# Microgeneration Government-Industry Contact Group

## Final notes from meeting 8 April 2011, 11:00 – 13:00 at NHBC

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| **Attending** | | | |  |
| 1 | BEAMA | Kelly | Butler |  |
| 2 | CHPA | Bob | Flint |  |
| 3 | Consumer Focus | Liz | Laine |  |
| 4 | DECC | Paul | Rochester |  |
| 5 | DECC | David | Wagstaff |  |
| 6 | EEPH | Mark | Brown |  |
| 7 | EEPH | Mathias | Hessler |  |
| 8 | FETA | Simon | Keel |  |
| 9 | Ground Source Heat Pump Association | David | Matthews |  |
| 10 | HETAS | Bruce | Allen |  |
| 11 | Kingspan | Tony | Staniforth |  |
| 12 | MCS | Gideon | Richards |  |
| 13 | Micropower Council | Dave | Sowden |  |
| 14 | NHBC | Neil | Smith |  |
| 15 | Scottish Government | Joanne | Wright | dialling in |
| 16 | SummitSkills | Nigel | Hollett | dialling in |
| 17 | UKBCSE | Amisha | Patel | dialling in |
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| **Apologies** | |  |  |  |
| 1 | CIPHE | Blane | Judd |  |
| 2 | HHIC | Roger | Webb |  |
| 3 | HHIC | Chris | Yates |  |
| 4 | REA | Stuart | Pocock |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Did not attend** | |  |  |  |
| 1 | DECC | Alison | Bailey |  |
| 2 | DECC | Daljit | Supria |  |
| 3 | DECC | Dipak | Shah |  |
| 4 | LGA | Abigail | Burridge |  |
| 5 | STA | Alan | Aldridge |  |
| 6 | STA | Howard | Johns |  |

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| 1. Update on actions |
| * pending: Nicola O’Connor to update on Green Deal measures / eligibility |
| 1. Overview of Energy Company Obligation and relationship to microgen and Green Deal |
| * Mathias Hessler (MH) read out bullet points provided by Alan Clifford of the DECC ECO team – the points are available as Whiteboard on the Huddle Microgen Workspace. * A question was raised regarding the BSI’s Green Deal Installer PAS – this is not meant to create additional administrative burden, but cover all the existing industry standards for the various product sectors covered under the Green Deal. For microgen, the PAS could potentially cross-refer to MCS in the first instance. (A British Standard cannot reference a certification scheme, but it is the understanding that a PAS can). * There is concern that the PAS could duplicate the work of the MCS competent person schemes. * Concern was also raised about the lead times: developing a PAS *can* be quicker than developing a full British Standard, however there have been examples in the past of PAS developments taking years and getting very contentious (viz PAS 67). * It was also questioned why the PAS should split Heating &Ventilation from microgeneration; from a fuel categorisation this could make sense, but not from a trade / supply chain perspective. * The CPA Green Deal “shadow group” is also doing development work in this area. * **Action: EEPH** to establish interlink between the Microgen Contact Group and the Green Deal Installer PAS * The point was also raised that the current EPCs need improvement, as they do not reflect behavioural aspects adequately, and don’t account for the different ways of operation of a gas boiler compared with a biomass boiler – heat requirement calculations cannot just be read across. **Action: EEPH** to raise this with the relevant Advice forum taskgroup |
| 1. Feedback on early draft of Microgeneration Strategy – David Wagstaff |
| * 1. Feedback from the consultation * There were 170 responses to the Microgen Strategy Consultation, which are now being evaluated. A headline summary is to be published soon. * The responses need to be weighed appropriately, e.g. one trade association’s collective response could otherwise get lost among 100 responses from individual association members. * The point was raised that this weighing should also look at the coverage of the association responding in terms of the number of installations done per year by its members (i.e. market share) * The evaluation has not yet been discussed with Greg Barker, but he will get an update on responses, including suggestions on overall structure and tone of the Microgen Strategy * Although the Consultation was about non-financial barriers, the Strategy could join back up with them. Although this creates some complications, it would not make sense to leave out FiTs and the RHI as they are the biggest drivers for the sector. The point to make is that there will not by more money besides FiTs and RHI to overcome practical barriers. * 21 June is still the date for the publication of the Microgen Strategy. * The most frequent answer to the consultation is “no comment” – maybe there were too many, or too specific, questions? * 61 respondents support retaining MCS, only 14 are against it. 38 respondents agree that MCS should be revised, and of those, 27 agree that a company is the way to go. This raises some concern about impartiality, which is already been taken account of by setting up the company as not-for-profit and making 50% of board members electable by installer members. * Regarding skills, there is consensus that skills are currently insufficient, and upskilling is required. * Regarding the electricity grid, there is consensus that financial support to modernise the grid is required. Smart Meters and Smart Grids were suggested to assist with balancing. * Regarding provision for microgen, e.g. storage tanks, a majority of responses agree this should be mandatory for new build (within Part L of building regs). An additional argument for this could also be grid balancing: a buffer alleviates grid peak demand issues. * Discussion ensued at the meeting about retrofitting storage tanks. There was broad agreement that a certain type (size) of storage can be specified if and when a store is installed, but that householders cannot be coerced to retrofit a water tank. Space is often constraint, particularly in flats. * The way to encourage installation of appropriate storage (or other provision) is to incentivise the technology and at the same time ensuring (through MCS and competent person schemes) that it will work properly, hence requiring a buffer. * There was consensus about bringing together Microgen and Green Deal in a whole-house approach. * The main non-financial barriers for community energy schemes are: * planning complexity (14 responses) * lack of awareness (10 responses) * The questions on insurances was answered most frequently with “don’t know”, extended warranties were mentioned several times. * **Action: DS/PR** to send a rough version of the consultation responses top-level evaluation to the group asap. |
| 1. Development of implementation plan for microgeneration strategy |
| * The group agrees that it should act as a project board for developing and implementing a delivery plan for the Microgeneration Strategy. * A workshop session is planned for 9 May, 14:00 – 17:00, venue tbc * **Action: EEPH** to setup discussion forums on Huddle in advance, to allow for preparatory exchange on the 6 key themes:  1. MCS – lead: Gideon Richards 2. SAP – lead: Dave Sowden 3. Insurance and warrantees – lead: Kelly Butler 4. Training – lead: Nigel Hollett 5. Technology routemaps 6. Communications with public  * Ministers are to decide whether the strategy can be jointly owned by government and industry. They might still want to have prerogative e.g. in Treasury-related areas. * Joint ownership would make sense as some issues need to be taken forward by industry, e.g. the national skills academy, while some other issues are Government-driven, e.g. SAP or Building Regulations Part L revision. * An alternative to the strategy itself being owned jointly by government and industry, the *delivery plan* could be jointly owned. Some elements of delivery are already integrated in the strategy though, while others are separate (“we will create a workstream…”) * Reform of MCS and SAP are already workstreams within the strategy (led by Paul Rochester?) * The contact group could provide professional project management infrastructure, making workstreams attributable and accountable within the industry * The point was raised that “the industry” should read “the stakeholders”, which should include consumer representation. |
| 1. RHI and SAP issues paper |
| * A presentation on SAP issues was given by Tony Staniforth of Kingspan on behalf of the Micropower council. **The slides are available on Huddle** (in the 2011-04-08 folder). * SAP is a compliance tool for EPCs, not a specification/design tool, however it is used as such, including specification of components and procurement. * There are several shortcomings in SAP which the group raised and discussed, e.g. different floor coverings not linked to heat pump technology; flow temperatures and different heat emitters (radiators, underfloor); overestimation of boiler performance. * The point was also made that some issues industry had flagged up previously have been fixed in the SAP 2009 revision; so rather than being critical, industry wants to raise remaining issues for the next revision. * The question was raised whether there could be one building assessment scheme, rather than SAP and SBEM separately. * The Zero Carbon Hub is already doing work on SAP improvements * The point was made that the timing of the RHI is crucial for revising the assessment tools. * There could be two workstreams around SAP: * Workstream 1: fixing errors and revising the existing tool * Workstream 2: Developing a single design and compliance tool (more strategic) * A short industry-wide consultation on the SAP issues was proposed (“We as the industry think these issues need amendment in SAP, do you agree”). The collated “snag list” could then be submitted to DECC |
| 1. Chair for the group |
| * It was discussed whether the group should have a rotating chair, or rather a high-profile, independent and permanent chair, perhaps appointed by Greg Barker, which could add accountability, credibility and transparency to the group. * The questions was raised what the chairperson’s motivation would be to take on this task if this person had no vested interest, and it was agreed that the chair would need to be paid. * The British Energy Efficiency Federation is an example where the chair, Andrew Warren, and a small secretariat are funded by industry (£1000 per year per member organisation). It was discussed whether a similar model could be used here, with EEPH providing the secretariat support. * **Action: DW** to find out what the precedents are around appointing paid chairs to bodies such as this, and whether there are any constraints eg. in terms of rules about public appointments, and if appropriate to raise the possibility with Ministers |
| 1. AOB |
| * EEPH have received a request form the British Photovoltaic Association to join the group * The question was raised what this association could add on top of the REA and STA. * The BPA specialises in communications with the public and marketing/PR, and has 150 members. * Rather than allowing for a proliferation of trade associations, it needs to be evaluated case by case what each can contribute. If membership of two associations overlaps a lot, than having both doesn’t add much value. * Agreed to invite BPA to be a member of the group. **Action: EEPH** to invite BPA to next meeting. * Nigel Hollett offers to give a presentation at the next meeting on the new Skills Academy. **Action: EEPH** to put onto the agenda. * Next meeting: **Action: EEPH** to arrange a date |