



## **People Power - Citizens at the heart of Sustainable Energy Policy**

The Micropower Council, the umbrella body representing the interests of the UK Microgeneration industry, today called on the government, when it sets out its options later this week, to place the citizen at the heart of the UK's Energy Strategy.

This call comes following the largest ever consumer research project into the market potential of microgeneration, which concluded that a government target of 2-3 million consumers producing some of their own heat and / or power sustainably is realistic and achievable by 2020, with as many as 9 million possible as an upper limit.

Micropower Council Chief Executive, Dave Sowden said:

*“The evidence is clear, and now it is coming straight from consumers themselves. With the right policies in place, citizens want to and can play a substantial part. They understand climate change and want to do something about it, but need government to take a lead by urgently introducing compelling policies to make it happen.*”

*“We call on the government, when setting out options for the UK's Energy Strategy later this week, to recognise this by setting out plans for ambitious financial incentives, and setting microgeneration targets so investors can be confident of where it fits in the energy mix.”*

### Background briefing

The Built Environment will be key in delivering both 2020 targets - the 15% of energy from renewables, and the 20% CO2 reduction.

The plans to make all new build housing zero carbon by 2016, and other buildings by 2019 are welcome steps forward, but only address a tiny proportion of the opportunity available. (240,000 per year new homes by 2016, as against 26 million already built).

The Prime Minister (when Chancellor) committed to every home becoming low carbon within a decade:

***“Over the next decade my aim is that every home for which it is practically possible will become low carbon”***

Rt Hon. Gordon Brown MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, 12 March 2007.<sup>1</sup>

The scale of the opportunity the Built Environment offers is substantial, and reinforced by both the government's official advisory board on Renewables, and by recent market research:

- 1) The Renewables Advisory Board has advised Ministers that almost ¼ of the UK's 2020 Renewables target can be met from the Built Environment Report - [www.renewables-advisory-](http://www.renewables-advisory-)

[board.org.uk/vBulletin/attachment.php?attachmentid=422&d=1213776456](http://board.org.uk/vBulletin/attachment.php?attachmentid=422&d=1213776456) – the table on page 6 gives the underlying assumptions.

- 2) The Element Energy Report - which says that nine **million microgeneration installations could be in place in the next twelve years** with an ambitious policy support framework. This could mean that by 2030 we could be saving as **much carbon as if we were to take all HGVs and buses off our roads.** [www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46003.pdf](http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46003.pdf) - the table on p17 is the one of most interest.

### Necessary Policies

The Micropower Council is calling for the following policy measures to reach these achievable but ambitious goals:

- a) National Targets to give investors the confidence that the government is serious about microgeneration, then they can invest in mass production and installation capacity to bring down the price of microgeneration technologies
- b) Sharp, consumer-friendly financial incentives to encourage homeowners in particular to take up microgeneration technologies.
- c) Review of and revision to the government's Microgeneration Strategy, to establish what further steps might help to boost the industry.

The Micropower Council is the umbrella voice of the UK microgeneration industry and the only body representing the full cross-section of micropower technologies.

[www.micropower.co.uk](http://www.micropower.co.uk)

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<sup>i</sup> Gordon Brown speech to the Green Alliance, 12 March 2007, [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom\\_and\\_speeches/press/2007/press\\_28\\_07.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_28_07.cfm).