

EARN WHILE YOU HEAT: ARE YOU MISSING OUT ON RHI?

With the ever increasing likelihood that the UK will fail to achieve its 2020 target, where 15% of energy is generated from renewable sources, it is clear that more needs to be done.

While there has been notable success in electricity generation this cannot make up for the underperformance of the heat generation in homes and businesses. Current figures show only 5.6% of a 12% target of heat was met by renewables.

However the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) offers the perfect answer. For single domestic homes it offers the possibility of installing a wood fuelled boiler for free with a general payback over a 7 year period. There's even more good news! Link two domestic rated properties and you are then eligible for the commercial RHI rate that guarantees payments for 20 years!

The commercial RHI also offers great returns for businesses as well. At Biofutures they're about to complete their 170th biomass installation and interest is still growing and an increasing number of businesses are marketing their green credentials as a way of increasing sales. Caws Teifi Cheese and Damhile distillery, located near Llandysul, has embarked on a multi- stage project with the eventual outcome of significantly reducing the carbon footprint of all its residential and commercial buildings. Biofutures installed a Biotech 164kw wood chip that will financially benefit the occupiers/owners with lower fuel costs and higher heating efficiency while it also qualifies for the government's RHI scheme.

Caws Teifi Cheese owner, John Savage, commented "During the planning stages of this project it was essential that we not only wanted a reliable and efficient heating system but one that would sit comfortably with the residential and commercial uses on the farm. Biotech's biomass boiler was decided upon as the best fitting solution and following the successful installation we would not hesitate in recommending them or the installers, Biofutures."

While the majority of work that Biofutures does is with biomass systems (log, wood chip & pellet) and air source heat pumps, they've seen an increase in enquiries about electric boilers, especially from farms that are generating their own electricity through either wind, solar and even hydro. Electric boilers can be fitted almost anywhere, they don't need a flue and there's no need for any sort of



fuel storage. Not only that they are extremely safe because they don't burn any sort of fuel, so they don't produce any fumes or combustible gasses like carbon monoxide. Working with their Swedish partners Varmebaronen, where electric boilers are the norm, Biofutures are now offering electric boiler solutions for small log cabin requirements all the way through to large commercial applications that require process heat.

Director of Biofutures, Kedrick Davies 'within our product portfolio we have range of solutions that will address most "real world" situations and provide a reliable and robust alternative heating solution to fossil fuel systems whilst benefiting from the a support through the RHI that is also index linked for the domestic and commercial RHI period".

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