

Feed-in Tariff

About The scheme and How to Apply

Factsheet

www.ofgem.gov.uk

Feb 2015

What is the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) Scheme?

The Feed-in-Tariff scheme (FITs) is an environmental programme introduced by the government to promote the use of small-scale renewable and low-carbon electricity generation technologies.

If a householder, community or business has an eligible installation, FITs pays them a tariff for the electricity they generate and a tariff for the electricity they export back to the grid.

Can I apply?

The following technologies are eligible for the scheme:

- Solar photovoltaic (usually called PV) with a total installed capacity (TIC) of 5MW or less
- Wind with a TIC of 5MW or less
- Hydro with a TIC of 5MW or less
- Anaerobic digestion with a TIC of 5MW or less
- Micro combined heat and power (CHP) installations with a TIC of 2kW or less.

How much does it pay?

The tariff rates for FITs are calculated by Ofgem based on legislation set by DECC and are listed in tariff tables published on our website

www.ofgem.gov.uk/FITs

Tariffs can change as often as every three months. Once you have registered for FITs, your generation and export tariffs will last for as long as your installation is eligible. They will be adjusted annually for inflation based on the Retail Prices Index.

Who makes the payments?

FITs payments are made at least quarterly by licensed electricity suppliers that participate in the scheme. These are known as FIT Licensees. They are also responsible for the application process for installations following the Micro-generation Certification Scheme (MCS) route of accreditation. See ofgem.gov.uk/FITs for a list of FIT Licensees.

Not all licensed electricity suppliers make FITs payments, and some are not obliged to accept applications from certain people. Before applying, check whether your licensed electricity supplier is a FIT Licensee and whether they will accept your application.

How do I apply?

Applications for FITs go through one of two routes: the MCS or the ROO-FIT accreditation process.

The MCS route is for PV or wind installations with a declared net capacity (DNC) of 50kW or less and micro CHP installations with a TIC of 2kW or less. This will cover most applications.

All other applications follow the ROO-FIT accreditation process.

MCS route of accreditation

We recommend that you do your own research before your installation is commissioned. Speak to the Energy Saving Advice Service or Home Energy Scotland, your prospective installer and your prospective FIT Licensee. Make sure you understand the requirements of the scheme and the process you need to follow.

You need to complete these six steps to apply for FITs:

1. Make sure your installation uses equipment approved by MCS and that your installer is MCS-certified
2. Get an MCS certificate from your installer. They must have registered your installation on the MCS database within ten working days of commissioning your installation
3. Apply to your FIT Licensee following their process and using their FIT application form. You must include your MCS certificate and proof of ownership in the application
4. The date your completed application is received by your FIT Licensee is the date you become eligible for FIT payments. Your FIT Licensee will therefore require an initial meter reading taken on this date
5. Once your FIT Licensee has all the information required from you, has carried out the application checks and has found that your installation is eligible, it will add the details to our Central FIT Register
6. Your FIT Licensee will then provide you with your Statement of FIT Terms. Once you have agreed and signed these, payments can begin

Your tariff may depend on an energy efficiency requirement and on whether you have a connection with any other FIT installations. If required, the relevant evidence and declarations will need to be completed before the installation is entered on to the Central FIT Register. We recommend that you include all this information in your application to your FIT Licensee (step three, above).

The above list is not exhaustive and your

FIT Licensee may have further application requirements. We recommend you discuss this directly with your FIT Licensee.

ROO-FIT route of accreditation

If your installation does not fall into the MCS route of accreditation it will go through the ROO-FIT accreditation process. More guidance on the ROO-FIT eligibility requirements and the application process is available on our website: ofgem.gov.uk/FITs. Generators of these installations applying through the ROO-FIT process may be able to secure a tariff guarantee before commissioning their installation.

Community organisations and schools

Community organisations or schools planning to set up an installation may be eligible for additional benefits. For more information, see the 'Community Organisations and Education Providers' guidance on our website: ofgem.gov.uk/FITs.

Where to find out more

Information about electricity generation and joining FITs is available from:

- The Energy Saving Advice Service in England and Wales, FREE on **0300 123 1234** or visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk
- Home Energy Scotland, FREE on **0808 808 2282** or visit www.homeenergyscotland.org

For more information on MCS installers and products, visit www.microgenerationcertification.org

For a list of FIT licensees and their contact details, visit www.ofgem.gov.uk/FITs (applying for the Feed-in Tariff > Registered FIT Licensed Suppliers)