

OFTEC information sheet

Expand your business with renewables



MCS

OFTEC information sheet

The drive to reduce carbon emissions across the United Kingdom and Ireland is accelerating, with national and regional governments committed to advancing low-carbon solutions. A key part of this transition is embracing renewable technologies such as solar heating, biomass, and heat pumps. While this will take time, we are proud to support the journey by offering registration schemes for renewable and traditional heating systems.

This transition presents a significant opportunity for businesses and installers. If you haven't yet explored renewable heating technologies, now is the perfect time to get involved and future-proof your business.

Funding available

To encourage the uptake of renewables in England and Wales the government launched the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS). Grants are available towards the upfront cost of installing an air source heat pump or ground source heat pump installations and 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](#).

Applicable technologies under BUS must be less than, or equal to, 45kW in size. 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](#).

How to get qualified for the OFTEC renewables scheme

Technician applicants for OFTEC renewable registration will need to hold either a personal certification training certificate, or qualifications regulated by OFQUAL in the technologies they wish to apply for.

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

For heat pump training and assessment options please visit the [OFTEC website](#) and contact your local approved OFTEC training centre. A full list of training centres can be found on the OFTEC website.

For solar heating or biomass technologies, please see the [MCS website](#) for a list of qualifications that are acceptable to access the MCS registration scheme.

What renewable technology scopes do we offer?

Heat pump installer:

- 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](#).

Solar heating installer:

- OFT 501 - Solar heating systems - installation of solar heating systems to MCS Installation [standard 3001](#).

Biomass installer:

- OFT 505 - Biomass heating systems - installation of biomass heating systems to MCS Installation [standard 3004](#).



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, 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 MCS requirements please see the [MCS website](#) and download the MCS Installer Operating Requirements. If you need to understand more about the scheme requirements, please call the MCS helpdesk on 0333 103 8130 or email hello@mcscertified.com.

Initial on-boarding audit and inspection

Once your application is received and payment made we will start the on-boarding process, meaning that MCS will do some background checks (called scheme approval checks). OFTEC will then visit you and conduct an initial audit of your office procedures and management systems before conducting an on-site technical inspection of your chosen renewable technology.

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

- Roles and responsibilities of persons within the business.
- Health and Safety information.
- Record of consumer complaints.
- Other business requirements such as 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 grant registration. This will include the rectification of any remedial actions outlined during the inspection process.

Finally, following certification by OFTEC you will be invited by MCS to sign an installer agreement that enables you to be entered onto the MCS installer database, use the MCS logo and upload installations onto the MCS installation database. MCS installation 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.

