

The Micropower Council

Summary of Key Features of the Government's Microgeneration Strategy and the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Bill

March 2006

- 1) **TARGETS** - A commitment to a decision on setting targets, following a period of in-depth market research and analysis to understand fully the potential of each technology type and the impact of micropower technologies on consumer behaviour.
- 2) **PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT** – The current review of Household Developer Consents to have a specific, statutory purpose, to establish what can be done using the General Permitted Development Orders to facilitate micropower technologies, and a duty to change the Orders in the light of the review's conclusions.
- 3) **£80m OF "PUMP PRIMING"** – an increase announced in the budget of £50m on top of the £30m already announced under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. The stated intention of this extra money is to encourage manufacture of micropower technologies at higher scale leading to lower costs. The Microgeneration Strategy also confirms that the Low Carbon Buildings Programme will cover all forms of micropower technologies, provided that they can demonstrate carbon saving
- 4) **TECHNOLOGY "ROUTE MAPS"** – DTI will work with industry to develop a route map for each microgeneration technology.
- 5) **BUY-BACK** – A clear signal given to licensed electricity suppliers that the government expects them, within a set period, to design and implement a scheme within a set period to reward customers appropriately for any electricity they produce but are not able to use themselves.
- 6) **ACCESS TO ROCS** – A commitment to adopt a number of the industry's recommendation on making it easier for domestic and other small consumers with ROC qualifying micropower technologies to obtain access to ROCs more easily, and a further commitment to look in detail at more radical proposals. The government had also committed to providing a clear guidance document covering ROCS and two other forms of green energy certificate.
- 7) **CODE FOR SUSTAINABLE HOMES** – A commitment to use the Code for Sustainable Homes to promote micropower technologies.
- 8) **REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANS** – The government has committed to Parliament to conduct an urgent review of the extent to which Local Authorities' emerging

Local Plans are implementing the guidance contained within PPS22, which requires Local Authorities to plan positively for the use of renewable energy, and allows them to set targets for on-site renewable energy in residential, commercial or industrial projects.

- 9) **BUILDING REGULATIONS** – An enabling change in primary legislation to allow minimum levels of micropower to be specified in all new buildings at some stage in the future.
- 10) **ENERGY EFFICIENCY COMMITMENT** – A commitment to looking at including and consulting on the prospects for including all forms of micropower within the Energy Efficiency Commitment. The government has already, with the industry’s support, amended the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Bill to provide the primary legislation changes necessary for this to happen.
- 11) **MICROPOWER IN SCHOOLS** – DTI and DFES to develop a programme for the installation of micropower technologies in schools.
- 12) **AN ACCREDITATION SCHEME** – the inclusion of all micropower technologies in the Low Carbon Buildings Programme paves the way for the government to develop a “one stop shop” approach to an accreditation scheme, including products, installers and manufacturers. It aims to have this in place by the end of 2006, and intends that the scheme should build on the existing Clear Skies and Solar PV accreditation schemes.
- 13) **REVIEW INFORMATION PROVISION / CONSUMER INFORMATION CAMPAIGN**– The government has committed to a thorough review of existing consumer information sources for the micropower industry. Following this, it will assess the feasibility of a communications / information campaign to raise consumer awareness.
- 14) **COMMUNICATIONS PACKS FOR PLANNERS & THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY** – the government will identify information needs in these sectors, and develop communication / information packs if a need is identified.
- 15) **LOCAL AUTHORITY MEASURES** – the government will, within a year, provide Local Authorities with a report on steps they can take to improve energy efficiency and levels of microgeneration installations, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and alleviate fuel poverty. Local Authorities will have a statutory duty to consider these measures.
- 16) **TECHNICAL CONSTRAINTS** – DTI will continue to support the Energy Networks Strategy Group and its work programme to remove remaining technical barriers such as the right to connect, necessary changes to wiring regulations, and

the wider impact of large numbers of micropower installations on the integrity of distribution networks.

- 17) **SMART METERING & MICROPOWER** – DTI will investigate the possibility of a field trial that investigates the effectiveness of integrating smart metering and micropower technologies.
- 18) **GOVERNMENT ESTATE** – The government has committed to active investigation into the possibilities for microgeneration on its own estate.
- 19) **R&D FUNDING MAP** – DTI will produce a map of available funding for R&D into micropower technologies, together with details of how to apply.
- 20) **SECTOR SKILLS COUNCILS ENGAGEMENT** – DTI will explore with the Sector Skills Councils what more can be done to ensure the skills base develops to support increased demand for micropower technologies.
- 21) **OFGEM & REGULATORY ASPECTS OF MICROPOWER** – Ofgem is expected to publish a decision document on the consultation it conducted last year into the regulatory implications of domestic scale micropower technologies.