

## Explaining the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) in Ireland

Source: Extract from DCCAE presentation at the Energy in Agriculture exhibition in Gurteen College, Roscrea, on Tuesday 22nd August 2017 by Mr. Frank Groome. Decarbonisation Policy Co-Ordinator in DCCAE.

Speaking at the Energy in Agriculture event last month in Gurteen College, Roscrea, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, Mr. Denis Naughten said that he hopes to bring a proposal to cabinet on the long-awaited Renewable Heat Incentive scheme in the coming weeks, adding that it is a “tangible and viable measure to stimulate the growth of our domestic biomass market.” The following information is extracted from a presentation given by Mr. Frank Groome at the Energy in Agriculture exhibition, entitled “Explaining the Renewable Heat Incentive in Ireland”.

### Technologies that will qualify initially:

Biomass (including boilers, direct air, and high efficiency combined heat and power); – Anaerobic Digestion (including biogas boilers, biogas high efficiency combined heat and power, and biomethane production for injection into the natural gas grid); – Heat pumps (including air source, water source, and ground source); – Solar thermal; – Deep-geothermal.

### RHI payment:

Each technology will be paid on a cents/kWh on a metered basis.

### Users

The scheme will be open to non-domestic users, i.e. businesses. It is not open to ETS.

### Criteria

The scheme demands users will be obliged to comply with minimum efficiency, air quality and fuel (WFQA) standards.

### Period

The scheme will allow users to claim RHI payments each year for 15 years.

### Budget

There will be budgetary measures and reviews to ensure no windfall gains from external market factors.

## Boiler Size

There is no cap on boiler size, so any biomass boiler can qualify provided it meets the minimum efficiency and air quality standards. A property will be assessed based on its energy requirements and an applicant will be advised the boiler size that he/she can install and will be advised the tariff that he/she will earn over 15 years.

## Future updates

The RHI is likely to be laid before Cabinet for approval in September 2017. The RHI scheme will then require EU State Aid Approval (this should not be a problem as it is facilitating Ireland's commitment to EU Carbon Reduction targets).

The scheme is likely to be open for applications in early 2018.

## About Woodco Energy

Woodco Energy Ireland is a Biomass Boiler manufacturer with exports to the UK, Europe and North America. As an Irish company, we have a particular interest in ensuring a sustainable and attractive RHI scheme is introduced to the Republic of Ireland and to help our country meet its onerous 12% Renewable Heat targets by 2020.

In 2015, Ireland had 6.5% of heat generated by renewable sources, so it is clear that we have a lot of work to do to help us meet this target. The Government recognises that RHI will be a significant driver in achieving this. For its part, Woodco has played a role in the consultative process and being involved in steering and stakeholder meetings with the SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland), IrBEA (Irish Bioenergy Association), and other representative bodies. The RHI has been a long time coming, but we are finally nearly there.

I hope you find our informative bulletin on the RHI to be of interest. We plan to issue a series of these bulletins in advance of the RHI launch date, so keep an eye on your inbox for further updates. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at [info@woodco-energy.com](mailto:info@woodco-energy.com) or visit our website [www.woodco-energy.com](http://www.woodco-energy.com).

Yours sincerely,

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