



Devolved administrations

The Welsh Assembly

Text relating to actions taken by the Welsh Assembly are incorporated throughout the text.

The Scottish Executive

In addition to the progress being made at a UK level, the Scottish Executive is working in a number of devolved policy areas to support microgeneration. These include energy efficiency, fuel poverty, renewable policy and building regulations. In Scotland there will be more of a holistic approach - linking microgeneration and local/renewable heat with energy efficiency as a range of investment options, to reduce carbon emissions from the heating and lighting of buildings.



The Executive continues to provide support to small-scale renewables through its Scottish Community and Household Renewables Initiative (SCHRI), which provides grants and expert advice on small scale renewable projects such as the installation of solar panels and wind turbines at the likes of community centres, schools and individual households. The Executive is currently reviewing this scheme with a view to re-focusing support more towards community projects obtaining better value for money.

The Executive is currently reviewing planning requirements on small scale and routine developments includes micro-renewables with a view to removing any unnecessary planning controls on this technology. It is also looking at the promotion of this technology in a new Scottish Planning Policy on Renewable Energy Developments and an Annex on Micro-renewables to accompany existing Planning Advice Notes will be issued shortly.

The Executive is currently developing the first Scottish Energy Efficiency Strategy in which it will set out carbon saving targets encompassing all its energy efficiency measures. These will encourage a range of investments in technologies such as microgeneration, local renewable heat and energy efficiency.

In addition, the Executive has committed to developing a renewable heat strategy for Scotland by the end of 2007, and linked to this, producing a Biomass Action Plan by the end of 2006, ensuring that Scotland's biomass resource is properly supported and exploited to deliver additional carbon savings and economic benefits.



Northern Ireland

Energy is a transferred matter for Northern Ireland and the Energy Act requirement for the preparation of this strategy extends only to the promotion of micro generation in Great Britain.

Nonetheless Northern Ireland contributes to the overall UK carbon reduction targets and develops initiatives in tandem with the rest of the United Kingdom. For example DTI programmes such as Clear Skies have applied to Northern Ireland and it is intended that similar arrangements will apply to the Low Carbon Building Programme. Additionally, the existing small generator provisions of the Renewable Obligation (RO) apply equally to the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) and it is intended that the NIRO will mirror the additional arrangements currently being proposed to accommodate micro-generation in the RO.

Furthermore, Northern Ireland amendments to Building Regulations are being considered to mirror those being implemented in GB to facilitate and promote micro-generation. The Planning Service, too, as part of its ongoing review of permitted development rights, is currently considering what permitted development rights might be given for microgeneration with a view to public consultation later in 2006. In addition, work has recently commenced on a new Planning Policy Statement on Renewable Energy which, in addition to containing policy on large scale renewable schemes, will address the issue of microgeneration of heat and/or electricity.

Separately in Northern Ireland the Environment and Renewable Energy Fund launched in February 2006 and involving £59m of additional government support in Northern Ireland over a 2 year period will have a particular focus on promoting micro-generation at community and individual household levels as well as enhancing the development of non-wind sources of energy.

