

UFU Welcomes launch of NIE Farm Solar Water Heating Grant Scheme.

UFU Rural Enterprise Chairman David McElrea 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.

Mr McElrea stated "this is a preliminary step in helping to stimulate the uptake of renewable technologies in Northern Ireland".

The grant is as follows;

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.

NIE have chosen this technology as it has one of the best paybacks of current renewable energy systems.

David McElrea was keen to stress that "potential applicants should be conscious of the fact that funding will be based on a strictly first-come, first-served basis and NIE are keen to stress that it will only apply to new installations".

Further information is available from Delta Hamilton at NIE, telephone 028 90685058 or on the web site www.nie-yourenergy.co.uk