

## What is the SSRH?

The SSRH scheme administered by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) provides financial support to businesses, community organisations, and public sector bodies that install renewable heat technologies, such as biomass/biogas boilers and heat pumps.

## Aim of the SSRH

The scheme aims to increase the use of renewable heat and reduce Ireland's dependence on fossil fuels. Businesses can show leadership, and insulate themselves from energy price increases by investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy measures at their premises.

In this factsheet, the focus is on the biomass options available to businesses within the SSRH scheme. Biomass heating systems include biomass boilers and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) units.

The SSRH is a government support paid to heat users for using renewable heat. Heat usage is measured using a heat meter and payments are made over a period of 15 years for eligible installations.

## Who can apply?

SSRH is open to commercial, industrial, agricultural, district heating, public sector and other non-domestic heat users.

The scheme extends to the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) sector, comprising of large industry and large fossil fuel users. (Subject to state aid approval.)

## Eligible applicants must:

1. Be converting from fossil fuels
2. Have an eligible heat use (e.g. space heating or industrial processes)
3. Install heating technology which is compliant with eco-design standards
4. Have a heating system designed in accordance with building regulations and other relevant compliance requirements
5. Use a qualified designer and system installer who is competent to design, install and maintain the installation

## Wood fuel quality requirements

A key requirement of the SSRH is to use certified wood fuels in your heating system. Wood pellets or wood chips are the most commonly used fuels for biomass heating systems.

The Wood Fuel Quality Assurance (WFQA) scheme provides assurance that the wood fuel being used meets the required standards of quality and sustainability. The WFQA promotes best practice in the solid biomass heating sector through the use of quality certified wood fuel.

Wood fuel suppliers are audited annually to certify that their fuels are being produced in line with the quality standard EN ISO 17225:2021.



For more information on the scheme and to find your local supplier visit [www.wfqa.org](http://www.wfqa.org).

## Why make the switch to biomass?

- Savings - Biomass is cheaper than many fossil fuels
- Financial support – The SSRH provides financial support for switching to biomass
- Carbon tax - Biomass fuels are renewable which means carbon tax is not applied
- Emissions reduction – Biomass is renewable and reduces your overall carbon footprint
- Jobs and local supply chains - Supports indigenous and local employment, communities and supply chains
- Security of supply – locally-sourced and produced wood fuel reducing supply risk



Biomass boiler 500kW

## Levels of operational aid available under the SSRH

The maximum support for biomass applications is approximately €3.5 million over 15 years. The SSRH payment rates are outlined in the table below. Payments will be made by SEAI to participants on a quarterly basis for a period of up to 15 years. Eligibility criteria and ongoing obligations will be monitored and verified by SEAI.

Tier(s)	MWh Range	Biomass heating payment c/kWh	Total payments per tier/year for biomass	Equivalent fuel use*			Biogas heating payment c/kWh	Total payments per tier/year for biogas
				Kerosene Litres	Pellets Tonnes	Woodchip Tonnes		
1	0 - 300	5.66	€16,980	31,328	70	108	2.95	€8,850
2	300 - 1,000	3.02	+ €21,140	+ 73,099	+ 164	+ 252	2.95	+ €20,650
3	1,000 - 2,400	0.50	+ €7,000	+ 146,199	+ 327	+ 503	0.5	+ €7,000
4	2,400 - 10,000	0.50	+ €38,000	+ 793,651	+ 1,777	+ 2,732	0	+ €0
5	10,000 - 50,000	0.37	+ €148,000	+ 4,177,109	+ 9,353	+ 14,377	0	+ €0

\* Calculations assume kerosene boiler 90% efficiency, pellet boiler 88% efficiency and woodchip boiler 85% efficiency

## Support Scheme for Renewable Heat – Indicative Example

This table below outlines the potential savings achieved with support from the SSRH by converting to a biomass system from a natural gas or kerosene fuelled system.

Fuel type	Natural gas	Kerosene	Woodchip	Wood pellets
Annual heat requirements (Megawatt hours MWh)	1100	1100	1100	1100
Fuel quality and units	110 MWh	107691 litres	354 tonnes	250 tonnes
Cost fuel units	€50/MWh	€0.70/litres	€150/tonne	€260/tonne
Total fuel costs (X)	€55,000	€75,384	€53,116	€64,991
Additional operation and maintenance costs (Y)	€500	€500	€5,000	€5,000
SSRH support for 15 years (Z)	N/A	N/A	€38,620	€38,620
Annual heat costs (X + Y - Z)	€55,500	€75,884	€19,496	€31,371
Cost of boiler system	Existing	Existing	€200,000	€180,000
Annual savings over natural gas			€36,004	€24,129
Years to pay capital	Fossil fuel prices can fluctuate greatly. This can have an impact on any project.		5.6	7.5
Annual savings over kerosene			€56,388	€44,513
Years to pay capital			3.5	4.0

Note: Carbon tax is increasing on fossil fuel. It is currently at €48/tonne (2023) rising to €100/tonne by 2030. Carbon tax on fossil gas is currently at €9.95/MWh (2023) rising to €20/MWh by 2030. Carbon tax on kerosene is currently at €0.10/litre (2023) rising to €0.28/litre by 2030. These tables have been developed for indicative purposes only by the Irish Bioenergy Association (IrBEA). E&OE.

## For further information

Heat users considering a biomass boiler installation under the SSRH should engage with Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). Visit: [www.seai.ie](http://www.seai.ie)