

## Feed-in Tariff statistics

### Introduction

The purpose of this article is to help users understand the suite of Feed-in Tariff statistics currently published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

The government introduced the Feed in Tariff scheme (FiTs) on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 in order to promote the uptake of a range of small-scale renewable and low-carbon electricity generation technologies across Great Britain.

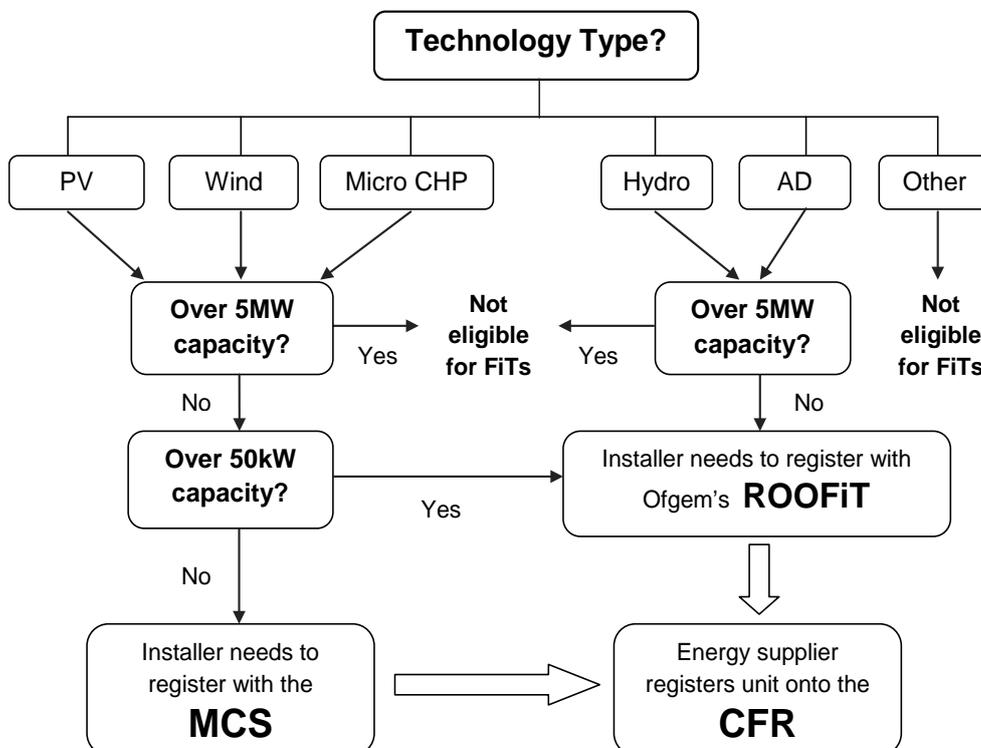
The scheme covers the following five technologies:

- Solar Photovoltaics (PV) up to a maximum total installed capacity<sup>1</sup> of 5MW
- Wind up to 5MW
- Hydro up to 5MW
- Anaerobic Digestion up to 5MW
- Micro CHP<sup>2</sup> plants with a maximum total installed capacity of up to 2kW are also supported.

Applications for the FiTs must come through one of two routes depending on the technology and the size of the installation. The larger installations (i.e. greater than 50kW) and all hydro and anaerobic digestion (AD) must apply for accreditation via Ofgem’s ROOFIT process. Smaller schemes (including all Micro CHP) must apply for accreditation via the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). Note that not all of the installations on the MCS will be eligible for, or decide to apply for, the Feed-in Tariff scheme.

The flow chart in Figure 1 shows the two different routes, both of which result in the installation being registered on Ofgem’s Central FiTs Register (CFR). This is the point at which the installation is fully registered on the Feed-in Tariff scheme.

**Figure 1: FiTs process flow chart**



<sup>1</sup> Total Installed Capacity is the maximum capacity at which an installation could be operated for a sustained period (assuming the source of power used by it to generate electricity was available to it without interruption).

<sup>2</sup> Combined Heat and Power.

## **Weekly statistics**

DECC publishes statistics on the number and capacity of sub 50kW solar photovoltaic (PV) installations on the MCS according to week of registration on the MCS database. The statistics are compiled using weekly MCS data extracts which are delivered to DECC by Gemserv. The extracts contain data on all solar PV installations registered on the MCS database from January 2012 and the latest week ending Sunday. In addition to the date of first registration for each installation, the data extract includes information on the date the installation was commissioned<sup>3</sup>, Declared Net Capacity (DNC)<sup>4</sup> for each installation, as well as the postcode of the installation's location. The statistics are aggregated to weekly from 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 to the latest week ending Sunday. For example, the statistics published on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012 cover sub-50kW solar PV installations registered up to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

Weekly statistics prior to April 2012, which are based on the date the installation was commissioned are available up to the week ending 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012. These are located in the 'Archive' section on the FiT statistics webpage,

[www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy\\_stats/source/fits/fits.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/fits/fits.aspx).

For further information on the reasons for changing the weekly time series from counting on date of commission to date of first registration, refer to the 'User survey on the future of the weekly solar PV statistics', also found on the FiT statistics webpage.

## **Monthly statistics**

The two sets of monthly statistics (as described below) are published at least five working days before the end of each month. The release dates for these statistics are published in 'DECC's timetable of statistical releases for twelve months ahead' on the DECC website at:

[www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/governance/governance.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/governance/governance.aspx).

## **Monthly central Feed-in Tariff register statistics**

The statistics presented in this set of tables, which are designated as National Statistics, are mostly compiled using monthly data extracts from the Central Feed-in Tariff Register (CFR) maintained by Ofgem. The data extract contains information on all installations that have gone through the FiTs scheme process (via either of the two routes) and have been confirmed on the CFR since the start of the FiT scheme in April 2010, regardless of technology or size.

The monthly CFR statistics based on confirmation date cover all installations (across all technologies) confirmed on the CFR since April 2010. The total number of installations and total installed capacity are shown as cumulative totals for each month by tariff code (with totals by technology type at the bottom of the table). Installations are attributed to the month in which they were registered (i.e. confirmed) on to the CFR. For example, an installation could have a commission date of 23<sup>rd</sup> July but have only been registered on the CFR sometime later, say 30<sup>th</sup> September. In this case, this installation would appear in the total for September but not July.

The monthly CFR statistics based on eligibility date is an alternative to the 'Month CFR – Confirmation date' table in that, at the end of the latest month. The cumulative total number and capacity of installations by technology should be identical in both tables. However, users should note that the eligibility date based table presents the data as in-month totals rather than cumulative totals. The main difference between the two tables is in the distribution of installations across the months. In 'Month CFR – Confirmation date' the installations are recorded according to the month in which it was registered on the CFR. In 'Month CFR – Eligibility Date' the installations are recorded according to the month from which the generator is entitled to receive FiTs payments, i.e. the month of the eligibility date. The month of the eligibility date and the month of the confirmation date are frequently different since there is usually a lag between installations becoming eligible for Feed-in Tariffs and being confirmed on the CFR.

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<sup>3</sup> The date of commission is the date the technology was physically installed and deemed to be up and running.

<sup>4</sup> Note that Total Installed Capacity (TIC) is not available on the MCS.

### Monthly MCS and ROOFIT statistics

This is the new monthly table showing the deployment of installations in the MCS and ROOFIT stages of the process, i.e. the installations in the accreditation stage before being confirmed on to the FITs scheme. These are the deployment statistics that are used in determining the tariffs for the next period via the degression mechanism. Degression is essentially a periodic reduction in tariffs, the size of which being dependent on the amount of deployment in the preceding period. The degression mechanisms for each technology type are described in more detail in the following documents:

- Phase 2A: Solar cost control
- Phase 2B: Tariffs for non-PV technologies and scheme administration issues

Both of these documents can be found on the DECC website, [www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting\\_energy/renewable\\_ener/feedin\\_tariff/fits\\_review/fits\\_review.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/renewable_ener/feedin_tariff/fits_review/fits_review.aspx).

### Quarterly sub-regional statistics

Once a quarter<sup>5</sup>, using data from the latest monthly CFR extract, DECC publishes cumulative counts of installations by technology at both a Local Authority (LA) and a Parliamentary Constituency (PC) level for the latest quarter.

### Annual generation statistics

This table shows, for each tariff type, the total amount of electricity generated and the total amount of electricity exported to the public distribution system in the financial year 2010/11. The table also shows the number of installations contributing to this generation (as these are different to the figure reported in the CFR statistics – see paragraph below on data issues). Data for 2011/12 is due to be published in March 2013.

The data used to compile this table is sourced from Ofgem's levelisation process. All licensed electricity suppliers (regardless of FIT participation status) are required to make payments into Ofgem E-Serve's levelisation fund, based on their market share of the Great Britain electricity supply market and any FIT payments made to accredited installations under the FiT scheme. The fund is then redistributed to FIT licensees that have made more payments to accredited installations than they would be required to by their market share contribution. Currently this process occurs on a quarterly basis. However, Ofgem only collect actual electricity generation data (as opposed to data on payments made to generators) once a year. The lag between the end of the financial year and publication of generation statistics by DECC a year later in March is due to Ofgem's collection, verification and reconciliation of the data collected, which is a complex procedure.

### Further information

Additional information on FIT statistics can be found in the 'Feed-in Tariff statistics user guide: data sources and methodologies' on the FIT statistics webpage:

[www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy\\_stats/source/fits/fits.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/fits/fits.aspx)

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<sup>5</sup> These statistics are published in January (Q4 data for the previous year), April (Q1 data), July (Q2 data) and October (Q3 data).