

New Renewables Obligation Certificates (ROCs) table

Introduction

In August 2012, in addition to existing quarterly and annual tables on renewable energy, DECC published a table on the number of certificates issued for generation under the Renewables Obligation (RO) for the first time. This monthly table will provide an indication of the levels of support for renewables under the RO and the amount of equivalent generation. These data are published three months in arrears in the new table 'ET 6.3' at:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/renewables/renewables.aspx

Data Source

The RO is administered by the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM) on behalf of DECC. Generation data are collected on a monthly basis from renewable generators accredited under the RO, with certificates (ROCs) issued to the generators. The number of ROCs issued for each MWh of generation depends on the tariff paid for schemes in the particular technology band. In order to allow DECC to produce this new table, Ofgem provide a report from their internal database on a monthly basis. An external version can also be found on the Ofgem website at:

www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/Public/ReportManager.aspx?ReportVisibility=1&ReportCategory=0

Methodology

Installation level ROCs data are collected by Ofgem on a monthly basis and include the following variables:

- Technology
- Output period, i.e. month of generation
- Generation type (which gives further detail on fuel used for thermal renewables)
- Number of certificates awarded for the period
- MWh per certificate

Data on the number of certificates are aggregated by output period, technology and generation type and are published in the 'Month' worksheet of ET 6.3 (the data is also further aggregated in the 'Quarter', 'Annual', 'Financial Year' and 'Main Table' worksheets). However, there are some older, smaller sites that only report on a financial year basis and the aggregated data covering these are shown in the 'FY-only sites' worksheet of ET 6.3. These data are also included in the 'Financial Year' and (financial year totals in the) 'Main Table' worksheets but are not included in the monthly and quarterly figures.

The worksheets also include 'equivalent generation estimates'. These are calculated by multiplying the number of certificates by MWh per certificate for each installation and aggregating by output period, technology and generation type.

Data intricacies

Due to ROCs banding reviews, there are often more than one 'tariff' for a particular technology group. In other words, it is possible that two different installations of the same technology will receive a different number of certificates per MWh generated depending on what tariff was in place when a site first became eligible for ROCs. This is known as 'grandfathering'. There are also some tariffs that are specific to a country, for example the hydro, wind and solar PV sub-50 kW tariffs are specific to Northern Ireland (as Northern Ireland installations are not eligible for support under the Feed-in Tariff scheme).

Note that the total number of ROCs issued to generators during a year will differ from the number presented by suppliers (to meet their obligation). This is because suppliers are able to 'bank' ROCs for use in subsequent years.

Latest statistics

Provisional figures show that, in 2011/12, the number of ROCs issued to accredited generators was 34.5 million, an increase of 38 per cent compared to 2010/11. This equates to an increase of 33 per cent in generation, from 23,249 GWh in 2010/11 to 30,819 GWh in 2011/12.

There were just over 10 million ROCs issued to accredited generators in the first quarter of 2012, an increase of 42 per cent on the first quarter in 2011. This equates to an increase of 32 per cent in generation over the same period, from 6,620 GWh to 8,712 GWh.

User feedback

We welcome all feedback from users, therefore if you have any comments or queries regarding this new monthly table, please contact James Hemingway using the contact details below.

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