# DECC-EEPB Microgeneration Government-Industry Contact Group meeting, 30 May 2012

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Organisation** | **First Name** | **Surname** |  |  |
| 1 | BEAMA | Kelly | Butler | KB |  |
| 2 | BPVA | Reza | Shaybani | RS |  |
| 3 | CIPHE | Keith | Westcott | KW |  |
| 4 | Consumer Focus | Liz | Lainé | LL |  |
| 5 | DECC | Paul | Rochester | PR |  |
| 6 | EEPB (chairing) | Mark | Brown | MB |  |
| 7 | EEPB (notes) | Mathias | Hessler | MH |  |
| 8 | Gemserv | Kunal | Sharma | KS | deputising for Brendan McGarry |
| 9 | GSHPA | David | Matthews | DM |  |
| 10 | HETAS | Bruce | Allen | BA |  |
| 11 | HHIC | Chris | Yates | CY |  |
| 12 | MCS | Gideon | Richards | GR |  |
| 13 | Micropower Council | Grace | Bennett | GB | deputising for Dave Sowden |
| 14 | NHBC | Neil | Smith | NS |  |
| 15 | REA / STA | Mike | Landy | ML | no response from Howard Johns |
| 16 | REAL | Mark | Cutler | MC | deputising for Virginia Graham |
| 17 | Renewable UK | Indre | Vaizgelaite | IV |  |
| 18 | Scottish Government | Rebecca | Carr | RC | (telephone) |
|  | **Apologies** | | |  |  |
| 1 | CHPA | Ian | Manders |  |  |
| 2 | Energy UK | Amisha | Patel |  |  |
| 3 | SummitSkills | Nigel | Hollett |  |  |
|  | **Did not attend** | | |  |  |
| 1 | FETA | Terry | Seward |  |  |
| 2 | LGA | Abigail | Burridge |  |  |

### EEPB's continuation of Facilitation of the MGICG

The Energy Efficiency Partnership for Buildings (EEPB) has become a company limited by guarantee and subsidiary of the National Energy Foundation, and has superseded the unincorporated Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes (EEPH) as of 1 April.

The EEPB will continue the implementation of the Microgeneration Strategy Action Plan, now in its second year.

### Pending actions from last meeting

* For details of the "PV legal" project, visit <http://www.micropower.co.uk/pv-legal-project>
* On action 4, GB advised that MPC's Microgen Messaging Group is suspended at the moment, therefore no minutes can be circulated.
* There is work ongoing within DECC to clarify the relation between GD and incentives such as RHI; PR will circulate a paper when available – remains **pending**.
* A Government-Industry Contact Group on Communities has been established. PR will update this group on progress – remains **pending**.

### Interim report

On warranties, KB noted that minimum criteria and a single warranty was not what had been agreed on the action plan originally. **Action EEPB** to deliverables (see discussion below).

It was also noted that the Energy Saving Trust should be represented on the group or a subgroup.

### Next steps from workshops held 24th January

#### Warranties

There are many consumer protection offers available, and the market is confusing. Under the Sale of Goods Act (SOGA), the installer is the "seller" responsible for kit and fit, but the level of protection offered under the SOGA is not widely known to consumers and there is no understanding how it could be claimed. The length of its applicability is also not clear.

A final version of the paper [circulated prior to the meeting](https://eepb.huddle.net/workspace/document/18760003?workspaceid=14874413&directoryid=18757927) could be made available to consumers on a website. Examples of schemes could also be named. This could then be submitted to EST to inform the advice provided under the GD advice line.

* CY mentioned that for many mechanical systems, annual servicing is a requirement to keep warranty cover. **Action KB** to update paper.
* Consumers need to be made aware that the commissioned state, as per the design specification, is covered. Consumers may well want to adjust settings with seasonal or demand variations, but risk losing protection if they do.
* The "fitness for purpose" of the SOGA would include a performance within the specified range ("as promised"), but in practice this is impossible or very expensive to measure.
* Consistency is needed among CPSs, MCS and GD, all of which will be UKAS accredited (CPSs within 2 years of 6 June 2012), but there is concern among insurers that the three will have different sets of requirements.
* RS proposed a minimum basic insurance requirement that applies to all installations (MCS or not), paid by industry. He also proposed making UK-backed insurance mandatory for all imported components.
* KW raised professional indemnity insurance as another possible requirement.
* Insurers have no means of gauging the risk for complex systems, therefore insurance costs will initially be high, and will get adjusted with experience.
* RS offered to invite an insurance provider to present at the next meeting **action**.

**Action: EEPB** will set up a taskgroup around warranties / consumer protection.

#### Consumer Messaging

The EST factsheets were discussed at the 24 Jan workshop. They are being updated more often than in the past, and there needs to be a systematic way for industry to input data evidence into these. Core business for EST will be to provide the GD advice service, so the microgen data may only be maintained where commercially relevant to EST.

* MCS are exploring whether actual costs could be submitted to MCS when registering an installation. This real data could be averaged and published in constantly updated online dashboards.
* RS mentioned that BPVA is collaborating with EST on rolling out 500 sponsored smart meters from which live data is collected. He also said that DECC published a concise GD Guide for consumers[[1]](#footnote-1), and that BPVA are also producing 40-60sec prime time television advertisement features on the benefits of PV and different applications, incl. 20sec from Greg Barker. These will also contain a link to the new National Energy Card.

**Action: EEPB** will set up a taskgroup around consumer messaging, inviting Ian Cuthbert of EST.

#### SAP and recognition of FiT revenue on EPCs

The SAP consultation closed on 28 March. **Action PR** to ask within DECC about the timelines for the Government response, **and** invite Alan Christie to the next meeting. A SAP Integrity Group has also been set up by DECC but this hasn't met yet. The software developers require a 12 month lead time for the implementation of the revised SAP regulation.

**Action MPC** and **EEPB** to form a taskgroup on SAP, including specialists, to look at [BRE's responses](http://www.bre.co.uk/filelibrary/SAP/2012/Responses_to_stakeholder_comments.pdf) to the points raised in the group's "snag list" as well as by the Zero Carbon Hub, and discuss items which have not been resolved.

* SAP will continue to be used as a reference for estimating savings, and major concerns remain on the assumptions and data used and the tool's inflexibility.
* On data submitted by industry in support of proposed changes to SAP, it was discussed that this needs to be third party approved (e.g. it can be done by a manufacturer internally, but needs to be reviewed by an independent third party).

The feed-in tariffs are being revised to degress at regular intervals, but for a given installation, the tariff is fixed for 20 years. Recognising the FiT revenue on the EPC could therefore be relatively straightforward. This calculation would have to be done independently of SAP. Currently, only the revenue from electricity fed into the grid is recognised (at ROC level), and it is misleading to potential buyers that the full benefit of the installation is not recognised on the EPC.

### Technology Fact sheets – also see section 4.2

Under the Renewable Energy Directive, Member States will be required to show how information and advice on small scale renewable technologies will be delivered for planners, architects, engineers etc. Awareness courses for training providers should be available through CIBSE and the HVCA.

### Grid connection

BEAMA worked with the ENA to develop new standardised grid connections for heat pumps. There are three groups depending on the size of the HP: group 1 is a simple connection, with a short window for the DNO to object, while connections in group 3 require harmonics and flicker information and take 90 days to approve, to give the DNO time to update the grid in line with their obligation. **\*Action KB** to write a paper for the MCS Standards Management Group (SMG).

The sign-off could be speeded up if HP manufacturers were to declare the required information already when registering with MCS. This data could help DNOs identify hot spots for grid reinforcement, and could also be interesting for the DECC customer insight team.

* IV added that Renewable UK also met with the ENA, and that they are keen to have a regular technical meeting which spans across a range of technologies.
* The National Solar Centre is coordinating work on efficiency optimisation for solar PV, also looking at grid connection. Purpose of the MGICG could be to exchange information among the various groups and avoid duplication.

### Update on implementation of the Action Plan – see action plan update report v5

### AOB

RS and GR reported on the foundation of the not-for-profit «International Renewable Energy Certification Organisation» (IRECO), which will extend MCS best practice globally, thereby creating export opportunities for UK renewable energy businesses.

## Summary of actions

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Section** | **Action** | **lead** | timing |
| 2 | Provide paper on relation between GD and incentives such as RHI | **PR** | when available |
| Provide update on Community Delivery | **PR** | done |
| 3 | Finalise interim report with comments from the meeting | **EEPB** | done |
| 4.1 | Update the consumer protection overview paper | **KB** |  |
| Form a taskgroup on warranties | **EEPB** |  |
| 4.2 | Form a taskgroup on consumer messaging | **EEPB** |  |
| 4.3 | Check within DECC on response to SAP consultation, and invite Alan Christie to next meeting | **PR** |  |
| Set up technical taskgroup on improvements to SAP | **MPC/EEPB** |  |
| 5 | Write paper on heat pump standard connection for MCS standards management group (SMG) | **KB** |  |

1. available from the [National Insulation Association's website](http://www.nationalinsulationassociation.org.uk/pics/docs/9033-DECC-The%20Green%20Deal%20A5%20Lflt.pdf). This is a new issue of a [leaflet published in 2010](http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/What%20we%20do/Supporting%20consumers/green_deal/796-green-deal-leaflet-homes-business-energy.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)