

Microgeneration Government-Industry Contact Group

Action Plan



2011

Member Organisations

The Microgeneration Government-Industry Contact Group is facilitated by the Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes, and comprises representatives from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the devolved administrations, and the following industry members:



British Electrotechnical and Allied
Manufacturers Association



Business Council for
Sustainable Energy UK



The Combined Heat
and Power Association



Construction
Products Association



Consulting With Purpose



Consumer Focus



Federation of Environmental
Trade Associations



Ground Source
Heat Pump Association



Heating Equipment Testing
and Approval Scheme Ltd



Heating and Hotwater Industry Council



The Chartered Institute of Plumbing
and Heating Engineering



Local Government Association



The Microgeneration Certification Scheme



The Micropower Council



National House-Building Council



Renewable Energy Association



Solar Trade Association



The sector skills council for the
building services engineering sector

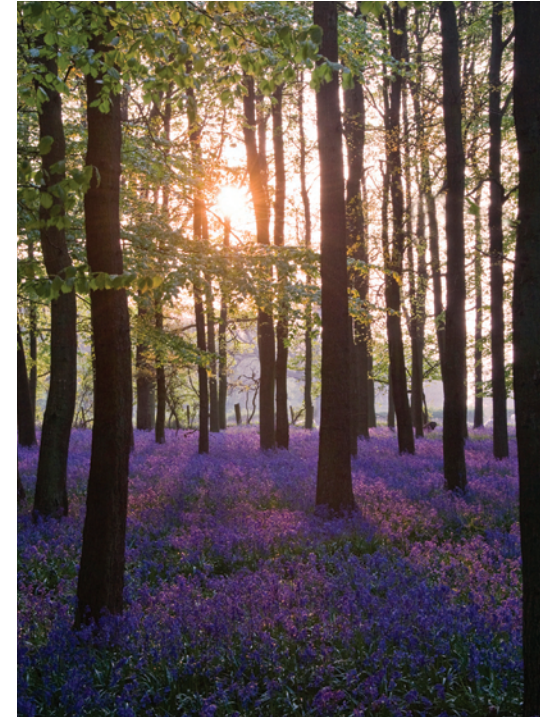
Background

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*Stakeholders
have been
brought together
from throughout
the industry.*
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The Government announced a consultation on a Microgeneration Strategy on 12 July 2010. The Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes brought together stakeholders from industry with DECC to identify opportunities for such a strategy and constraints on delivery. This engagement was by way of four working groups, eight workshops and online input from a wider audience of stakeholders. A report ¹ on findings and recommendations was submitted to DECC on 15 October 2010.

In the report, the working groups recommended that a Government-Industry Contact Group be established to continue dialogue with Government on tackling the non-financial barriers facing microgeneration technologies and to support the development and implementation of the Microgeneration Strategy. Government has formally welcomed the establishment of this group in the consultation document ² for a Microgeneration Strategy published on 22 December 2010.

The Microgeneration Government-Industry Contact Group met for the first time in February 2011 and convened at a monthly frequency since. At a planning workshop held in May, the group decided on how to develop the below action plan. This plan forms the basis of the activity during the implementation stage of the Microgeneration Strategy, facilitated by the Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes.



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¹ <http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/microgen-strategy/668-energy-generating-democracy-microgen.pdf>

² <http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/microgen-strategy/1077-consultation-on-a-microgeneration-strategy.pdf>

Objectives

The Government-Industry Contact Group will provide a single point of contact with Government to discuss and tackle the non-financial barriers facing mass deployment of microgeneration technologies and implementation of the Microgeneration Strategy.

In particular, the following priorities have been determined by the Contact Group so far:

1. Produce and coordinate execution of an Industry Action Plan which implements the Government's Microgeneration Strategy
2. Feed into work which supports consumer take-up of microgeneration
3. Support work which seeks to improve the skills and competency of the supply chain
4. Supporting the British manufacturing industry, without causing barriers to EU trade
5. Coordinate communication of the objectives and outcomes of the strategy with the involved trades and the general public.

The remit of the group primarily concerns England in line with the requirement of the Microgeneration Strategy, but it is recognised that many issues have UK-wide implication, so the devolved administrations may be actively involved.



Taskgroup 1: MCS

Purpose and objectives: Maximise the effectiveness of the MCS scheme in ensuring high-quality design and installation of microgeneration systems and improve consumer confidence.

Please note:

The numbering of the deliverables in the following action plan does not match the numbered actions in the Microgeneration Strategy, which are higher level and more general. The following more detailed deliverables are numbered to ease allocation and tracking of progress. The leads for each workstream have been identified within the Government-Industry Contact Group.

Workstream	Outcomes	Deliverables	Dependencies	Milestones
One line description of each workstream	What will change as a result	Outputs and work products	Interaction with other streams of work	Completion dates
a. Governance of MCS	Current activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCS developed into a non-profit legal company managed by a Board of Directors selected from the relevant stakeholder groups Established a Standards Management Group (SMG) in Spring 2011 responsible for all technical standards and scheme documents, reporting directly to the Board of Directors New activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DECC role in MCS Board clarified Marketing communication, particularly of the non-profit status 	1. Incorporation and legal entity	Steering Group approval DECC agreement and clarification of role in MCS Board	Summer / Autumn 2011: Steering Group meeting (6 September 2011) first SMG meeting July 2011
b. Management of MCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCS incorporate Board of Directors and reporting responsibilities into the new legal entity, providing transparency, compliance with statutory duties and ensuring the organisation remains focused on its aims and objectives 	2. Management reporting established in line with the requirements of company law and additional board requirements	Board of Directors, Licensee, Interim CEO	Summer 2011

Workstream	Outcomes	Deliverables	Dependencies	Milestones
One line description of each workstream	What will change as a result	Outputs and work products	Interaction with other streams of work	Completion dates
c. MCS technology scales review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCS have asked each technology group for a view on what scale they believe the scheme should operate at MCS will consider the responses from the MCS working groups, the responses from the strategy and other stakeholders, and establish a report on how it may proceed 	3. Report on the scale which the MCS could and should achieve		Summer 2011
d. Marketing and communication of the scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCS previously marketed to installer and product companies and to a lesser extent the consumer Consumer marketing activity to be increased with a primary focus on the residential market Raise the profile of the scheme 	4. Marketing Strategy for next 2 to 3 years, with implementation plan	Approval by the Board of Directors	Autumn 2011
e. Incorporating competency requirements in MCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of competency requirements into scheme documents within a stepped compliance period, encouraging installer companies to upskill 	5. Implementation matrix of what elements are to be mandatory by what dates	<i>Taskgroup 3 (Skills), workstream c</i> Standards Management Group	End of 2011
f. Relation to Green Deal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCS closely engaged in the development of standards where the Microgeneration technologies and Green Deal cross over Ensuring MCS plays its role in supporting the Green Deal roll-out 	6. Consistent microgeneration section of PAS 2030 and/or references.	BSI, Green Deal development team	End of 2011

Taskgroup 2: EPCs

Purpose and objectives: Create regulatory environment and assessment framework that enables accurate representation of the contribution of microgeneration technologies to low carbon homes and buildings.

Workstream	Outcomes	Deliverables	Dependencies	Milestones
One line description of each workstream	What will change as a result	Outputs and work products	Interaction with other streams of work	Completion dates
a. Collation and illustration of existing SAP issues affecting microgeneration technologies	The microgeneration sector aligned behind a single set of SAP issues	7. A final SAP issues paper, explaining existing inaccuracies and providing evidence		June 2011: feed into Building Regulation review process
b. Development of proposed solutions to issues outlined in the final 'SAP issues' paper	The sector aligned behind an agreed set of detailed and workable recommendations for improving SAP and making it 'fit for purpose'	8a. A SAP recommendations paper, outlining how the issues outlined in the above mentioned 'SAP Issues' paper might be resolved 8b. Agreed set of key 'asks' for the SAP consultation		Winter 2011 feed into the SAP consultation process

Workstream	Outcomes	Deliverables	Dependencies	Milestones
One line description of each workstream	What will change as a result	Outputs and work products	Interaction with other streams of work	Completion dates
c. Reconciliation of SAP with the Eco-Design Directive	SAP adapted to changing European policy environment and issues identified in advance of becoming a problem	9. Assessment of how changes to treatment of calculations could impact on SAP and recommendations as to how these changes should be accommodated	BRE SAP issues paper SAP recommendations paper	July 2011
d. Alignment of Building Regulations review with overarching priority of accurate, fair and representative EPCs, underpinned by an effective carbon compliance tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPCs and building regulations and associated methodologies recognise and accurately represent the value of microgeneration EPC before and after comparison showing a clearer and more accurate representation of the microgeneration contribution 	10. Concrete policy recommendations fed into the Building Regulations review	SAP recommendations paper	Policy proposals by end July 2011

Taskgroup 3: Skills and Knowledge

Purpose and objectives: To ensure that there are sufficient levels of skills and knowledge in the industry to meet the demands of a rapidly growing sector in line with UK carbon reduction and green economy policies.

Workstream	Outcomes	Deliverables	Dependencies	Milestones
One line description of each workstream	What will change as a result	Outputs and work products	Interaction with other streams of work	Completion dates
a. Audit of all courses, qualifications and training available in England	Individuals and organisations wishing to access high quality training are able to easily see what is available	11. Database of all courses available that are competence-based in terms of content, delivery and assessment; and mapped to National Occupational Standards (NOS)	MCS Technologies Communication	October 2012 (in line with Green Deal)
b. Transform the way the UK plans, develops and delivers skills in renewable technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New programmes and delivery models that suit employer needs • Collaboration with key industry bodies • Better access to training through a network of providers 	12a. 30,000 to 100,000 learning opportunities across England 12b. Mechanism to monitor quality of provision	Communication MCS	2011 – 2015
c. Undertake a review of the assessment of competence requirements within the MCS scheme to ensure that the individual competence standard is derived from the National Occupational Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All individuals performing MCS installations are suitably qualified and/or competent • The MCS scheme is fully compliant with the requirements of the EU Directive 2009/28/EC Annex 4 • The quality of installation work is increased significantly and customers throughout the UK have confidence that the MCS installation company certification denotes competent and quality workmanship 	13. Integration of individual competence derived from NOS into the MCS scheme rules and technical documentation	<i>Taskgroup 1 (MCS), workstream e</i> Warranties and insurances Technologies Communication routes Decision on the EU Directive 2009/28/EC (Annex 4) relating to the recognition of individual competencies	November 2011

Taskgroup 4: Warranties and Insurances

Purpose and objectives: Ensure that effective consumer protection schemes are identified and fully communicated to the market.

Workstream	Outcomes	Deliverables	Dependencies	Milestones
One line description of each workstream	What will change as a result	Outputs and work products	Interaction with other streams of work	Completion dates
a. Develop definitions of scheme types and protection offered	Clarity to ensure policy language is accurate and applications understood	16. Definitions paper with examples of offers		June 2011
b. Mapping the schemes to various microgeneration installation scenarios to check what they apply to	Clarity of application to the installed environment e.g. product only, system, ongoing servicing and maintenance or workmanship	17. Report covering a range of technologies	Green Deal Installer Accreditation Forum	June 2011
c. Risk assessment of scheme types	Ability to focus on important aspects of consumer protection as it relates to ongoing microgeneration policy	18. Paper highlighting the risks and gaps of each scheme type	As above	July 2011

Workstream	Outcomes	Deliverables	Dependencies	Milestones
One line description of each workstream	What will change as a result	Outputs and work products	Interaction with other streams of work	Completion dates
d. Identify minimum legal protection available for consumers relating to microgeneration	A list of legal requirements to overlay onto scheme offers	19. Addition to final report with mapping		July 2011
e. Consumer and policy guidance document	A very clear and concise consumer protection guide	20. An electronic document for publication by relevant bodies		September 2011

Taskgroup 5: Technology

Purpose and objectives: Promote a systems approach to microgeneration technology deployment, produce clear guidance on the various technologies, improve consideration for grid and connection issues, and encourage a reliable market growth for microgeneration.

Workstream	Outcomes	Deliverables	Dependencies	Milestones
One line description of each workstream	What will change as a result	Outputs and work products	Interaction with other streams of work	Completion dates
a. Industry to identify specific actions that can be taken over the next 12 months to promote a systems approach to installing microgeneration technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement on steps that industry should take to encourage a systems approach and how to promote it 	21. Paper setting out specific actions to promote a systems approach	MCS, Green Deal, Smart Meter roll-out	End of December 2011
b. Industry to develop fact sheets for each technology which includes information on maintenance and the longevity of key components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic life cycle information for each technology Recognising that information can only be indicative and not product specific, the factsheets accurately describe product life cycle and key components Technical information on each technology for the lay-person 	22. Fact sheets for each technology that can be used by a variety of organisations providing advice on microgeneration	Information, Green Deal, MCS	April 2012
c. Set up formal contact between the Microgeneration Government-Industry Contact Group and Ofgem/Energy Network Association to consider connection issues for microgeneration technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearer understanding developed of grid demand and connecting issues for microgeneration Advice to installers provided on how best to work with Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) Mechanisms in place for sharing ideas and discussing solutions 	23. Regular monitoring of grid decarbonisation developments and impact on the deployment of microgeneration	DECC Smart Grid Team	July 2011

Workstream	Outcomes	Deliverables	Dependencies	Milestones
One line description of each work stream	What will change as a result	Outputs and work products	Interaction with other streams of work	Completion dates
d. Enhance the market for renewable heat/ electricity products and jobs for manufacturers, installers and ancillary jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market growth facilitated by FiT and RHI backed up by MCS / Ofgem E-Serve Appropriate market levers and guidance developed for strong and high quality microgeneration markets 	24. Market-ready Renewable Heat Premium Payment Scheme, RHI scheme by October 2012 and effective FiT review process	MCS	July 2011 for first stage
e. To explore the opportunities available to expand the microgeneration sector, from engagement in EU technology development and demonstration initiatives such as the Strategic Energy Technology Plan and Framework Programme 7 Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One or more UK cities encouraged to benefit from EU funding, to host a demonstration of integrated Smart City energy efficiency technologies at city scale UK companies and research organisations encouraged to benefit from the technology development necessary to deliver the Smart Cities Initiative and also from the related funding, for example from Framework Programme 7 project involvement 	25a. Viable project proposals developed by UK cities to consider EU support 25b. Viable project proposals developed by UK companies and research organisations to consider EU FP7 Energy and other SET Plan related funding		End 2012 or as per EU funding schedule (to be confirmed) Active promotion to begin for 2012 FP7 energy Work Programme from Summer 2011

Overarching Task 1: Communication

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 This workstream is overarching; the following objectives have been set, to be considered in each of the five previous workstreams:

Purpose and objectives: To achieve consensus within the industry on core messaging, and to promote a collaborative approach to dissemination, enabling greater reach.

Workstream	Outcomes	Deliverables	Dependencies	Milestones
One line description of each workstream	What will change as a result	Outputs and work products	Interaction with other streams of work	Completion dates
a. Marketing of the concept of microgeneration and potential benefits	A greater proportion of the general public are aware of microgeneration and approach it with a positive mindset	26. Identification of target audience, key channels, core messages that industry needs to communicate to general public regarding the full range of microgeneration technologies and systems		Summer 2011, in line with introduction of RHI Premium Payments
b. Design of the communication components of all work streams	A consistent, harmonised approach to communication activities across all work streams	27. Definition of key messages applicable to all work streams; identification of any areas requiring a differentiated approach in terms of target audience, messaging and channels		Varied according to milestones for workstream

Workstream	Outcomes	Deliverables	Dependencies	Milestones
One line description of each workstream	What will change as a result	Outputs and work products	Interaction with other streams of work	Completion dates
c. Empowering the consumer	Consumer armed with greater knowledge and awareness of MCS, REAL Code and different sources of independent advice on microgeneration	28. Design an integrated marketing campaign focused on importance of MCS, support available, and various routes to advice on suitability and value of different technologies for a given property e.g. GD, FiTs, EPCs	Target audience Key messages <i>Taskgroup 2: EPCs</i>	Summer 2011, in line with introduction of RHI Premium Payments
d. Reaching out to the (small) installer community	Installers act as advocates of microgeneration technologies and incorporate microgeneration technologies into their business	29. Design and plan a series of 'installer road shows / workshops' around the country, providing information on training and MCS, and encouraging installers to branch out into these technologies and systems	Target audience Key messages	Autumn 2011
e. Working with consumer-facing organisations	Consistent and coherent message about the value of microgeneration and the importance of MCS amongst energy suppliers and other potential GD providers, Ofgem, Energy Saving Trust etc.	30. A consistent set of key messages for customers, supported by energy suppliers, Green Deal providers, Energy Saving Trust, MCS and Ofgem	Installer roadshows / workshops	In advance of Green Deal launch

Overarching Task 2: Community Delivery

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 This workstream is overarching; the following objectives have been set, and will be supported by work in each of the five previous workstreams:

Purpose and objectives: To encourage and support uptake of renewable energy technologies by communities and to facilitate area-based approaches.

Workstream	Outcomes	Deliverables	Dependencies	Milestones
One line description of each workstream	What will change as a result	Outputs and work products	Interaction with other streams of work	Completion dates
a. Roundtable on community energy	Identified possible solutions and who has the capacity / responsibility for taking these forward	31. Roundtable on community energy which brings together key stakeholders from communities, supporting organisations, local authorities and central Government to work through the key barriers	Any organisations having standing committees in the community energy area	July 2011
b. Financing community scale renewables	Clear overview / easily accessible information on available funding streams available online	32. DECC in collaboration with the Local Authority Group and other interested partners will identify applicable funding streams available in UK and from the EU, and disseminate the advice on the 'Community Energy Online' web portal (see opposite)	EU funding streams – IEE, FP European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) etc	First draft end 2011 Minimum update twice yearly

Workstream	Outcomes	Deliverables	Dependencies	Milestones
One line description of each workstream	What will change as a result	Outputs and work products	Interaction with other streams of work	Completion dates
c. Communicating opportunities and benefits to the investment community	Investment companies have a clear picture of, and confidence in microgeneration and community energy	33. DECC will work with partners to communicate the opportunities and benefits of community energy to the investment community	Investment community interest	March 2012
d. 'Community Energy Online' web portal development	'Community Energy Online' web portal is modernised and fit for purpose	34. DECC working with the steering group which represents communities and local authorities, to develop further the 'Community Energy Online' web portal	Support for communities for developing the website	September 2011 – first improvements online
e. Development of community buying groups	Publication on the Community Energy Online web portal of tools and case studies to support community buying	35. DECC working with existing community buying groups to develop tools and case studies to support and encourage other communities to develop similar schemes	Interest from communities and support from existing proponents	As part of the September 2011 text

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