

OFTEC Information Sheet

Expand your business with the OFTEC renewables scheme



The drive to reduce carbon emissions in the United Kingdom and Ireland is gathering momentum and the government is keen that this should be reflected in both the domestic and commercial heating sectors.



One of the best ways to reduce carbon emissions is to stop burning fossil fuels for heating and look to renewable technologies. This isn't a change that can happen overnight and will take many years to achieve, but OFTEC is keen to be part of this movement and offers registration schemes for solar thermal, biomass and heat pumps as well as for oil and solid fuel.

This move towards renewable technologies for heating is a huge opportunity for installers, so if you haven't considered it, now is definitely the time. Some manufacturers offer low cost introductory training if you want to get a flavour for what's involved before investing in a new qualification.

Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

To encourage the uptake of renewables, the government launched the domestic RHI in 2014. For a seven year period, the RHI scheme pays consumers according to the amount of heat generated by the newly installed renewable technology. This helps to reimburse part of the initial cost of the appliance. The payments do change from time to time, so to find out what the current RHI rates are, please visit www.ofgem.gov.uk.

Applicable technologies must be less than or equal to 45kW in size and have a 45kW or less microgeneration (MCS) certification.

Installers must hold MCS certification for their customers to access RHI payments.

Hybrid or link-up systems

Some consumers are naturally concerned about making a complete switch to renewable heating and this is where installers who are trained in several technologies can offer a unique service. Many homes would benefit from hybrid or link-up systems – perhaps using predominantly solar for water heating during the summer months but having the back up of an oil boiler for the winter. This type of system is particularly useful when installing district heating systems – which are more common in Europe – where several properties are serviced from the one central hub, maximising energy efficiencies and keeping costs down for residents.

How to join the OFTEC renewables scheme with MCS

Joining the OFTEC renewables registration scheme is easy. The chart overleaf shows which qualifications are required and the scheme standards you need to adhere to. If you have any queries, our registration team are always happy to help.

You can apply online at www.joinoftec.com or request an MCS Registration Scheme application form (R572) by emailing registration@oftec.org or phoning 01473 626 298 (UK) or 01 8645 771 (RoI)

If you are already registered with OFTEC for another technology and wish to extend your competent person scheme registration only (without MCS registration), simply complete an R526 extension to scope form



you can download it here: <https://bit.ly/2MLI2PG> or request a copy from the registration team. There is no additional business audit required providing you are fully qualified.

Inspections

Your application will be assessed according to several different requirements:

- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government’s (MHCLG) competent person scheme conditions
- the minimum technical competences (MTC)
- Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) microgeneration (MCS) installer scheme standards (see above).

Once your application has been reviewed one of our inspectors will visit your premises to evaluate your business’s quality management systems, records of internal reviews and any actions or outcomes. They will then look at your other business systems such as contracts, methods of design, installation, commissioning

and handover procedures. Subject to these all meeting the requirements of the Microgeneration Standards, our inspector will then ask to see a recent installation of the renewable technology(ies) being applied for.

Where possible, the entire audit and inspection process will be carried out on the same day, but if multiple technologies are being applied for and several sites need to be visited it may take longer.

Your inspector will provide you with feedback at the closing meeting and then send their report back to the OFTEC head office where your application will be verified. You will receive written confirmation that you have been certified onto the scheme or an explanation of the steps you need to take in order to be granted registration – including putting right any non-conformities outlined during the inspection process.

The renewables market will continue to expand, and this opens up fantastic opportunities for your business to diversify into new technologies that complement your existing heating business. Contact us today.

Qualification requirements

Technology	OFTEC reference	Qualifications required (Mapped to QCF Units) *	CPS – Self certify	MCS – access to RHI for customers	MCS Standards (Installer Certification Scheme Requirements)
Solar Thermal	OFT 501	F/602/3100 L/602/3102 Y/602/3104 K/602/3107	✓	✓	MCS 001 + MIS 3001
Heat Pumps (ground source / air source)	OFT 504	D/602/3072 F/602/3078 L/602/3083 Y/602/3054	✓	✓	MCS 001 + MIS 3005
Biomass	OFT 505	J/502/9406 L/502/9407 R/502/9411 K/502/9415 Y/502/9412 H/502/9414	✓	✓	MCS 001 + MIS 3004

* It is also possible to register following the ‘experienced worker route’ without a formal qualification – providing you have relevant experience and training. The MCS 025 document clarifies these requirements.

Course requirements are correct at the time of print but may be subject to change. Check with the OFTEC registration department or www.microgenerationcertification.org/mcs-standards/installer-standards/

Published by OFTEC
Tel: 01473 626 298 (UK) or 01 864 5771 (RoI)
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