

Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive

www.ofgem.gov.uk/ndrhi

Help Sheet – Biogas

Purpose

This document has been created to support you with making a good quality and properly-made application, and to minimise the assessment period.

To help us assess your application as quickly as possible, it is in your interest to collect the information and provide it to Ofgem before the assessment of your application begins. This guide provides detail on where the information must be provided along the application journey. Where possible, all evidence should be uploaded within the application itself.

If you run out of space and need to provide additional supporting documents, please save them in a compressed zip folder and email it to RHI.accreditation@ofgem.gov.uk. Please quote your RHI Application number in the subject heading of the email.

Your RHI Account

Before we can accredit your plant, your RHI account must be verified. This process runs independently from our assessment on the eligibility of your plant. Undertaking the following actions quickly will help to reduce the overall assessment period.

1. Please ensure that the bank account information is uploaded to the RHI Register (this is the bank account that will receive RHI Payments if your plant is accredited). To do this:
 - a. Login to your RHI account, [here](#).
 - b. Select User Management from the menu at the top of the screen
 - c. Select Bank Details
 - d. Enter the bank details you wish to nominate for RHI payments.
 - e. Submit

2. Please also email bank account and ID evidence (bill etc.) to post@ofgem.gov.uk.
The bank account document must:
 - a. Be dated within the last three months
 - b. Show the company/organisation name (as listed under your RHI account), address, sort-code and account number and
 - c. Be on bank headed paper (e.g. a bank statement or letter from the bank)
Online statements may not be acceptable if they do not meet the above criteria.

3. To allow us to complete our identity checks, please email a copy of:
 - a. Photographic ID (e.g. a passport or driving licence)
 - b. Proof of residency at your home address (e.g. council tax or utility bill). Evidence of your home address should be dated within the last three months.

Application Question Guidance

The following list of questions is a selection that we often require further information on and therefore delay the assessment period

Question	Question Text	Question Guidance
HA110 Technology	Please select your installations technology, or if you are applying for a biomethane plant. Solid Biomass CHP (GB only) should only be selected if certain criteria are met. Please check the RHI Guidance document at the help and guidance link above to understand whether these criteria apply to you.	The chosen technology type of your plant must be consistent with the technology you disclosed within your previously approved Extension Application. Any material amendments may result in your full accreditation application being rejected.
HA120 Capacity	Please enter the installation capacity in kWth. If you have a heat pump that is capable of cooling as well as heating, the capacity entered must be the capacity based on the design heat load only. If your installation is a CHP system, this should be the installation capacity of all plants installed on the system	The capacity of your installation must be consistent with the capacity disclosed within your previously approved Extension Application. Any material amendment may result in your full accreditation application being rejected.
HA150 System Details	Please enter the name plate efficiency (or the system efficiency) of your installation as a percentage (%). For CHP installations please state the total system efficiency (%). If your installation is a heat pump, please enter the coefficient of performance	When specifying a CHP unit efficiency, you must provide a combined total system efficiency (%) of both electrical and thermal efficiencies.
HA160 Fuel and Sustainability	From 5 October 2015 all fuel used must meet the sustainability requirements. From this date, participants must provide information about the sustainability of the fuels used in each quarter (even if the fuel was purchased/received prior to 5 October). Please state which route of compliance you intend to use to demonstrate you meet the sustainability criteria.	Fuel records must be kept from the date on which your application was submitted. Guidance on keeping fuel records can be found here . If you are 'self-reporting', you must complete a Fuel Measurement and Sampling Questionnaire

		<p>(FMSQ). Guidance on the form can be found here.</p> <p>The completed form must be emailed to rhi.biomass-sustainability@ofgem.gov.uk. Please quote your RHI Application or ORG number in the subject heading of the email.</p>
HC125 Extension	If you have an Extension Application for this installation, please enter the RHI number here.	Please ensure that you complete this field with your Extension Application RHI number (RHI000...) so that we can match your applications.
HD170-1 Premises	Please select the type of premises in which heat from the installation (for which you are applying) is used. Please upload evidence of non-single domestic status at the document uploads at the end of the application (eg Non-Domestic (Business) Rates bill, multiple Council Tax bills or equivalent / similar evidence):	<p>To support your answer to this question, you must provide the necessary evidence. This can be uploaded at HL190-HL280.</p> <p>A Non-Domestic Questionnaire (NDQ), must be provided. The form can be found here.</p> <p>Please ensure that photographs of the heat uses and associated buildings are included. We expect to see internal and external pictures. Please ensure that your pictures are clear images.</p> <p>Where a single domestic premises and non-domestic premises are heated, 'Section C' must be completed to demonstrate the split in the heat use between the domestic and non-domestic premises.</p>

		<p>If held, please provide evidence of non-domestic rates bills and/ or council tax bills for multiple/all premises. The evidence must be legible and dated as recently as possible.</p> <p>Most common issues here occur when the NDQ is not uploaded and poor quality images have been provided.</p>
<p>HG100 Plant</p>	<p>Which of the following conversion processes is used to convert the biomass feedstock into biogas?</p>	<p>If your system is a Biogas production plant (Anaerobic Digestion Plant), evidence is required to support when the biogas production plant first began producing 'usable' biogas, please ensure this evidence details:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion of pressure & hydrostatic testing 2. Evidence when digester was seeded with feedstocks 3. biogas production evidence - <i>dated on-site SCADA, gas flow meters, Flare/plant operation times</i> 4. Completion of electrical works, alarm systems, control systems. 5. Completion and handover documentation, including any snagging lists. 6. Site photographs of all digesters and flaring equipment. <p>Evidence can be uploaded to HL190-HL280</p>

<p>HH120 Heat Use</p>	<p>Please further describe how heat generated by your installation is used. Where appropriate, this should include: A description of any ineligible heat uses supplied by the heating system, and how the metering arrangements will ensure heat supplied to such uses will not be included in the meter readings submitted for RHI payment purposes Details of any heat customers to which heat is supplied for separate use A brief description of the building or enclosed structure(s) in which the eligible heat is used (For processes other than in a building (GB only)) A description of the commercial cleaning and/or drying process. For ground source heat pumps, a description of the source of heat (i.e. naturally occurring in the ground, heat transferred from cooling process, heat gathered by solar collector, etc)</p>	<p>To ensure consistency throughout the application, we would expect the answer provided here to encompass the answer given at HH100-1. For example; if 'Space Heating' and 'Water Heating' is selected, the description would need to reflect both uses.</p> <p>You must also confirm whether the premises where heat is used is wholly enclosed or not.</p> <p>Photographs of the premises (inside and out) and plant must be provided. Photographs must be clear and include the key components of the plant (heat meters, pipework etc) so that we can check them against your schematic diagram and the information you have provided in your application.</p> <p>If your system uses external pipework (above ground or buried) which is not accounted for by the position of your heat meter(s), you must provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A completed HLA. The form can be found, here. 2. A completed pipework schedule (if the specific details are not on your schematic diagram) – see template attached to the accompanying email.
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HH120-1	Which of these are you directly measuring for the purpose of the RHI payment calculation? Please select all options that	Please see our guidance on eligible heating systems .

Metering and Payments	apply;(multiple answers can be selected by holding the Ctrl key)	<p>If your plant uses external pipework to transfer liquid you must complete a heat loss assessment.</p> <p>If your plant uses external pipework to transfer hot air you must complete the ducting questionnaire.</p> <p>Both questionnaires can be found here.</p>
HI100-1 Heat Meters	Please enter the number of relevant hot water meters for the heating system to which your installation delivers heat.	<p>If the meter and calculator are separate, this should be stated and images included of both. Showing mid compliance marking, class markings and serial numbers.</p> <p>Photographs can be uploaded to HL190-HL280.</p>
HJ100 Other Plants	Please enter the number of other heat generating plants that are connected to the same heating system as the installation for which you are making this application.	<p>You must ensure that any heat generating plant is declared at this point. This includes any immersion heaters.</p> <p>Any other plant(s), including immersion heaters, must be shown on the schematic diagram.</p>
HK110 Plant	Please enter the serial number of your installation. E.g. for boilers you will find this on the boiler name plate.	<p>Please ensure that this is your Serial number and not your not your product number. You can obtain this on the boiler name plate.</p> <p>If you have a CHP installation you must include the serial numbers of all components. For example, the engine, and alternator serial numbers must be provided.</p>
HK120 Plant	Please provide a comprehensive description of your installation, including the make & model of the main components. For further details of the information that	We always require a full detailed description here, please provide a clear comprehensive description of the installation.

	<p>should be included here, please refer to guidance and available applicant information.</p>	<p>Anaerobic Digestion Biogas plants take considerably longer than other technologies to bring into operation, applicants should provide a timeline of the plant and identify any key milestones within its development</p> <p>Common issues we find occur when inhibitors are in use. Please provide full clarity on any inhibitors that may be used. You must declare whether there is/isnt an inhibitor.</p> <p>If any inhibitors are present in your heating system, we require:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The manufacturer, product name and concentration as a percentage of system volume. b. A copy of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). c. Evidence from the inhibitor supplier in support of the stated dose rate. d. If the inhibitor contains glycol, evidence that the heat meter(s) are appropriately calibrated for the specific thermal fluid composition in your system. e. This evidence should be specific to the heat meters installed in your system, as well as the product and concentration of glycol applied.
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<p>HK125-1 Planning Permission</p>	<p>Please provide evidence of any necessary planning permission has been granted and is not subject to enforcement action by a planning authority or the subject of an appeal or legal challenge, or that planning permission is not required</p>	<p>We can only accept official documentation from the local planning authority pertaining to the installation.</p> <p>In cases where the plant is considered permitted development. A certificate of lawful development or written correspondence from the planning authority, which confirms that planning permission is not required, must be provided.</p> <p>Evidence must reference the location, size and technology of the plant.</p>

		<p>In cases where the plant is not considered permitted development. A decision letter, issued by the planning authority and which confirms that permission has been granted, must be provided. Where the letter does not refer to the renewable heating technology, additional evidence must be provided which demonstrates that the plant formed part of the planning application.</p> <p>For example, architectural drawings which show the plant, or a Design and Access Statement which refers to the plant.</p>
HK125-2 Sustainability	Please upload the environmental permits or waste handling permits that are required for your installation	It is important that the permits directly relate to the biogas production plants and this can be clearly identified within these documents.
HL150-3 IRMA	IRMA	<p>If required, it is important that your IRMA is filled out correctly. For assistance with understanding when these are required please read our IRMA guidance pack.</p> <p>It is important to note: Any external pipework must be factored in as The heat loss value may need to be deducted from payments.</p> <p>Where deductions do apply, your installation type will be classed as “multiple”</p>

<p>HL170-1 Schematic Diagram</p>	<p>Please provide a comprehensive schematic or diagram of the heating system of which your installation forms part. This must include the following:</p> <p>All plants providing heat to the heating system, whether eligible or ineligible</p> <p>All uses supplied with heat from the heating system, both eligible and ineligible</p> <p>The pipework connections between all plants and heat uses, including clear indication of any pipework not located within a building</p> <p>The positions of relevant hot water and steam meters and their associated components.(e.g. both temperature sensors, flow meter and integrator).</p> <p>Please ensure that all of the items listed above are clearly labelled, that the schematic has a key, and that building boundaries are indicated.</p>	<p>This must be an accurate representation of the installation. Please follow the guidance which can be found here.</p> <p>It must include details such as Flow direction, heating sensors, serial numbers, boundaries, buildings, plants etc.</p> <p>The diagram must include biogas supply lines from the biogas production plant to all plants that it supplies biogas to. This should also include any gas flow meters and gas analysers</p>
<p>HL180-1 LOA</p>	<p>Please provide a letter of authorisation from your organisation</p>	<p>Please ensure that you read the guidance provided for completing an LOA which can be found here.</p> <p>Most common issue is the wrong section is filled in and that an RHI number is entered instead of your Organisation Number (ORG)</p>
<p>HL181-1 Commissioning</p>	<p>Please upload a copy of your commissioning certificate or commissioning report.</p>	<p>The commissioning certificate(s) must contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of the boiler(s) installed. Including: make; model; and serial numbers • Full installation address and postcode • Date of commissioning

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioning engineer's name, company, company address, and signature <p>If you have a Biogas combustion plant, evidence is required to support when the combustion unit was commissioned. For CHP units, this must be when it was thermal commissioned and capable of supplying heat for eligible purpose. Electrical commissioning evidence only is not accepted to meet commissioning criteria for heat installations.</p>
HL182 Heat Loss	Please email the completed Heat Loss Assessment in macro-enabled excel format to RHI.Heatloss@ofgem.gov.uk, quoting your ORG number. Overground pipework: upload supporting documents for the Heat Loss Assessment including pipework specifications and photographs. Underground pipework: upload evidence demonstrating that your pipework is properly insulated.	<p>Please provide a fully completed HLA.</p> <p>Points to note: It is crucial that we receive detailed information on your pipework and that data sheets are provided.</p> <p>HLA template can be found here.</p>
Metering	<p>For each meter on your plant (heat/ elec/ steam) please provide the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serial Number. If a separate meter/flow meter exists, you must provide serial numbers for both/all. Serial numbers will be checked against the photographs provided. Opening Meter reading. This must have been taken within three days of the application submission date and must be in kilowatts. Opening Meter reading date. This must have been taken within three days of the application submission date A description of what the meter is measuring. Clear photographs which show the meter serial number, the Class accuracy and meter reading in kilowatts where possible. 	

	<p>If any of the heat meters on the system have separate integrator (calculator) and flow meter components, you must provide a clear photograph showing the serial number and any class accuracy marking on the flow meter and integrator.</p> <p>If the capacity of your plant is <1MW, meter readings, for all meters (heat and electricity), <u>must</u> be taken every 3 months from the date on which you submitted your application.</p> <p>If the capacity of your plant is 1MW>, meter readings, for all meters (heat and electricity), <u>must</u> be taken every month from the date on which you submitted your application.</p> <p>It is recommended that you take date stamped photographs (.jpeg format) to support your meter readings. We strongly recommend that you take weekly meter readings throughout the assessment period, to allow you to monitor your system and deal with any issues promptly.</p> <p>Please check our Metering Guide for more info.</p>
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Additional Guidance

[Guidance Volume 1: Eligibility and how to Apply](#)

[Easy Guide to Sustainability](#)

[Fuel Measurement and Sampling Guidance](#)

[NDRHI Guide to application form - Questions](#)