

CASE STUDY:

BEIS – Renewable Heat Incentive Evaluation

Complex, large scale data requirements? Winning Moves delivered a solution that demonstrates our technical capability.

The challenge

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), is a government financial incentive to promote an increase in use of renewable technology for heating solutions in both domestic and non-domestic settings. The incentive works to support the UK in reducing carbon emissions and meeting its renewable energy targets. Applications to the scheme are monitored with a **six monthly** survey of all applicants to see how the scheme is working.

In December 2016 the government published proposals to reform the scheme, although originally expected to come into force in Spring 2017 – the first package of reforms – involving changes to tariff levels, domestic technology heat demand limits and the removal of tariff bands for non-domestic biomass – came into force on 20 September 2017.

The survey was therefore amended to capture the impact of these reforms; and whether or not the reforms had encouraged application to the scheme, and if so, which renewable technologies it had encouraged. A **large scale** online survey with a high response rate was required.

The approach

A consortium, including Winning Moves, was commissioned to undertake ongoing evaluation of the RHI. Winning Moves designed and administered a complex online survey to meet the new requirements whilst ensuring comparability with previous surveys. More than 1,000 responses were received. Where particular subgroups for analysis were underrepresented in this response, telephone interviewing was used to supplement the data. As a primary output the data was processed and amalgamated with both historical survey data and RHI administration data. We used python scripting to programme the preparation of large quantities of tables, formatted to client specification. For each six-monthly monitoring period Winning Moves also produce a dashboard highlighting key trends observed for the monitoring period compared to all historical data.



CASE STUDY:**The result**

To date, the findings have highlighted that the RHI reform announcements and the delay in their enactment did play a role in influencing some groups within the renewable heat market. This was most significant for biogas and biomethane applicants where two thirds reported they had been influenced by the reforms. This was less prominent for domestic and other non-domestic applicants where less than a fifth reported being influenced by the reforms or delays.

The evidence collated showed that the reforms had three distinct effects:

- Speeding up some applications and installations that stood to lose out when the reforms came into force. This was the case in particular for domestic heat pump applicants;
- Influencing applicant decisions about the size of their installation where applicants stood to lose out when the reforms came into force. This was the case in particular for nondomestic biomass applicants; and
- Delaying or slowing down applications for large scale non-domestic technologies that stood to benefit from the reforms (particularly from tariff guarantees), such as biogas, biomethane and shared ground loops.

Read the full report [here](#) and check back for future updates on the project.

