



Biomass sustainability requirements for the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive

As the renewable heat market grows, we need to make sure support for biomass is sustainable. New sustainability criteria for the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) will make sure biomass meets the Government's carbon and environmental objectives, ensuring that support delivers value for money. This will affect domestic and non-domestic RHI participants; producers and traders of biomass fuels.



The new criteria will include:

- i. A greenhouse gas (GHG) target;
- ii. Criteria about the land used to grow the biomass

What does this mean for domestic consumers receiving the Renewable Heat Incentive?

1. **All existing and new consumers using biomass will need to comply with the sustainability criteria from 5 October 2015.** To do this, consumers will need to buy their biomass fuel from a trader registered on the Biomass Suppliers List (BSL). The BSL will provide details of accredited biomass traders selling fuel that meet RHI sustainability criteria.
2. If you supply your own fuel from the same estate as your boiler or source waste wood from the local area, you will need to register on the Biomass Suppliers List as a 'self-supplier'. When registering, self-suppliers are asked to provide some evidence of their ability to self-supply, such as a Forestry Commission approved management plan. For more information, please see the [BSL Guidance and Q & A](#).

To continue receiving RHI you will only be able to use fuel sourced from a trader registered on the Biomass Suppliers List (or register as a 'self-supplier').

The RHI Biomass Suppliers List is open to consumer searches. This means that consumers can use an online search tool to find authorised fuels near them.

Please plan your stocks carefully

3. As part of your annual declaration to Ofgem, you will need to confirm that you are using only fuel sourced from the Biomass Suppliers List (BSL), or tell Ofgem that you are registered on the BSL as a self-supplier.
4. Ofgem will audit a proportion of RHI claims to check they comply with the sustainability criteria. If Ofgem find that you are not complying, your RHI payments may be withheld or you could face further sanctions.

Register your interest in BSL progress by emailing rhi@decc.gsi.gov.uk