# Microgeneration Government-Industry Contact Group

## DRAFT Notes from the meeting 24 May 2011, 11:00 – 13:00 at the FMB

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| **Attending** | | | |  |  |
| 1 | BEAMA | Kelly | Butler | KB |  |
| 2 | CHPA | Ian | Manders | IM |  |
| 3 | Consumer Focus | Liz | Laine | LL | dialling in |
| 4 | DECC | Daljit | Supria | DSu |  |
| 5 | DECC | Paul | Rochester | PR |  |
| 6 | EEPH | Mark | Brown | MB |  |
| 7 | EEPH | Mathias | Hessler | MH |  |
| 8 | Ground Source Heat Pump Association | David | Matthews | DM |  |
| 9 | HETAS | Bruce | Allen | BA |  |
| 10 | HHIC | Chris | Yates | CY |  |
| 11 | MCS | Gideon | Richards | GR |  |
| 13 | National Skills Academy for Environmental Technologies (presenting) | Cathryn | Hickey | CH |  |
| 14 | REAL | Victoria | Graham | VG |  |
| 15 | SummitSkills | Nigel | Hollett | NH |  |
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| **Apologies** | |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | British Photovoltaic Association (BPVA) | Reza | Shaybani |  |  |
| 2 | DECC | David | Wagstaff |  |  |
| 3 | CIPHE | Blane | Judd |  |  |
| 4 | HHIC | Roger | Webb |  |  |
| 5 | NHBC | Neil | Smith |  |  |
| 6 | Micropower Council | Dave | Sowden |  |  |
| 7 | REA | Stuart | Pocock |  |  |
| 8 | UKBCSE | Amisha | Patel |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Did not attend** | |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | DECC | Alison | Bailey |  |  |
| 2 | DECC | Dipak | Shah |  |  |
| 3 | LGA | Abigail | Burridge |  |  |
| 4 | STA | Alan | Aldridge |  |  |
| 5 | STA | Howard | Johns |  |  |

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| 1. Notes from last meeting |
| * One change was suggested to the notes of the 8 April meeting – **Action: EEPH** to amend: * 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.   *(done)*, Final version on Huddle |
| 1. Update from Paul Rochester on Strategy timelines |
| * A first draft of the Strategy is expected by end of this week. * The detailed workplans will become an appendix to the Strategy. * The workplans will form an important and integral part of the Strategy, and will be the key instrument for its delivery. |
| 1. Discussion of draft workplans |
| MCS – Gideon Richards  * To take account of the work already ongoing on the MCS scheme, an extra column was added under outcomes, separating the existing outcomes (in train) from the new ones occurring as part of the delivery of the Strategy. * Workstream 1: DECC involvement is to be confirmed, and the timing also depends on DECC * Workstream 5: aims to specify how to certify >45kW installations, and how this would fit with RHI/FiTs * Workstream 7: The relevant NOSs will be referenced in an annex to the MCS scheme documentation. A staged approach is required for implementing qualifications, training and minimum competency requirements, starting with H&S, then implementing minimum competencies for specific technologies. * Workstream 8: Joining up with the Green Deal installer PAS (entitled PAS 2030 – *Improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings – Specification for installation procedures, process management and service provision*) is a matter of great concern, particularly as a PAS cannot reference a certification scheme such as MCS. VG mentioned that for the biofertiliser certification scheme, there was a PAS (PAS 110) plus a quality protocol (ADQP). While the PAS itself cannot reference a certification scheme (like MCS in the case of PAS 2030), a quality protocol could. PASs can develop quickly in theory but past experience (e.g. PAS 67) has shown that it can also be drawn out and very contentious. CY remarked that a backup plan was needed in case PAS 2030 is not ready in time. DM mentioned that the competency advisory group also needs to feed into it. **Action all** to continue this discussion on Huddle, **EEPH** to kick off *(done)*.  EPCs – (Dave Sowden)  * Dave Sowden was unable to attend the meeting. * Regarding workstream 3, the point was made that a cross-industry group on Ecodesign is picking this up.  Skills and Knowledge  * Main aim to discern which available courses are good, which aren't. * MH mentioned the qualification matrix produced as part of the Partnership's Skills Project work, which could be useful. **Action: MH** to upload to Huddle *(done).* * GR raised the question of the competencies of the individual vs the competencies of an organisation * PR responded that it is unrealistic to expect one individual installer to be able to do all jobs competently. DCLG rely on building inspectors to assess the competency on site. * The competency framework is to include both training courses and assessments. * BA raised the point that the competence of the specifier (designer) also needs to be looked at.  Warranties and Insurances – Kelly Butler  * Warranty, insurance and servicing are different and separate. * Generally, there are three levels of protection: * Manufacturers' guarantees (required under EU law) * System protection such as the British Gas 3\* cover, which includes annual servicing * Schemes such as Plumbsure (offering a six-year cover), REAL, CIGA/SWIGA. * The checklist / overview should provide clarity on which protection is required by law (statutory), and which schemes are optional and go beyond legal requirements. * There is a great deal of confusion among consumers as to what their rights and their options are, so advice and guidance is urgently needed (linked to the overarching communication taskgroup). * VG raised the question of what happened if the issuer of a warranty went out of business. * DM mentioned a grey area where a manufacturer provides 15-20 years warranty, but the installer only gives 1-2 years on the installation. * LL mentioned that regarding accreditation and warranties, allocation of responsibility will be important, particularly as several changes to a building are done at once (e.g. insulation and microgen). The question is how the various schemes align and what happens if something goes wrong. * PR replied that the DECC insight team is working on the consumer journey and considering information and advice, with Energy Saving Trust research and potentially this group feeding in.  Technology – Paul Rochester  * The technology routemaps depend on the type of equipment and key components (e.g. inverters for solar PV). * IM raised the point that district heating is a provision of a service, not a piece of kit, and asked whether energy services were considered within Green Deal, as the contractual arrangements are very different. * Patrick Allcorn is drafting the community chapter – **Action: PR** to put him in touch with IM * **Action: LL** to send link to BIS' "consumer empowerment strategy" around on Huddle (containing a section on collective purchasing) *(done).* * KB asked about the Energy Saving Trust's community energy programme and what the minimum requirements were within it. * PR explained that he will be taking the grid issues forward through this group, including colleagues from the Grid team within DECC. * The work on routemaps was confirmed to focus on systems rather than individual technologies. * Innovation is another overarching theme with different clusters across the workstreams, including technology development e.g. as done by Universities. * GR added that the Carbon Trust did work on innovative products for DECC and BIS. * BA raised the point that there is a difference between displacing fossil fuels and replacing fossil fuel technologies. E.g. where biomass fuels are displacing fossil fuels, supply chain reliability becomes an issue. * GR made the point that "near market-ready" technologies, that may even be proven already in other European countries, need to be treated differently to R&D.  Communication  * The topic was debated whether MCS should be marketed to consumers in its own right or whether it should be piggybacked onto the Green Deal marque. * Not all MCS installations will be done under Green Deal. * There will be budget within Green Deal for information and advice, and the GD accreditation marque could be separate from GD finance, e.g. an able-to-pay household may want to pay upfront rather than taking out a GD finance scheme, but use the GD marque for assurance.  General / next steps  * PR advised that the workplans are to become one document. **Action: MH** to consolidate workplans by Friday *(done)*. * PR clarified that "ownership" defines who owns the task, not the delivery. This means that individuals or organisations external to the Contact Group can become owners of a workstream. The ownership column will not be published with the Strategy. |
| 1. Presentation on the National Skills Academy for Environmental Technologies |
| * Cathryn Hickey, Executive Director of the National Skills Academy gave a presentation on the development of the academy so far. * **Action: MH** to put slides onto Huddle *(done)*. * Debate ensued about how training and design work ongoing by associations could feed into the academy. * Several members of the group expressed their discontent with not having been informed about the development of this academy, and not being able to get involved. * It was also criticised that the academy was creating a closed shop by only partnering with two awarding bodies. * Furthermore, it might not be practical to map all existing qualifications, e.g. manufacturer-specific training done abroad. |