## Energy Eﬃciency Partnership for Homes

**Microgeneration Government-Industry Contact Group**

**Summary Notes from meeting 24 November 2011 (final)**

**Attendance**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Organisation** | **First Name** | **Surname** |  |  |
| 1 | BEAMA | Kelly | Butler | KB |  |
| 2 | CHPA | Ian | Manders | IM |  |
| 3 | CIPHE | Keith | Westcott | KW |  |
| 4 | Consumer Focus | James | Court | JC | deputising for Liz Lainé |
| 5 | DECC | Paul | Rochester | PR |  |
| 6 | DECC | Hannah | Lewis | HL |  |
| 7 | DECC | Adrian | Butt | AB |  |
| 8 | EEPH (chairing) | Mark | Brown | MB |  |
| 9 | EEPH (notes) | Mathias | Hessler | MH |  |
| 10 | Gemserv | Brendan | McGarry | BMcG |  |
| 11 | GSHPA | David | Matthews | DM |  |
| 12 | HETAS | Bruce | Allen | BA |  |
| 13 | HHIC | Chris | Yates | CY |  |
| 14 | MCS | Gideon | Richards | GR |  |
| 15 | Micropower Council | Grace | Bennett | GB | deputising for Dave Sowden |
| 16 | REAL | Mark | Cutler | MC | deputising for Virginia Graham,  and also for REA (Mike Landy) |
| 17 | Renewable UK | Indre | Vaizgelaite | IV | only from 13:00 |
| 18 | Scottish Government | Rebecca | Carr | RC | dialling in |
| 19 | Solar Trade Association | Terence | Lewis | TL | deputising for Howard Johns |
| 20 | SummitSkills | Nigel | Hollett | NH |  |
|  | guest attendees | | |  |  |
| 21 | Ofgem | Stacy | Feldmann | SF |  |
| -- | Energy Networks Association |  |  |  | apologies - written message |
|  | **Apologies** | | |  |  |
| 1 | NHBC | Neil | Smith |  |  |
|  | **Did not attend** | | |  |  |
| 1 | BPVA | Reza | Shaybani |  | neither Seb Berry |
| 2 | FETA | Terry | Seward |  |  |
| 3 | LGA | Abigail | Burridge |  |  |
| 4 | UKBCSE | Amisha | Patel |  |  |

**Action Plan update report**

The update report is the group’s programme management tool. The Partnership secretariat is preparing successive drafts, but group members, especially workstream leads, should ensure the report reflects the latest status of their workstream.

**Actions**

* Initial scoping documents for the two workshops were put onto Huddle, no comments received so far. **Action** remains on **ALL** to review and add comments.
* Regarding comments to the EST Buyers’ guide, none were received other than those discussed at the last meeting.
* Agreed performance data and performance estimates would be useful across Govmt & in­dustry. These could be developed as part of the technology factsheets, or the GD consumer advice leaflet which DECC has commissioned the Partnership to develop. The messaging workshop will also pick up this discussion. EST seem to gather their own data, which forms the basis of tools (e.g. online calculators) they publish. It could be detrimental to credibility if a joint association website provided one set of estimates but EST said something different.
* RC added that a communications workshop was held in Scotland, and a hub website was recommended for signposting (including links to other sources of information). Mike Thornton at EST Scotland is interested in looking into that. She also mentioned that the Scottish Microgen Strategy will be launched in the new year.
* It was discussed that climatic conditions as well as building and planning regulations are different in Scotland, but there could still be one central GB or UK website containing sections and/or signposting to specific sites for the devolved nations. There will also be the GD remote advice service website which will provide some signposting.
* It was agreed that the data/information needs to be developed first, and then considered how to distribute it.

**Connection Issues for Microgen – Ofgem / ENA**

* Adrian Butt (DECC) introduced is team and area: he manages the relation between the future electricity networks team and the smart grid forum, core focus being to gauge the levels of investment into the national grid that are fair to consumers and take account of the Government’s ambitions to go towards a low-carbon economy. The heat strategy team is also involved. There are three major work programmes, which are to finish by first quarter next year:
  + Led by DECC: Future challenges to grid demand, e.g. from heat pumps and other microgeneration technologies, and electric vehicles; developing assumptions and scenarios
  + Led by ENA: particular approaches for smart technologies, voltage issues, capacity issues etc., ensuring that the networks can cope; the network is currently not fit for purpose for these new technologies
  + Led by Ofgem: evaluation framework challenges and solutions – helping evaluate DNO’s business plans
* Some MGICG member organisations are represented at some of the groups for these workstreams. **\*Action EEPH** to develop an overview of the groups, incl. timings & member­ship, to explore how the MGICG could contribute or stay up to date on developments; **\*Action association members** to feed back to EEPH on their involvement/participation in ENA workstreams ; then Ofgem and ENA to be re-invited for further discussion.
* Stacy Feldmann (Ofgem) provided more detail on their work:
  + Smart grids
  + Connection: price control measures for cost of connecting: transitioning from deep connection charges to shallower connection charges, balancing how much is socialised and how much the connectee has to pay
  + Customer satisfaction survey, including microgen
  + The electricity connection steering group: microgen is complicated for DNOs; the DG forum did an open letter consultation with industry on challenges for getting connected; 90 responses were received, roadshows followed in Cardiff, Glasgow & London, which condensed some key issues; DNOs were involved (breakout sessions) to determine regulatory barriers; Ofgem are meeting again on socialisation of costs, and separately with DNOs; the work is feeding into the next price control review (2014)
* There are two targets, one about short-term connection to grid and associated costs, which is urgent and impinging on current day-to-day business; and one longer-term about fitness-for-purpose of the grid. It would be helpful if Ofgem had (separate) timelines for dealing with these.
* Small-scale generators need guidance on how to connect up. There are many complexities and confusion (e.g. around metering operators; power purchase agreements (PPAs); differences among power companies)
* GB mentioned that MPC are working on project called “PV legal” with the goal to identify and measure legal and administrative barriers to PV across Europe. A workshop will be held as part of the project, end Jan / beginning of Feb 2012, **\*Action GB** to provide details for distribution when available.

1. **Workshops**

* Aim for the planned messaging and warranties workshops should be to set out what customers can expect, e.g. regarding the remit of MCS or the REAL code, or available levels of warranties and insurance
* For GD, it is proposed in the consultation that comprehensive warranties should be the responsibility of the GD provider, while the onus for servicing and maintenance would be on the householder. For microgen in particular, it seems like the two should rather go hand-in-hand.
* It cannot be expected from customers to read the small print of warranty policies and understand what exactly is covered and under what conditions. The overriding principle for installations (also under GD) still is caveat emptor, so it is important to inform customers which questions to ask and whom to ask them. This should include:
  + Lifetime costs and risks, incl. PV inverters and supplemental/allied technologies for each technology; customers are typically only interested in upfront costs.
  + Warranty and insurance options and associated costs
  + Contract issues – incl. explaining what responsibilities reside with the manufacturer and installer, and the designer and GD provider where applicable, and himself (the customer).
* The system design profession is mostly absent from the domestic sector, while non-domestic installations are typically designed by a professional consultant. The risk arising is that domestic installations could be designed in a way that they don’t comply with the caveats in the warranty conditions.
* CIBSE have been developing a design guide for a long time, but it is still not published.
* GB clarified that MPC are not leading on the communication workstream entirely; they have a Microgen Messaging Group – **\*Action GB** to share minutes of that meeting
* KW mentioned that CIPHE are starting a new RE group, with the aim of informing the public.

1. **Microgen and Green Deal**

**RHI update**

* Andrej Miller (DECC) provided the following update:
  + RHI phase 1 debate happened in parliament, some formalities remain, but the scheme is expected to open for applications from next week
  + Phase 2 is to be announced at the start of the new year, but could be delayed beyond October 2012; the consultation is to be published before the end of the year. It is highly unlikely that it will be a 20yr payment, because people move more often than once in 20yrs. 10yrs is envisaged to be the maximum, and the entire scheme will be smaller; because of this, Govmt is less concerned about warranties and maintenance, or about metering, which will not be mandatory.
  + DECC is also sceptical whether they should still give return on investment figures.
  + A question is how it will be paid out. DECC are leaning towards making the scheme fairly simple, e.g. fixed, grant-like payment rather than a per kWh tariff.
  + AM requested the group to consider sharing market development predictions with DECC. Even if just informed estimates, industry input would still be useful, as there is currently no clear understanding of the market. Seeing future trends could help prevent fast-track reviews as with FiTs. Particularly, information would be useful on the projected increase in installations due to the RHI.
* KB responded that 2 years ago BEAMA provided figures for up to 2020 (as part of the Hea­ting and Hot Water Taskforce 2020 roadmap); basis is always the boiler (& electric heating) market, and predictions are made for how this market will transform in a realistic way.
* BA added that biomass boilers above 100kW now sell even without RHI; hence it was difficult to engage manufacturers in MCS because it’s not seen as necessary.
* MCS registrations can also help detecting trends. E.g., they showed solar collector installers switching to PV, and the total number of installers growing by a factor of 10. KB added that for heat pumps, the skills required to install are very different (than for boilers), so there is not installer community that could easily switch. A concern is companies registering installations late or re-commissioning installations under MCS to tap into RHI funding.
* NH added that for long-term predictions, the number of training courses and competencies could also be used. On heat pumps, there were very few courses so far within the national skills academy, because of the insecurity around the RHI.
* It was also mentioned that the RHPP scheme is currently underspend by £9m, and Jo Greasley and Neil Witney are encouraging installers to implement jobs. The question was raised whether RHPP would roll over into the next FY, or whether any leftover funds would just go back to the Treasury. It would make sense to extend RHPP until the delayed RHI comes in.

**Green Deal**

* It has now been clarified that bodies currently certifying for MCS or GasSafe don’t need to be accredited again for GD microgen or heating work, respectively.
* There are some additional requirements for GD installers on top of MCS, mostly adminis­trative; PR explained that he is preparing a briefing paper for the GD team explaining that the certification regime underpinning RHI should be good enough for GD; **\*Action PR** to send out briefing note
* There was debate about individual vs company-level competencies. In summary:
  + A one-man installer company needs to be individually qualified in all works covered.
  + In larger companies, operatives can share competencies among them.
  + GR and NH are looking at all QCFs, NOSs and CPSs to see what the actual competency requirements are for certain jobs, to extract these and out them into MCS as company competency criteria. Individuals can go through the NOS route or be or assessed based on past experience.
  + The MCS Microgeneration Installation Standard (MIS) Appendix A is about the individual, based on QCF units for each technology, which took a long time to develop, but it is a company’s responsibility to ensure that enough operatives are trained to do all installations competently. Supervisors can only oversee a number of workers in one local area.
  + Personal installer competencies will have be developed for EU directive 2009/28/EC, coming into force in April 2012. MCS can be used to implement this, but it was emphasised that MCS, analogue to e.g. ISO 9001, can be part of the compliance regime but not show individual compliance in itself. NH mentioned that employers are requesting more clarity on the deadline and the necessary steps to comply with 2009/28/EC Annex 4 (Certification of Installers).
  + BMcG added that an independent expert has just been commissioned to look into this issue. He will gather views from involved parties, e.g. the SummitSkills Building Services Engineering (BSE) Competence Advisory Group.

1. **Other workstream updates**

* Taskgroup 2, EPCs: PR updated the group that Cabinet write-round is pending for the SAP consultation document, and it is expected to come out in 2-3 weeks. Write-round is typically required for any policy document, but hadn’t been done for SAP previously, because it was tied into the building regs consultation. The consultation will run the usual 12 weeks. The building regs consultation will come out end of this year or in the new year.
  + Some improvements to SAP are already in train, e.g. giving credit for controls, plus BRE are working on the benefits of low-temperature systems, recognising that building regs want to encourage houses to become “heat pump ready”.
  + **\*Action GB** will put some points for the consultation onto Huddle, which could be used as a basis for associations’ individual responses.
  + RdSAP will be used for EPCs underpinning GD, and there is ongoing debate whether SAP could or should be used as a compliance tool.
* Taskgroup 3, Skills, e.: NH updated the group that meetings are ongoing with BIS and MCS to develop initial framework training courses. Input from this group would be welcomed; on the 3rd outcome, GD assessors, SummitSkills is working closely with Asset Skills to finish the Green Deal assessor NOS by February/March, with training to start in April.
* Taskgroup 5, a.: DM said that a systems approach is now taken with MIS 3005 training, which at the core is heat pump training, but also includes heat loss calculations and controls. PR added that DECC are also commissioning some R&D work around streams a. and b.
* Overarchign Taskgroup 2: Community Delivery: Alison Bailey is working on this now, **\*Action PR** will circulate an update.

**AOB**

* RenewableUK are developing a medium scale wind generation standard, aspiring to become an international standard. The committee developing this is composed of manufacturers from across Europe; medium wind covers 200m² - 1000m² swept blade area, roughly equivalent to 50 – 400kW; currently the interim standard is being finalised for submission to the RenewableUK board. BMcG added that MCS is getting engaged in this standard.
* The National Skills Academy has just published an Introduction to Environmental Technology Systems, **\*Action NH** to circulate an electronic copy

**Summary of actions**

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| **Section** | **Action** | **lead** | timing |
| 1 | Review and add comments to the two workshop outline scoping documents | **ALL** | Done |
| 2 | develop an overview of groups involved in network & connection issues, incl. timings & membership, to explore how the MGICG could contribute or stay up to date on developments | **EEPH** | email sent 29 May |
| association members to feed back to EEPH on their involvement/participation in ENA workstreams | **Trade Association members** | Pending |
| Ofgem and ENA to be re-invited for further discussion. | **EEPH** | in about 6 months |
| Provide information about the MPC’s “PV legal” project when available | **GB** | Pending |
| 4 | Share minutes from the MPC Microgen Messaging Group | **GB** | Pending |
| 3.2 | Circulate briefing paper on RHI and GD | **PR** | Pending |
| 5 | Put some points onto Huddle as “straw man” for responses to the SAP consultation | **GB** | paper was submitted |
| Circulate update on Community delivery | **PR** | Pending |
| 6 | Circulate electronic copy of the National Skills Academy’s Introduction to Environmental Technology Systems | **NH** | Hard copy sent to all members and written letter |