

# What does the RHI mean for Solar Thermal?



**Solar thermal systems use solar panels, called collectors, usually fitted to a roof. Unlike biomass and heat pumps, solar thermal panels usually only heat water and don't provide room heating.**

The panels collect heat from the sun and use it to heat up water which is stored in a hot water cylinder.

There are two types of solar thermal panels that are eligible for the RHI, both which can be fixed on to roof tiles or integrated into the roof:

- ✓ **Evacuated tubes**
- ✓ **Flat plate collectors**

Only domestic hot water generated by solar thermal systems will be eligible.

All of the heat output generated by solar thermal systems is considered renewable.

Unlike heat pumps or biomass, solar thermal will almost always act as a complementary system to other heating systems - either fossil fuel or renewable. This is because a solar thermal system will not normally be able to provide 100% of a property's heating demand.

RHI payments will therefore be made only on the solar thermal system's deemed contribution to the hot water demand. No metering will be required for the solar thermal system.

If solar thermal is used with a biomass boiler or a heat pump, two claims can be made for the RHI - one for the solar thermal system and one for the space heating system.

## Calculating payments for deemed properties

*(payments based on estimated heat use)*

All participants to the scheme will be paid at quarterly intervals over the seven years' payment lifetime. The following figures calculate the total annual payment.

For solar thermal installations: All the heat output of solar thermal panels is counted as renewable. The tariff rate is multiplied by the deemed heat load, taken from the 'estimated annual generation' figure you calculate:

$$kWh \times \text{tariff (p/kWh)} \div 100 = \text{£/yr}$$

Its not just solar thermal installations that will benefit, the government scheme is available for other domestic heat technologies including:

- Biomass
- Air Source Heat Pumps
- Ground Source Heat Pumps