

Implementing the Microgeneration Strategy Notes from Steering Group meeting 5 December 2006

Attendees

Rachel Crisp, DTI
Sally Millward, DTI
Dave Sowden, Micropower Council
Seb Berry, Renewable Energy Association
Caroline Season, Defra
Shayne Coulson, DCLG
John Costyn, Ofgem

Apologies

Graham Tubb, SEEDA
Graham Davis, DCLG
John Newman, DTI

1. Role of group, membership, Terms of Reference etc

It was agreed that the role of the group was to oversee the implementation of the Microgeneration Strategy, monitor timescales etc to meet the deliverables in the strategy. It is not to revise the strategy, although it would help with delivering any revisions, and identify if the relevance of parts of the strategy changed.

Membership of the steering group was agreed.

Other interested parties would form a virtual group who receive minutes of meeting, regular updates etc. This virtual group will include other trade associations, Devolved Administrations.

- **Action: Please forward other suggestions for virtual group members to Sally Millward**

Dave Sowden had amended the draft Terms of Reference with more detail. Attached TOR incorporates the majority of these changes.

It was agreed that the project plan and brief summaries of all completed actions would be added to the DTI microgeneration website. Minutes of the meetings would also be published here.

2. Progress on Strategy

The project plan is a working document and will be updated as needed. Changes agreed in the meeting have been incorporated into the plan. As mooted at the meeting, a traffic light system is being trialled.

Actions were discussed in order of deadline as listed on plan.

19 (PPS22 review) has been marked as completed. The review of plans was completed, but there was some discussion whether 44% of plans not incorporating a PPS22 paragraph 8 policy, was considered a problem and whether any follow-up was required

- **Action: Shayne Coulson to raise with DCLG colleagues and report back to group**

25 (Ofgem decision document) published in October – action now complete

2 (Low Carbon Buildings Programme phase 2) will be launched 11 December 2006.

9 (Microgeneration in DTI) has been investigated and some options are likely to come to fruition. All agreed that this was a good start and that other initiatives should be taken across Government. Rachel Crisp reminded the group that the Government estate has a target of being carbon neutral by 2012

16 (Trial of smart meters). The status of this is amber/red. It relies on funding, and whether such a trial brings enough added value, given other smart meter trials ongoing. It was decided we should investigate other trials and whether we could piggyback on them.

- **Action: Rachel Crisp to investigate**

17 (Report on technical barriers about connecting to distribution network). Not much progress yet and slippage expected

- **Action: Rachel Crisp to investigate existing opportunities and report back by end January update.**

22 (Map of R&D funding). Sally Millward has pulled together a list of funding streams which will be published on the internet. Keeping it up to date was an issue so it will just cover the main funding available, with links to further sources of information. It was agreed that it was important to signpost to places such as Business Link who will keep up to date grant information, and be able to advise on other sources of money such as other loans

4 (View on ROCs). The consultation on the Renewables Obligation is due to close 15 December. It was agreed that in order to fully consider the responses to this, the deadline for completing this action could slip to February (although it was accepted that much work on this has been ongoing prior to and alongside the consultation)

20 (Microgeneration in schools). Rachel explained the background to this idea, but that subsequent changes have caused a re-think of such a scheme. However, schools can get help to install microgeneration technologies through DfES's 'Building Schools for the Future' programme and phase 2 of LCBP was specifically designed so that schools could gain maximum benefit.

- **Action: Rachel Crisp to investigate schools that should be targeted**

7 (Accreditation scheme) was reported as being on track. Dave raised the issue of the short timeframe and whether it could realistically deliver the right results on time. Some sectors don't have as much base material to build on. Another issue was whether this scheme would be more robust than Clear Skies and include wider areas such as performance efficiency of equipment, turbine noise etc. These issues have not yet been decided by those working on the scheme. One possibility discussed was that the scheme could still launch in April with some technologies included, and others added in when they are ready

- **Action: Rachel Crisp to feed these concerns to BRE steering group and report back to this group by end January update addressing some of these concerns**

3 (Guidance on ROCs, LECs and REGOs). On track to provide a draft short guidance document by February which will then be checked with key stakeholders

14 (Contracts between suppliers and customers) completed

15 (Address wiring regulations). Dave updated the group on the importance of the situation and the health and safety risks. He reported on WP4 progress on this issue, and that funding was needed to publish an additional chapter for electricians which would address this.

- **Action: Dave to outline the case for funding to Rachel in writing and Rachel to raise with relevant DTI lead.**

24 (Development of skills base). Rachel outlined some of the complexities and said that many companies are driving things forward internally. She has a meeting with the relevant SSCs on this week. Seb queried whether this was actually an issue and suggested that the TA's could provide a snapshot of member experience, and it was agreed this could provide a basis for going forwards. It was suggested that past precedence could help, such as the work on condensing boilers

- **Action: Seb Berry and Dave Sowden to provide snapshots of their members skills and experience**
- **Action: Sally to get similar for STA and BWEA**
- **Action: Rachel to investigate past precedence and to report back on the SSC meeting**

5 (Scheme to reward export). ENSG project coming to a conclusion and will be published shortly which will feed into discussions. It was queried whether the consultation planned for April/May was too soon if date by which suppliers need to have taken action is August.

8 (Review of existing communications). Sally updated the group about the desk research the library is undertaking, which will then be passed to key stakeholders to assess and fill in the gaps.

1 (Research into consumer behaviour). It was confirmed that money was available, but that there were some contractual details to be worked out across the consortium of funders.

We didn't have time to cover the remaining actions. It was agreed that everyone would get back to Sally with any comments on this plan and updates for their actions

- **Action: All to get back to Sally with any comments / updates by 13 December**