

Microgeneration Strategy steering group 10 July 10.30 – 12.30

Item 1 – Overview of Distributed Generation Review

Stephen de Souza gave an overview of the distributed generation review published alongside the energy white paper. There was some discussion over the need for current work on information and advice to be built on, and the need for joined up government in taking this forward. A point was raised that engagement with industry needs to be better in some instances.

Action: Neil Witney to pursue discussion with CLG re issues around noise in the permitted development consultation

Item 2 – Carbon Emissions reduction Target (CERT)

Iris Rooney gave a summary of CERT (renamed from EEC3) which is out for consultation now. Particular note was made of the 5% allowance to help innovation such as through demonstration and market transformation elements – these would be helpful for microgeneration.

There was some discussion that CERT will not be a driver for PV or wind, and that for these technologies in particular, CERT will not pick up where LCBP stops. There were differing opinions over whether the zero carbon homes policy would be enough of a driver for industry in the short term

Action: John Newman and Dave Sowden to discuss industry thoughts about zero carbon homes as a short term driver

Action: Dave and Andrew to encourage industry to respond to the consultation, with particular regard to wind and PV

Action: Iris to meet with Dave and Andrew and other industry representatives

Action: Caroline to forward a copy of Defra ministerial responsibilities

Item 3 – Progress report on implementing the microgeneration strategy

The following report was circulated in advance of the meeting. Points below have been amended to take account of discussion at the steering group

Actions listed in order of deadline on project plan.

19 – Review of PPS22 plans

This action has been closed. There was discussion of whether there was any further work in taking things forward. The group was informed that CLG will be making an announcement before the summer recess on the 2016 package and this might also cover PPS

9 - Feasibility of microgeneration in DTI Estate

This action has now been closed. The feasibility study was completed Autumn 2006 and a couple of options suggested for uptake. Although these have not yet been undertaken, they will be reviewed again later in the year. Any progress will be reported to the group.

17 – Examine the recommendations in report on technical barriers

There are 6 recommendations in the report. 2 are already being covered by the microgeneration strategy. The other 4 are already underway as part of Work

Programme 4 of the Energy Networks Strategy Group. We will continue to monitor progress and keep the position under review, but will close this particular action.

16 - Trial of smart meters.

A trial specifically looking at smart meters and microgeneration will not be undertaken, but a DTI/Ofgem study is looking at smart meters more generally. The first progress report is expected before our next steering group, but there is no update as yet.

4 - Formal view on accrual of ROCs

The government response to the DGCG reports will be finished by the Summer Recess.

7 – Certification scheme

We have now agreed governance document for the steering group, which is in place and this gives the steering group assurances about ownership and the scope to determine the scheme requirements. There are some restrictions over the next 18 months development phase, where we need to consider commercial issues affecting BRE Certification and the need for DBERR to have in place contractual arrangements with one organisation to develop the scheme. Important to note that BREC won the contract for this development work through a competitive tendering process.

Meeting arranged for Thursday to discuss the scheme benefits (incentives for companies to sign up), costs, and duplication with other certification bodies eg. Competent person schemes.

Scheme still operating in pilot phase but decision taken at last steering group to sign off scheme. Assessments are taking place for solar thermal and PV and we now need to start issuing certificates for those companies that have met requirements.

Installation standards for PV, Solar thermal, wind and GSHP are in draft form and should be finalised and signed off in the next week.

3 – Guidance on green energy certificates.

Draft guides to ROCs, LECs and REGOs were circulated to the group. These are now online at

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/strategy/implementation/certificates/page39834.html>

15 – Wiring regulations

The wiring guidance was published at end June, on the Electrical Safety Council website www.esc.org as well as NICEIC website and IEEE. The regulations will be updated in April 08. There was some uncertainty about whether the industry representative for wiring regulations would continue to be funded until the regulations were published

Action: Sally to chase with DTI colleagues who fund this position

24 – Skills

The Energy White Paper confirmed our ongoing commitment to working with the sector skills councils and other interested parties to ensure the job market is able to provide the skills needed. The SSCs will report on skills gaps and actions taken to address these.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills will be responsible for taking forward the Government's wider skills agenda.

SummitSkills has recently produced a report identifying the extent of microgeneration training for installers and system designers. Several accredited courses are now available, and their Sector Skills Agreement looks at future training needs.

5 – Export reward

The Government has asked Ofgem (in budget 2007) to examine how green homes can benefit more from the prices paid to them when they export electricity back to the grid.

The Energy White Paper reported that all six major energy suppliers have now committed to publishing easily accessible export tariffs.

Microgenerators will not have to pay tax on any income they get from the sale of surplus electricity back to the grid or from Renewable Obligation Certificates

6 – EEC

Consultation on Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), previously referred to as EEC3, closes on 15th August.

11 – Report for local authorities

This report should be published in August to meet our commitment under the CCSE Act. The report must contain information about the measures that local authorities can take to improve energy efficiency, increase the levels of microgeneration and address fuel poverty. Consultants have been appointed and are now consulting. Timing will be tight to meet the deadline but measures are in place to ensure this is met.

There was concern that industry representatives were unaware of this and have not been approached.

Action: Sally to find out more and ensure contractors approach Dave and Andrew

12 – Communications for construction industry

A couple of small brainstorming sessions were held in June with people from DTI, EST, Carbon Trust DCLG, BRE (certification scheme), Home Builders Federation and Micropower Council. These sessions were a useful opportunity to discuss whether there was a need for further information on microgeneration for the wider construction industry. It was generally agreed that much information already exists (for example through SAP and EST documents), the 2016 zero carbon homes policy and microgeneration certification scheme would fill many of the gaps once fully operational, but there was still a need for basic guidance and information in digestible form, onsite information for installers and specific information for the retrofit/non-domestic markets.

10 – Information needs of planning officers

Guidance will be issued to LPAs etc by way of a Circular. We've also specifically asked in the consultation what this guidance might usefully cover. We'll also probably do a simple guide for householders and the Planning Portal are keen to produce an electronic guide showing what can be placed where on your home – we will be working with them to see how much more sophisticated/useful this information might be.

18 – Permitted Development

The consultation closed 27 June. An initial summary of responses is attached

8 – Review of existing communications

The website analysis of consumer information on microgeneration was taken to the RAB subgroup in May. A decision was made that a similar analysis of sources of advice needs to be undertaken and that the two pieces of work would be sent together to stakeholders.

23 – Route maps

Draft route Maps were discussed on one day of the REA Conference in Manchester in May. Feedback from break out sessions for each technology to be discussed at next RAB meeting in September. We will then need to think about future actions. It was agreed that RAB should own and push forward this work, with the intention of route maps being completed late 2007 or early 2008

It was pointed out that fuel cells, CHP and air source heat pumps have not been covered so far. Rachel's replacement will be leading on route maps

Action: To update at the next meeting on progress, particularly on these 3 technologies not yet addressed.

13 – Capability of networks and markets

Action completed. DTI published 'Accommodating Distributed Generation' alongside the Energy Review last year. This found that 18% domestic penetration of microgeneration could be easily accommodated. The Distributed Generation (DG) Review was published alongside the 2007 White Paper will take forward any further work in this area.

1,21 – Research into consumer behaviour and future potential of microgeneration.

Invitations to tender have been sent out to 13 companies that expressed an interest and met the initial criteria and the closing date for tenders is 16 July. The research should be completed by Spring 2008.

It was noted that Defra work on consumer behaviour is almost ready for publication