

**How can I apply?**

The most important first step for any RHI application is to seek expert advice. A renewable heating specialist will be able to look at your plans, talk to you about what sort of heating setup you're looking for, and help you find the right solution. To qualify for RHI payments, your system needs to have been fitted by an installer who has the right training and accreditation under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). NIBE VIP installers can also offer an extended warranty – so it pays to make sure you're dealing with an expert.

Once you've discussed your project and requirements, your installer can advise on the best renewable heating technology for your setup. This will depend on the size of the building, its heat-loss protection, and whether you have access to a power supply. For example, an air source heat pump might work better for a new-build property with underfloor heating, where a biomass boiler might be suited to a rural, off-grid home with enough space to store fuel. Whatever the technology you choose, it must be fully MCS accredited to qualify for payments.

Once the installation has finished, your installer will commission your system and provide an MCS certificate to show that it has been fitted in line with the relevant guidelines. Before applying for RHI payments you will also need an up-to-date EPC showing how efficient your property is. For most self-build projects this is done using the EPC obtained at the end of the build. For retrofits, applicants need to arrange a Green Deal Assessment (GDA) which will advise on measures to improve the home's efficiency (these need to be carried out and a new EPC obtained before going ahead with the RHI application).

Once you have the right documentation you

**Applying for the RHI**

1. Talk to an expert



2. Choose your technology



3. Documentation



4. Apply online



5. Ongoing actions



can apply for the RHI online via the Ofgem website ([ofgem.gov.uk](http://ofgem.gov.uk)). The site will guide you through the application process, from submitting your documents to providing your bank details for payments.

**Going green, staying warm**

Once your application has been successfully accepted, you are all set to start generating renewable heat and receiving RHI payments. Going forward, you will need to ensure that your system is maintained in line with manufacturer and RHI requirements, and that you continue to declare that your system is in good working order every year. Those self-builders successfully

applying in 2014 can continue to reap the financial rewards of the RHI for the next seven years – and ensure a greener, cost-effective and more self-sufficient future for their home in the long run.

NIBE provides a whole portfolio of renewable and energy-saving solutions for home heating, ventilation, cooling and heat recovery – including a range of RHI-eligible air source and ground source heat pumps, wood-burning biomass boilers and solar thermal systems. To talk to an expert about the best renewable technology for your home please call 0845 095 1200. You can find your local NIBE VIP installer or read more about the RHI at [www.nibe.co.uk](http://www.nibe.co.uk) ■

**THE ACRONYMS**

**EPC: Energy Performance Certificate** (the efficiency rating of your self-build)

**MCS: Microgeneration Certification Scheme** (a national quality assurance scheme for renewable technologies, installers and installations)

**GDA: Green Deal Assessment** (an inspection to identify improvements to enhance the efficiency of a property)

**RHI: Renewable Heat Incentive** (a government financial incentive to drive uptake of green heating systems)

**RHPP: Renewable Heat Premium Payment** (a voucher scheme to help cover the up-front cost of eligible technologies)



<sup>1</sup> Actual figure £3,429.68 a year (£24,007.76 in total over seven-year scheme). Based on a total annual energy demand of 25,000kWh, system seasonal efficiency (SPF) of 3.7 (at 3\* in heat emitter guide) and tariff payments of 18.8p per kWh.