

The Energy Generating Democracy

DECC Microgeneration Strategy Consultation

Final Report September 2010

A report prepared for the
Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes

Executive Summary

The potential for microgeneration in the UK is huge. The industry has a vision for an energy generating democracy where millions of people create their own heat and power, not only cutting carbon but creating jobs, supporting innovation and encouraging enterprise. We are ready to meet this opportunity, to rise to the challenge of creating a 21st century industry, but needs Government to provide the conditions for this to happen.

On 12th July 2010, the Government announced a consultation on a new Microgeneration Strategy¹. This Strategy will look forward to 2020 and cover England only, and seeks views on four key policy areas that can help decarbonise the way we heat our homes and businesses, reducing the UK's CO₂ emissions and contributing to our target of sourcing 20% of all EU energy from renewables by 2020. Rather than follow recent practice and produce a document on which interested parties can comment, DECC invited those with the greatest knowledge and expertise in the field to contribute to the development of a draft strategy, which will then be widely consulted on later this year.

Through August and September 2010, stakeholders came together in four working groups to consider the themes of Quality, Technology, Advice and Skills. This report is the principal output of this first phase of the consultation process. It sets out the industry's vision for microgeneration and recommends what both Government and industry need to do to make the vision a reality.

Our recommendations are:

1. Provide policy certainty and clarity

The industry believes it can deliver and urges Government to be ambitious in its aspirations for microgeneration. Clarity on the Government's long-term vision for the sector is essential to give the industry confidence to invest and grow: consistency and longevity of policy are critical.

2. Set up a Government-Industry Contact Group

Different elements of the industry should come together in one group as a point of contact for Government. A model for such a group could be the Domestic Heating and Hot Water Taskforce, facilitated by the Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes. The MCS Steering Group already has details of supply chain representatives who would be interested in forming such a group; care must be taken not to re-invent the wheel or duplicate existing groups.

3. Raise market awareness of microgeneration

There is a need for the market to be more aware of what microgeneration is and what it can offer. Government must play a key role in this if microgeneration is to play a full role in meeting carbon reduction targets. In return, industry will develop its unique selling point, reflecting its diverse market that spans new homes, retrofit, social housing, non-domestic and communities as well as support markets such as finance, insurance, maintenance and installation.

4. Review SAP

RdSAP, the basis for Energy Performance Certificates, fails to properly account for microgeneration technologies and can in fact penalise them. This urgently needs to be addressed as part DECC's expected review of SAP. There were also strong calls from stakeholders for a more open interface with SAP.

5. Improve Design and Commissioning Skills

¹ www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/microgen_strat/microgen_strat.aspx

Excellent design and commissioning of microgeneration installations is essential: without it, we cannot guarantee that the systems will perform as intended. The industry must strengthen training provision to cover the design and commissioning of microgeneration technologies at an adequately sophisticated level.

6. Ensure technologies operate as they should post-installation

If systems are designed, installed and commissioned properly then they should of course operate properly. Unsatisfactory performance through poor design and commissioning, coupled with users not fully understanding what to expect or how to operate their system, is a reputational issue for industry to address. Post-installation evaluation of systems, through smarter controls or even home visits in some circumstances, is required.

7. Support each technology in the most appropriate way

Each technology within the microgeneration industry is at a different point of market development and so requires different levels and types of support. All technologies must be supported: the Government mustn't 'back winners'. More sophisticated – but easy to use – controls have a key role to play across the piece.

8. Improve governance and openness of MCS

While stakeholders agreed that MCS should continue, changes should be made with regard to how the scheme is funded and managed, making information publicly available about companies permanently removed, and making the scheme more accessible to smaller companies. Communications between MCS and the wider industry need to be improved; this could be achieved through workshops/events as well as general communications.

9. Up-skill the existing building services industry

There is no need to create a new workforce to meet microgeneration installation targets: the existing building services industry is in an excellent position to up-skill to meet this demand. Training should be available to all those who are interested, and delivered and assessed to consistent standards. The skills required to deliver and support microgeneration in its widest context must also be considered.

10. Provide free, impartial, independent, appropriate advice

Free, impartial, independent, appropriate microgeneration advice should be available to assist customers in their purchasing decisions, which in practical terms would be part of a wider energy efficiency or sustainable homes service, with links to the Green Deal.

11. Ensure microgeneration is available to all and disadvantages none

Information and advice about microgeneration technologies and the opportunity to have them installed must be available to everyone, regardless of income, tenure, age, IT literacy, disability or any other potential barrier. Microgeneration can contribute to social as well as environmental objectives. Renewable heat will play a key role in eliminating fuel poverty, particularly amongst consumers off the gas grid. Community-scale solutions can make efficient use of resources, and offer the potential to engage more people in the low carbon transition. Government and industry must facilitate the sharing of community toolkits, including advice and assistance during the high cost and high risk set-up phase (including planning and related assessments).

Introduction

On 12th July 2010, the Government announced a consultation on a new Microgeneration Strategy². This Strategy will look forward to 2020 and cover England only, and seeks views on four key policy areas that can help decarbonise the way we heat our homes and businesses, reducing the UK's CO₂ emissions and contributing to our target of sourcing 20% of all EU energy from renewables by 2020.

Rather than follow recent practice and produce a document on which interested parties can comment, DECC invited those with the greatest knowledge and expertise in the field to contribute to the development of a draft strategy, which will then be widely consulted on later this year. Four working groups were set up to look at the key policy areas, a process facilitated by the Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes (EEPH³). Each working group was appointed a Chair and comprised representatives from trade associations, consumer bodies and other representative groups. The four groups were:

- **Quality:** ensure consumers have confidence that equipment and installation is reliable and adheres to the highest standards
Chaired by David Strong, Chair of EEPH
- **Technology:** examine how to improve products through more trialling of technologies new to the UK
Chaired by Nicholas Doyle, Places for People, Non Executive Director of Viridian Solar and Chair of the EEPH Social Housing Group
- **Skills:** develop the microgeneration supply chain to ensure it is properly equipped with the right people to meet the expected rise in demand, as well as creating and sustaining jobs in the UK
Chaired by Andy Honey, Microgeneration Ltd
- **Advice:** provide more accessible advice and information about Microgeneration to homeowners, communities and small businesses.
Chaired by Andrew Cooper, Kirklees Council and Energy Saving Trust

Each group met twice during August and September 2010 to discuss the priority issues for their topic area and to develop options for how these could be overcome by Government and industry. This report is the principal output of this first phase of the consultation process. It sets out the industry's vision for microgeneration and then recommends what both Government and industry need to do to make the vision a reality.

² www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/microgen_strat/microgen_strat.aspx

³ www.eeph.org.uk

The Vision

“I want to see more homes, communities and businesses generating their own energy. We can literally bring power back to the people. Microgeneration is a key part of this vision.

By becoming more self sufficient we can create sustainable local energy economies. People and communities can save money on their fuel bills at the same time as generating an income and cutting carbon. I want to work with industry to overcome the challenges it is facing. Together we will create a marketplace for jobs and prosperity alongside products and advice which people trust.”⁴

Greg Barker, July 2010

The potential for microgeneration in the UK is huge. The industry has a vision for an energy generating democracy where millions of people to create their own heat and power, not only cutting carbon but creating jobs, supporting innovation and encouraging enterprise.

This is a young sector and much needs to be done to create a truly mainstream, global industry that can deliver the vision we share. We are ready to meet this opportunity, to rise to the challenge of creating a 21st century industry, but need Government to provide the conditions for this to happen. Previous government policy has distorted the market and held back the industry by well intentioned but poorly designed and inconsistent interventions: we need to avoid this happening in the future and create a positive environment in which the industry can thrive.

The Government must be ambitious and give a strong policy lead to give the industry confidence to invest and grow. The industry is ready to respond, to contribute and deliver on the Government's aspirations. If both sides deliver on what is needed then the huge potential we envisage can become a reality for the industry and the UK.

Building consumer trust is of fundamental importance when establishing any new market and is particularly true of microgeneration. Providing good advice, quality products and installation, together with effective consumer protection will be essential if a significant uptake of microgeneration technologies is to be achieved in the UK. Our vision is for high levels of public awareness of microgeneration and what it can offer. All microgeneration customers - householders, businesses, communities – need to be able to find out what they need to know before, during and after their installation, to understand the benefits of the technologies and to be confident in both the quality of the products and the skills of the workforce.

⁴ http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn10_079/pn10_079.aspx

Overarching Considerations

The energy mix

Microgeneration needs to be seen as part of the UK's energy mix and so must be integrated into national energy policy. As well as cutting carbon, microgeneration represents reduced costs for the UK: improved efficiency, energy security, job creation and a developing export market all help to meet key national policy drivers.

Communities

There is a real opportunity to reinforce the localism and Big Society agendas through locally led community based microgeneration projects. What successful local projects often need is a defined goal, ongoing benefits to the community, secure funding sources and inspiration. Projects utilising the FITs mechanism can achieve all these things and be the catalyst and foundation for other worthwhile projects in the community. There are real opportunities to engage groups such as Parish Councils and Transition Town groups in projects of these kind, building social capital and of course 'The Big Society'.

Fuel poverty

The inability of disadvantaged households to benefit from low carbon technologies may result from a number of factors including: lack of capital to enable the initial investment; lack of physical access to renewable sources of energy or fuel; lack of access to the appropriate energy infrastructure; or poor security of fuel supplies. Consumers in more remote rural areas are more likely to live in fuel poverty but may have less information or face higher prices than urban consumers, due to the higher cost of sale in these areas. This means that fuel-poor consumers can become sponsors of this policy to the benefit of others and to their own detriment. Measures must be taken to make low carbon technologies more accessible to these groups where they can save money whilst cutting carbon emissions. In particular, renewable heat could play a key role in eliminating fuel poverty, particularly amongst consumers off the gas grid.

Green Deal

The Government is currently developing its plans for the Green Deal, a scheme to encourage energy efficiency improvements paid for by savings from energy bills, avoiding upfront costs to households and businesses; it is expected to be launched in the second half of 2012. Although the emphasis of the Green Deal is on energy efficiency, microgeneration must be viewed as part of the wider package on offer. The opportunity must not be lost to encourage customers to take a holistic view of their home or business and consider all the options available to them. A review of SAP/RdSAP is of key concern here with regard to the way EPCs must be improved to support the Green Deal.

Definition of microgeneration

Consideration must also be given to the different scales of microgeneration, recognising that the purchase and supply of systems operate through different routes. Smaller, dwelling-level systems tend to be installed by a single company where as larger, more complex systems tend to have a longer supply chain with designers, installers and commissioning professionals all involved. Consistency of policy is required here: while microgeneration is typically thought of as 45kW for heat and 50kW for electricity, this consultation will cover heat technologies up to 300kW (Energy Act 2008). Yet the MCS only certifies heat technologies on a smaller scale, which also has implications for FITs and RHI. Consideration must be given to prevailing qualifications and standards that exist if the scope of microgeneration is to be widened to 300kW and the different needs of stakeholders under business-to-consumer and business-to-business contracts need to be understood.

Recommendations

1. Provide policy certainty and clarity

Who?	Evidence provided	Quick win?	Deal breaker?	Cost
Government	Consistent, unanimous message across all four working groups	Yes	Yes: above all else	Low cost: policy to be published soon anyway

The industry believes it can deliver and urges Government to be ambitious in its aspirations for microgeneration. Clarity on the Government's long-term vision for the sector is essential to give the industry confidence to invest and grow: consistency and longevity of policy is critical. This has to include clear standards in the dwellings and non-dwellings sectors, clear support for key areas of research and development, national targets and consistency for any incentives that are deemed suitable.

The impacts of taking the opposite approach can be seen around the Renewable Heat Incentive and clarity on the Feed in Tariffs: changes, delays and uncertainty in these have undermined confidence and investment. Create the right framework for investment and the industry will respond.

The Microgeneration Strategy must be supported by and embedded in all Government Departments and provide a strong steer on anticipated regulatory and fiscal instruments as well as the scale of growth required. Planning policy and permitted development must also align with and encourage the vision for microgeneration. Government can also take a leadership role by installing microgeneration on its own estate.

2. Set up a Government-Industry Contact Group

Who?	Evidence provided	Quick win?	Deal breaker?	Cost
Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes with MCS	Strong support from all stakeholders	Yes – first meeting could take place before end 2010	No	Time costs only + Secretariat support

There was strong support amongst both stakeholders and Government officials for different elements of the industry to come together in one group as a point of contact for Government. This could be a forum of trade associations with links to the proposed Executive of the MCS (see Recommendation 8). The Group would have narrow terms of reference, recognising the importance and influence of its constituent parts and tackling issues where there is common agreement first. The Group can take a leading role in ensuring the Microgeneration Strategy is implemented and that industry takes the opportunities provided by Government policy.

A model for such a group is the Domestic Heating and Hot Water Taskforce⁵. This group is facilitated by the Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes: they could play a similar role in bringing

⁵ <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100430153934/http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn16/pn16.aspx>

together a 'Microgeneration Taskforce'. The MCS Steering Group already has details of supply chain representatives who would be interested in forming such a group; care must be taken not to re-invent the wheel or duplicate existing groups.

3. Raise market awareness of microgeneration

Who?	Evidence provided	Quick win?	Deal breaker?	Cost
Government/Industry	Lack of current market	Medium-long term	Yes	£££ - advertising, etc

There is a need for the market to be more aware of what microgeneration is and what it can offer. With the industry comprising many smaller players without the marketing skills or capacity found in parallel industries, Government must play a key role in this if microgeneration is to play a full role in meeting carbon reduction targets. Fiscal incentives will help here, but there is a wider need for microgeneration to gain cultural normalcy through high media visibility. The industry has to do more to develop its unique selling point and reflect its diverse market that spans new homes, retrofit, social housing, non-domestic and communities as well as support markets such as finance, insurance, maintenance and installation.

The industry must also do more market analysis so that the potential for growth, jobs and export can be understood by Government.

As well as a general awareness of microgeneration there are also specific needs to be addressed. Businesses and communities have a central role to play in the vision of an energy generating democracy, but their advice and design needs are different from householders. Planners, chartered surveyors and building control officers have a critical role to play too in the adoption of microgeneration by the mass market and so it is vital they fully understand the technologies and their potential: this should be extended to Elected Members. Installers, for example of more traditional heating systems, also need better awareness of microgeneration technologies.

Once customers are interested in microgeneration they also need to be made aware of the existing mechanisms in place to support their purchasing decisions: this also links to the recommendation for impartial, independent advice below (Recommendation 10). More needs to be done to advertise the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS), Office of Fair Trading Codes (e.g. the REAL Code) and Warranty and Guarantee backed schemes (e.g. the Renewable Energy Installation Guarantee Agency (REIGA)). Linked to this there was also a call for a one-stop-shop for complaints when they do arise, with appropriate funding for re-work. Consumers also need more reliable performance forecasts.

4. Review SAP

Who?	Evidence provided	Quick win?	Deal breaker?	Cost
Government with industry support	RdSAP outputs can penalise microgeneration	Yes	Yes	Low cost: part of ongoing SAP review process

RdSAP, the basis for Energy Performance Certificates, fails to properly account for microgeneration technologies and can in fact penalise them. This urgently needs to be addressed as part DECC's expected review of "all aspects of the SAP to determine its long term suitability to deliver this policy

initiative (of net zero carbon homes by 2016)⁶. There was strong support for an industry contact group to be set up to support Government in this work.

There were strong calls from stakeholders for a more open interface with SAP: the process for approving technologies needs to be more transparent and the underlying methodology more accessible. The industry could learn from other sectors here, such as the Construction Products Association. Some stakeholders were also of the view that SAP should be made available to a wider number of certification or awarding bodies.

5. Improve Design and Commissioning Skills

Who?	Evidence provided	Quick win?	Deal breaker?	Cost
Industry	EST Heat Pumps trials plus anecdotal	Medium term	Yes	££ - borne by industry

Excellent design and commissioning of microgeneration installations is essential: without it, we cannot guarantee that the systems will perform as intended. Responsibility for design and commission of course depends on the scale of the installation, but whichever part of the supply chain delivers it must be of the very highest standards.

Industry must strengthen training provision to cover the design and commission of microgeneration technologies at an adequately sophisticated level; manufacturers have a key role to play here as well as the National Skills Academy for Environmental Technologies. Demonstration of competencies in these fields should be embedded within MCS: NOS Competency modules are already incorporated within the MCS annexes for the technologies.

6. Ensure technologies operate as they should post-installation

Who?	Evidence provided	Quick win?	Deal breaker?	Cost
Industry	EST Heat Pumps trials plus anecdotal	Medium term	Yes	££ - borne by consumer

If systems are designed, installed and commissioned properly (as recommended above) then they should of course operate properly. Unsatisfactory performance through poor design and commission, coupled with users not fully understanding what to expect or how to operate their system, is a reputational issue for industry to address. Manufacturers must design out potential user error, and installations must be accompanied by on-site user training and an ongoing support service. Post-installation visits could help here, perhaps six months later, to check performance but this of course will incur a cost which will ultimately be borne by the consumer as an addition (either within or separate) to the MCS Certification process. Controls – which must be simple to use but sophisticated enough to deal with multi-appliance systems - also have a critical role to play.

7. Support each technology in the most appropriate way

Who?	Evidence provided	Quick win?	Deal breaker?	Cost
Government and industry	Technology Matrix; EST heat pump	Varies	Yes	£-£££

⁶ http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/consumers/saving_energy/std_assess/std_assess.aspx

	trials; stakeholder views			
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Each technology within the microgeneration industry is at a different point of market development and so requires different levels and types of support. This was discussed by the Technology Working Group and represented in a 'Technology Matrix' which has been separately submitted to DECC. All technologies must be supported: the Government mustn't 'back winners'. The critical support needs for each technology are as follows:

- Solar thermal: more awareness of and support for district scale, industrial and commercial applications. This technology benefits from a 'whole house approach': controls and storage are key.
- PV: a clear policy steer is required from Government to help overcome market uncertainty regarding fiscal instruments. The supply of inverters is a current constraint and a strong policy lead would once again help to secure investment decisions.
- Biomass: control strategies are key to the highly efficient combustion of biomass and manufacturers need to respond to this demand. Air quality is a major stumbling block and measuring methodologies need to be standardised across Europe. The supply, quality and availability of fuel are also a barrier to growth.
- Heat pumps: the design and commissioning of heat pumps needs to improve and control systems need to be standardised in the dwellings sector. A heat pump tariff could help to stimulate the market. Metering needs to be resolved at a quicker pace.
- Wind: clear guidance is required from CLG and DECC to planners along with urgent clarity on permitted development orders. There is also potential for the UK to export wind technology, but support is required from Government to help manufacturers understand the export market.
- MicroCHP: more applied R&D is required for microCHP as the market develops. Urgent clarification is required as to the status of microCHP under FITs. The way microCHP is dealt with in SAP needs resolving: this is also the case for passive flue gas recovery.
- Metering: grid balancing, access and infrastructure are of primary concern here. DNOs must be consulted at the very start of area-based microgeneration projects.
- Systems: R&D is needed into integrated systems and how they are controlled. The Government can support this by recognising integrated systems in policy and regulation.

It was recognised that we can learn from pioneering EU countries, though the differences between different cultures and infrastructures must also be appreciated. There is an export opportunity for some technologies and components, which the Government should support internationally.

8. Improve governance and openness of MCS

Who?	Evidence provided	Quick win?	Deal breaker?	Cost
Industry	Stakeholder views	Yes	Yes	MCS has to be self-financing in the medium-term

There were strong views from stakeholders on ways in which the MCS can be improved and strengthened: none, however, thought it should be disbanded. The key recommendations are that:

- Information about companies permanently removed from the MCS be made publicly available
- MCS be made more accessible to smaller companies and duplication in the application process be minimised. Accreditation of technology sub-sectors should also be considered.
- The funding and fee structure of MCS be continuously reviewed
- A paid Executive Director / Management Board be put in place to take MCS forward. This would have links to the Government-Industry Contact Group in Recommendation 2.

The MCS Steering Group are already reviewing the legal structure, management and funding of the Scheme, but it became apparent through the Working Group discussions that many industry stakeholders were unaware of this. More openness and better communications from the MCS to industry would help to overcome some of these issues. This could be through workshops/events as well as well as more general communications.

It is industry's role to determine when standards are developed or updated, but Government should promote our competency levels and requirements to be adopted as European or even global standards. There must be common implementation of standards across certification bodies.

9. Up-skill the existing building services industry

Who?	Evidence provided	Quick win?	Deal breaker?	Cost
Industry National Skills Academy for Environmental Technologies	Stakeholder views	No	Yes	££ - training fees

There is no need to create a new workforce to meet microgeneration installation targets: the existing building services industry is in an excellent position to up-skill to meet this demand. This of course will cost money but as the microgeneration market develops businesses will increasingly see this as an opportunity. Training should be available to all those who are interested, however some caution is required to make sure the supply of trained installers, for example, is well matched to demand.

Training must be delivered and assessed to consistent standards and with consistent outcomes for learners. The National Skills Academy for Environmental Technologies will have a key role here together with Sector Skills Councils, as well as ensuring better collaboration between different parts of the industry. Manufacturers must work with training providers to ensure content is current, as well as offering training themselves. Individuals should be able to map clear career paths. Ongoing assessment of competencies is also important.

The skills required to deliver microgeneration in its widest context are very broad and can include everything from bore hole drilling contractors and scaffolders to energy assessors and financial advisors. All of these need to be in adequate supply to meet the anticipated rising demand for microgeneration.

10. Provide free, impartial, independent, appropriate advice

Who?	Evidence provided	Quick win?	Deal breaker?	Cost
Government and industry	Manifesto for Advice and stakeholder views	Yes	Yes	£-£££ depending on delivery model and source

There was strong support for free, impartial, independent, appropriate advice which in practical terms would be part of a wider energy efficiency or sustainable homes service, with links to the Green Deal. The potential scope and reach of this service has been developed into an 'Advice Manifesto' by the Advice Working Group, which has separately been submitted to DECC.

In the current economic climate, stakeholders were aware of the financial implications of providing this service free of charge from end-to-end. There was divided opinion as to if/when the impartial advice service should stop and 'sales' advice should begin, and the extent to which consumers would be prepared to pay for advice in some way or another.

11. Ensure microgeneration is available to all and disadvantages none

Who?	Evidence provided	Quick win?	Deal breaker?	Cost
Government	Stakeholder views NEA experience Distributional impacts of UK Climate Change Policies (ACE/ CSE) HEM Impact Assessment (DECC)	Ongoing	No	££ - cost of grants

Information and advice about microgeneration technologies and the opportunity to have them installed must be available to everyone, regardless of income, tenure, age, IT literacy, disability or any other potential barrier. This is crucial if they are going to be able to use new systems correctly to maximise the benefits. This means, for example, that websites cannot become the sole source of information, that social, private and commercial landlords are incentivised to invest, and that where available, funding is allocated or ring-fenced to support and protect fuel poor owner occupiers. This principle should be embraced across Government policy.

Microgeneration can contribute to social as well as environmental objectives. Renewable heat will play a key role in eliminating fuel poverty, particularly amongst consumers off the gas grid. Community-scale solutions can make efficient use of resources, and offer the potential to engage more people in the low carbon transition. Government and industry must facilitate the sharing of community toolkits, including advice and assistance during the high cost and high risk set-up phase (including planning and related assessments).

Questions for the Consultation

During this Consultation process, stakeholders were asked to submit questions they wanted to see posed by DECC as part of the next phase. These represent the issues where participants think further clarity is required from a wider stakeholder audience:

Overarching

- What should the scope of microgeneration be? (45kW or 300kW)
- What can the industry do to help drive consumer demand?
- Is there support for a Government-Industry Contact Group? How broad – or narrow - should its scope be?

Quality

- Is MCS the best way to monitor the quality of installations?
- How much are industry prepared to pay for a restructured MCS scheme?
- How could MCS be managed if additional funding was not forthcoming?
- How can we ensure that consumer interests are safeguarded?
- Should multiple consumer protection schemes be encouraged?
- Should there be a levy on all installations to fund redress?

Advice

- What advice model should be adopted for supporting the customer journey?
- What level of detail needs to be provided by a public advice service?
- How wide, how deep, how independent does the advice need to be?
- How should advice be made accountable? If so, what form should it take? (e.g. accreditation, code of practice, industry agreements, consumer protection)
- How should it be funded?

Technology

- Do we still need field trials? What's the rationale? Who will fund them?
- Is the energy network fit for purpose?
- Should the Government encourage UK competency levels and requirements to be adopted as European or even global standards?

Skills

- How can we ensure that there are appropriately skilled professionals available across the country as appropriate?
- What other industries also need more skills/capacity to meet the potential growth in microgeneration (e.g. drilling, scaffolding, planners)? How can this be met?
- Which body is best positioned to ensure intra and cross industry consistency?