

# Invest to save

**Poultry farmer Richard Riley found his recent Mentor Energy Audit not only provided a useful overview of his energy use, but demonstrated that an investment in renewable energy could help him reduce annual costs.**

Richard Riley's family has been dairy farming on their 300-acre Lancashire property for 60 years. The business diversified into poultry four decades ago and, along with producing milk from a 150-strong herd, it also brings on 840,000 broilers a year to achieve an annual turnover of £2.2 million.

It is a business that spends heavily on energy in its five 'chicken sheds': lighting costs £3,500 per annum, while the gas bill reaches over £1,000 a week. When his Relationship Manager suggested he undergo an energy audit, Richard saw an opportunity to identify some major savings.

An energy audit looks at various aspects of your business, from how you use energy to light, heat or cool your premises through to how you power your

equipment. It also reviews energy supplier contracts and possibilities for switching to other fuels or technologies.

Richard said the Mentor Energy Audit was a simple process which provided a report of how energy is used in the business, and where; it is also a benchmark against which all future energy use can be measured.

As he expected, key problem areas were the gas heating system and lighting.

**"The Mentor Energy Audit has provided a useful benchmark for our future energy use."**

**Richard Riley  
Dairy Farmer**



While a biomass system could save the business £25,000 a year, installation could cost up to £165,000.

However, it would also reduce the carbon footprint of the farm, making it eligible for the Government's Renewable Heat Incentive scheme. Launched in 2011, the scheme would provide a guaranteed tariff to help cover the cost of a biomass installation through quarterly payments over a 20-year period.

The report also highlighted that, for an additional spend of £6,000, Richard could save £2,500 per year, involving replacement of all lights with more energy-efficient light bulbs. This would provide better quality light, which has implications for the welfare of his animals, but also would be more energy efficient.

Richard concludes: "The energy audit was a useful process which has helped me to assess my energy use on the farm and how changing our procedures might avoid energy wastage. I have also been able to look at how renewable energy systems like solar or biomass could help the business.

"It has provided a useful benchmark to measure our future energy use against, which will help us make important financial decisions for the future."

**"The Mentor Energy Audit was a useful process which has helped me to assess my energy use on the farm."**

**Richard Riley  
Dairy Farmer**

## » Get in touch

To find out more about the RBS Mentor Energy Audit, contact us on:

[www.rbsmentor.co.uk/services/energyaudit](http://www.rbsmentor.co.uk/services/energyaudit)

0800 634 7009 Minicom 0800 634 7008

[info@mentor.uk.com](mailto:info@mentor.uk.com)