

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 pace and government is committed to making progress in the domestic and commercial heating sectors. One of the best ways to do this is to stop burning fossil fuels and switch to renewable technologies. This 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 liquid fuel, solid fuel and electrical work.

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.



Funding available

To encourage the uptake of renewables in England and Wales the government has launched the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS). Grants of £7,500 are available towards the upfront cost of installing an air source heat pump or ground source heat pump installations and £5,000 towards installing a biomass boiler (restricted to eligible rural locations and in properties off the gas grid). The scheme is administered by OFGEM and more details can be found on their website www.ofgem.gov.uk.

Applicable technologies under BUS must be less than, or equal to, 45kW in size and commissioned after 1st April 2022. For applications to be eligible the installer must hold MCS certification for installing the technology and be able to generate a MCS installation certificate for their customer.

In Scotland, The Home Energy Scotland Grant and Loan has funding for heat pumps up to £7,500 or £9,000 for households which qualify for a rural uplift. The remainder of funding requested can be taken up as an optional interest-free loan. more details can be found on their website

<https://www.homeenergyscotland.org/funding/grants-loans/>

What renewable technology scopes does OFTEC offer?

There are three scopes possible for a Heat Pump installer being

- OFT 21 - 504A - Air source heat pumps - installation of air source heat pumps to [MCS Installation Standard 3005-I](#)
- OFT 21 - 504G - Ground / water source heat pumps - installation of ground / water source heat pumps to [MCS Installation Standard 3005-I](#)
- OFT 21 - 504D - Design of heat pump - installations to [MCS Installation Standard 3005-D](#).

In addition we can also offer technology scopes Solar Thermal and Biomass Installations

- OFT 501 - Solar thermal systems - installation of solar heating systems to [MCS Installation Standard 3001](#)
- OFT 505 - Biomass heating systems - installation of biomass heating systems to [MCS Installation Standard 3004](#)

How to get qualified for the OFTEC renewables scheme.

Technician applicants for OFTEC renewable registration will need to hold either proof of personal certification, or qualifications regulated and/or mapped to QCF / RQF in the technologies they wish to apply for.



Technician training and assessment or qualifications must have been undertaken within the last five years.

For heat pump training and assessment options please visit the OFTEC website www.oftec.org or contact your local approved OFTEC training centre. A full list of training centres can be found on the OFTEC website.

For solar thermal or biomass technologies, please see the MCS website www.mcscertified.com for a list of qualifications that are acceptable to access the MCS registration scheme.

How do I join the OFTEC MCS renewable registration scheme?

To join the OFTEC renewable registration scheme, simply go to the OFTEC website and apply online. You can join the OFTEC competent person scheme (CPS) only, or you can combine CPS (building regulation self-certification) with MCS (accessing government funding) to obtain the full benefits that both registration schemes provide.

Registration is awarded following the satisfactory completion of an evaluation of your office procedures, quality management systems and on-site technical inspection of your chosen technology. Renewal of registration and periodic inspection is then annual.

To find out more about the MCS quality management system requirements please see the MCS website www.mcscertified.com and download the MCS Contractor Certification Scheme Requirements Ref MCS 001-1. If you need to understand more about the scheme requirements, please call the MCS helpdesk and ask to speak to a MCS scheme support person on 0333 103 8130 or email hello@mcscertified.com.

To satisfy the quality management systems requirement, OFTEC is partnered with Easy MCS, which is part of Evergreen Energy and provides certification support services. This included training on the paperwork that is required for MCS, access to a bespoke quality management system designed around the MCS requirements, and an easy-to-use online installer toolkit. OFTEC registered businesses can obtain discounted Easy MCS subscription. For more details, please visit www.easy-mcs.com.

Initial on-boarding audit and inspection

Once your application is received and reviewed, we will start the on-boarding process, meaning that OFTEC will visit you and conduct an initial audit of your office procedures and quality management systems before visiting and conducting an on-site technical inspection of your chosen technology.

Business records and procedures you need to have in place for review by OFTEC will include:

- Records of internal reviews and any actions or outcomes
- Membership of a consumer code like [RECC](#) or [HIES](#).
- Roles and responsibilities within the business.
- Health and Safety and record of consumer complaints.
- Other business systems such as contracts, insurance, warranties and record keeping.
- Methods of design and installation.
- Commissioning and handover procedures.

Where possible, the entire audit and inspection process can 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 a report back to OFTEC's head office where your inspection will be verified. You will receive written confirmation of the inspection outcome and an explanation of any steps you need to take to address any gaps in your processes before we granted registration. This may include putting right any remedial work outlined during the inspection process.

Finally, you will be invited to sign a sub licence agreement with OFTEC that enables you to be entered onto the MCS installer database, use the MCS logo and upload installations onto the MCS installation database. MCS certificates are required for funded work along with Building Regulation notifications in England and Wales.

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.