



PRESS RELEASE
from
PETER AINSWORTH MP

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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GREEN LIGHT FOR GREEN ENERGY BILL

East Surrey MP, Peter Ainsworth, has expressed his satisfaction following today's successful Second Reading of the Green Energy (Definition and Promotion) Bill.

Mr Ainsworth chose to sponsor the Green Energy Bill – which has cross-party support – after being successful in the ballot for Private Members Bills last year. Today saw a lively debate with contributions from all sides of the House, and the Bill being passed without opposition. The Bill will now go on to Committee Stage.

Commenting after the debate, Mr Ainsworth said:

“I was truly heartened by the fact that the main thrust of the Bill had genuine cross-party support and the support of the Government. It goes to show just how important green issues have become, and how seriously they are being taken.

“I very much look forward to taking the Bill forward to Committee stage where further constructive debate can take place, and where we can move a step closer decentralising our energy consumption; empowering users and helping the most needy in our communities cope with ever rising fuel costs.”

Dave Sowden, Chief Executive of the Micropower Council said:

“We are delighted that Parliament once again is pushing the microgeneration agenda, and thank the Minister, Mike O'Brien, for lending government support to the Bill.

“In particular we welcome the government's agreement to take a renewed strategic look at policy on microgeneration, and to the prospect of removing the last serious piece of red tape affecting micro-wind and air source heat pumps.”

ENDS

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Notes to Editors:

- Although not yet online, you will be able to find the text of the debate later on this afternoon here:
<http://pubs1.tso.parliament.uk/pa/pahansard.htm>

- Although subject to change at Committee Stage, the text of the Bill at present can be found here: <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/greenenergydefinitionandpromotion.html>
- The Green Energy Bill as published will:
 - Require the government within 12 months to publish a revised Microgeneration Strategy. The strategy must include financial and fiscal measures to increase the uptake of microgeneration, improve the sustainability of local communities, create and sustain green jobs, and alleviate fuel poverty.
 - Review the case for allowing agricultural and non-residential microgeneration applications to be installed without planning permission;
 - Require the government by law to fulfil its long-promised commitment to removing the need for certified air source heat pumps and micro-wind turbines below a certain size and noise level to be installed in or on domestic premises without planning permission;
 - Prevent increases in business rates or council tax directly as a consequence of the installation of microgeneration.