

**Microgeneration Strategy Steering Group**  
**9 October 2007, 10.30 – 12.30**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees**

John Moriarty, BERR  
John Newman, BERR  
Alistair Granger, BERR  
Graham Davis, CLG  
Caroline Season, Defra  
Graham Tubb, SEEDA  
Andrew Cooper, REA  
Sally Millward, BERR

**Apologies**

Dave Sowden, Micropower Council  
Rachel Fletcher, Ofgem  
Shayne Coulson, CLG

The Steering Group discussed the outstanding actions of the Microgeneration Strategy. Actions listed below in order of initial deadline (although dates may have changed)

**9 – Feasibility of microgeneration on BERR Estate**

Action closed. The group discussed how best to influence all government departments to install microgeneration, with a number of routes explored.

**16 – Trial of smart meters.**

As raised at the last meeting, a DTI/Ofgem study is looking at smart meters, although this won't specifically focus on microgeneration. There have been some delays, but the trial is still expected to complete early 2009. Initial written report due in next few weeks

***Action: Sally to circulate***

**4 – Government response to DGCG reports on accrual of ROCs.**

One report currently being finalised and should be published soon. Many of the recommendations already being implemented. Second report is on deeming and a response still to be written.

**7 – Certification scheme**

Paul updated the group on progress to date, and addressed some of the concerns raised: BERR had needed to contract with an organisation to develop the scheme, hence the competitive tender process, which BREC won. Still lots to do in developing the standards, UKAS accreditation, managing transition from Clear Skies, registering trade marks, notifying the European Commission etc, and September 2008 is not that far away. The certification steering group is working on a business plan to cover the next 3 years, which will look at how the scheme will be opened up post September 2008, and will cover marketing. Case studies of companies that have been through the certification process are also being worked on. BERR is providing discounts to installers during this time (£600,000 is available to fund 50% of the costs of becoming a certified installer),.

***Action: Paul to circulate product certification timeframe when available***

### **15 – Wiring regulations**

No update from last meeting.

***Action: Sally/Dave to discuss funding of representation on wiring group***

### **23 – Route maps.**

Draft route maps were discussed and drawn up at the REA Conference in May, but there has been little progress since. A number of key areas need to be agreed: timetable going forwards, agreement on purpose and direction, and the weight these will have. It was agreed we need a few quick wins to harness support.

***Action: Paul and John to meet to discuss how to take forward and report back at next meeting***

### **24 – Skills**

No update from last meeting.

***Action: Graham Tubb to report back on RDA engagement with SSCs at the next meeting.***

### **5 – Export reward**

No update from last meeting. It is understood that the big 6 energy suppliers have tariffs for microgeneration, as do some of the small ones, but these are not all easily accessible. Ofgem due to report back on how green homes can benefit more from the process paid to them when they export electricity to the grid (Budget commitment) by November.

***Action: John/Sally to consider whether follow up with energy suppliers needed and take things forward with Ofgem***

### **6 – EEC / CERT**

An announcement is due to Parliament soon.

### **11 – Energy measures report for local authorities**

Report published and available at

<http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/environment/measures/page41270.html>

There was some discussion around appropriate marketing of this report, including to the parish councils.

***Action: Sally to find out more about how this is being marketed***  
***Action: Andrew Cooper to send Kirkburton Parish Council motion which could be used as a case study.***

### **12 – Communications for the construction industry.**

Brainstorming discussions held in June produced strong feelings that much of what was needed would be covered by Certification. Another area of work is the Carbon Trust promotion of LCBP results emphasising the business case for installing microgeneration. With this action being taken forward in these other areas, no new communication initiative is planned for this action at present.

## **18 – Permitted Development**

There are still a couple of areas that need addressing, namely noise and vibration of wind turbines and air source heat pumps, and radar issues around wind turbines. A timetable for amending the GDPO could not be given, but it was noted that ministers have committed to moving quickly.

***Action: Paul to set up meeting with CLG and Defra to take forward links with Certification and resolve outstanding issues.***

***Action: Graham Davies to continue to progress discussions with MoD on RADAR issues***

## **10 - Information needs of planning officers**

Guidance will be produced once a decision has been made on permitted development. It is anticipated that the planning portal ([www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk)) will be a key distribution channel.

There was some discussion about whether/how the planning portal could be used for wider information on microgeneration

***Action: Sally to investigate current microgeneration content and promotion activities on the Planning Portal, and possible areas for development***

## **8 – Review of existing communications**

No update. Proposals for a small survey on consumer information will be taken to the next RAB subgroup at end October.

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

Element Energy won the contract. A brief overview of the research project is available at

<http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/research/page38208.html>

***Action: Sally to keep the group updated on progress***

## **AOB**

### **Merton Rule.**

There was some discussion over recent press coverage. We are aware that concerns have been raised and have been working closely with officials in CLG to ensure that issues related to microgeneration are fully considered.

### **EU 2020 target**

The contribution microgeneration can make to this target was discussed. Current projections are about 1-2%, most of which comes from ZCH, although it was acknowledged that definitions for this are yet to be agreed.

### **Date of next meetings**

11 December 10.30 – 12.30

11 March 2008, 10.30 – 12.30