authority can receive support through the RHI providing it owns the installation, that the installation meets the eligibility criteria and it is installed in a non-domestic location.
- **Social landlords and housing associations** installing renewable heating equipment in individuals households will not be supported through the RHI from the start of the scheme, as this would constitute a domestic installation. However, we intend to introduce support for the domestic sector in the RHI from 2012, alongside the Green Deal, at which point they will be able to apply for support.
- The Government is also honouring the previous commitment that installations installed and first commissioned on or after the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009 will be eligible for support once support is introduced, providing they meet the final eligibility criteria.
- Where a housing association installs a renewable district heating system, which meets the eligibility criteria, support through the RHI will be available from the outset.
- In order to receive support they will need to be the owner of the installation and retain the rights and liabilities of the equipment.



## **MCS requirement under RHI:**

### **76. Why do you require MCS certification for installations under 45KWth when it so costly to secure and time intensive?**

- MCS has an important role to play in creating a sustainable industry for microgeneration technologies. It has been recognised, from experience in other countries that unsafe or poor quality installations can rapidly undermine the sustainability of these industries and undermine consumer confidence.
- Given the relatively immature renewable heating market, third party certification is important to address the risk that these technologies may be mis-sold, with some installers overpromising on energy outputs. MCS requires an accurate estimate of the likely energy output of an installation and is supported by a mandatory consumer code of practice, which meets OFT level requirements.
- We are currently consulting on extending MCS to cover technologies above the statutory microgeneration limits in the Microgeneration Strategy consultation, which closes 16 March 2011. This is primarily to support projects at a community scale, but we also need to consider implications for the commercial sector, particularly given the much larger capacities eligible for the Feed-In-Tariff and potential uncapped limit for the Renewable Heat Incentive.
- We want to see the deployment of heat technologies at all scales and we fully understand communities' concerns about deploying technologies at a communal scale without the support of MCS.
- MCS is a not-for-profit industry-led certification scheme, supported by a wide range of stakeholders operating in the microgeneration sector. Although there was financial support from central government during the scheme's development phase, it is now operating on a self-financing basis.
- Currently all the devolved administrations are participating in the MCS scheme. There will be differences in building regulations across the devolved nations but this is adequately accounted for in MCS. In the event that one of the devolved authorities were to set up their own scheme, it would need to be MCS equivalent for RHI.

**77. The decision not to offer the RHI scheme to the domestic sector from 2011 will affect small MCS installation companies.**

- The RHI scheme is not currently open to the domestic sector as we need to ensure that a scheme which is fit for purpose for this sector is delivered. We will work with stakeholders while we develop this scheme.

**Green Deal :**

**78. What measures are covered by the Green Deal**

- A broad range of measures - provided the Golden Rule is met and other qualifying criteria (including heating measures).
- Secondary legislation will set out the criteria which will determine the categories of products eligible for finance.
- Industry representatives are helping us to determine the criteria (including the heating industry).
- We are currently gathering evidence on the installation costs and expected energy efficiency performance of a range of measures.
- A Call for Evidence and Literature Review on the costs and performance of a wide range of measures will be issued shortly (issue date also scheduled for 10 March).

**79. Will the Call for Evidence determine eligibility**

- No. This is a chance for industry and other to tell us about their products and what they can do.
- It is part of a wider evidence gathering exercise that will go on for the next year.
- A formal consultation on the Green deal framework will be launched later in 2011.

### **80. Are Microgeneration technologies covered by the Green Deal?**

- The Energy Bill covers Microgeneration – “future-proofing” for when Microgeneration technologies become more “cost-effective” and can meet the Golden Rule.
- Until then Microgeneration technologies will be supported by other financing regimes - including the Renewable Heat Incentive and Feed In Tariffs.
- At present – the two regimes complement each other – but will not be combined.
- There may be exceptions to this – for example we are beginning to see evidence that heat pumps may pay for themselves.
- Green Deal assessors will still discuss the potential for installing microgeneration at the same time as discussing other measures such as insulation.

### **81. If a Microgeneration measure can pay for itself, can you get FITS/RHI on top?**

- FITs and RHI are subsidies paid to help offset the cost of the technology, this includes upfront cost and maintenance.
- If a measure can pay for itself through energy savings, it should be unnecessary to provide this additional subsidy.

### **82. What will the Green Deal eligibility criteria look like?**

- The criteria will relate to the categories of products which can be installed in general, rather than what is suitable for an individual property.
- They will cover principles related to energy saving performance, and will require that measures must be those which are “non portable”.

### **83. How will a business know whether their product is covered?**

- Industry focused guidance on measures will be produced by April 2012.
- We also require that the Green Deal Oversight body can provide advice on the eligibility of measures and particular products.

## 84.IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### Impact Assessment key figures:

- How much will the RHI cost to the government?

The cumulative costs of the RHI by 2020 are expected to be around £5.4bn. These are current estimated projections and the full costs of the scheme will depend on the actual profile and level of demand. Full details of the costs and benefits of the RHI can be found in the accompanying IA.

- What carbon savings are expected as a result of the RHI

MtCO2 (NET)	Total	In EU ETS	Outside EU ETS
1st Carbon Budget Period (2008-2012)	1	0	1
2nd Carbon Budget Period (2013-2017)	15	3	11
3rd Carbon Budget Period (2018-2022)	52	8	44
<b>Total policy lifetime</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>209</b>
<b>Cumulative to 2020</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>36</b>