

ULSTER FARMERS' UNION NEWS RELEASE



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UFU Welcomes launch of NIE Farm Solar Water Heating Grant Scheme

The Ulster Farmers' Union has welcomed the launch of NIE's SMART Solar Water Heating Scheme, which will provide a grant towards the cost of installing a system in which solar pipes capture the heat of the sun to heat water on the farm.

UFU Rural Enterprise Committee Chairman, David McElrea comments; "The introduction of this scheme is the first step towards helping encourage farmers to use renewable technologies in Northern Ireland. NIE have chosen this specific technology as it has one of the best paybacks of current renewable energy systems and the UFU are certain that this will have a positive effect in the future."

The Grant Scheme specifications are:

- **Less than 300 litres of hot water on farm** - £900 or a maximum of 25% is available for a system which provides up to 300 litres of hot water on farm.
- **More than 300 litres of hot water on farm** - £1,100 or a maximum of 25% for a system providing over 300litres of hot water on farm.

Mr McElrea adds; "Potential applicants should be aware of the fact that funding will be based on a strictly first-come, first-served basis. NIE also specify that the scheme is only applicable to new installations. All consents and permissions need to be in place before an application is made and Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) accredited installers and products must be used. In addition, the qualifying farm must be located in Northern Ireland."

Further information is available from Delta Hamilton at NIE on 028 9068 5058 or by logging onto www.nie-yourenergy.co.uk

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Media Contact: Michelle Ferguson 028 9037 0222