

PROTECTING CONSUMERS AND PROMOTING RENEWABLES

Welcome to the Winter edition of the RECC Newsletter

RECC would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year!!

We have recently been busy with membership renewals, which you can read about further in this newsletter.

As part of this, RECC has been reviewing its member benefits to make sure we offer our members a great service.

RECC has also been updating its list of insurance providers, which members can use for deposit/ advanced payments and

workmanship warranty insurance, to make sure it is accurate. RECC members are free to find an insurance provider that best suits their business model, and we encourage our members to shop around.

Any queries about membership at all, please contact us. We would be more than happy to discuss your needs with you.

Lorraine Haskell, Editor

OFGEM ISSUES FAR REACHING GUIDANCE ON 'CO-LOCATION' OF ENERGY STORAGE

Ofgem is advising all homeowners and installers to check very carefully before installing battery storage alongside their accredited FIT solar PV installation. In particular, homeowners (known as generators) should check that a battery storage system will not:

- prevent them from complying with all their obligations under the FIT scheme (Ofgem will require proof of continuing eligibility);
- cause them to claim FIT payments for any other than eligible electricity
- alter the Total Installed Capacity of their renewable energy installation;
- change their compatibility with FIT eligibility requirements;

The position of the battery storage system in relation to the generation meter will be critical. It must be clear that the generation meter *only* measures electricity generated by the accredited FIT installation and not electricity imported from the grid.

As deemed export payments are also calculated using the generation meter reading, it must be clear that the generation meter *only* measures electricity generated by the accredited FIT installation. So long as this is the case, deemed export payments will still be made for FIT installations with co-located storage.

Metered, export payments will still be made if the generator can satisfy the FIT Licensee that the export meter *only* measures export of electricity generated by the accredited FIT installation. This is particularly important for battery storage systems charged by electricity imported from the grid and connected to the export meter.

Co-located storage with an accredited FIT installation should be reported to the FIT Licensee, in accordance with the Statement of FIT Terms. This is important to ensure the information held about each FIT installation is accurate and up-to-date. This will include reviewing the installation's accreditation conditions, and assessing the eligibility of an installation to receive FIT payments and the level of payments claimed.

When notifying, co-located storage generators will need to provide the FIT Licensee, and where relevant Ofgem, with the following information:

- an updated single line or schematic diagram to identify how the electricity from the installation is provided to the storage facility and the metering arrangements in place;
- details of the meter readings used to claim the FIT payments; and
- details of the storage facility installed.

Ofgem is advising generators to seek their own technical and legal advice if they are in any doubt, and is inviting comments on its draft guidance which you can find [here](#). Ofgem is inviting stakeholders to comment on the draft guidance by **8 February 2018**.

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WELCOME TO RECC MEMBERSHIP 2018



Many of you have now renewed your RECC membership for this year and certificates are due to go out shortly. Thank you for renewing and welcome to a new year of RECC membership!

If you have not yet renewed, there is still time. We will shortly be sending you an invoice reminder and you can pay by BACS, by card, or by sending a cheque. (Please note our new address as of 29 January 2018, see below.)

RECC has been established since 2006, and is the recognised Code of

the industry. We truly have consumer protection at the heart of what we do.

Here are just a few of RECC's member benefits:

- Access to a number of insurance companies listed on our website. With RECC you are not tied into one company and so you can shop around and find competitive prices.
- Use of RECC's online consumer search tool which helps drive customers to your business.
- Access to a range of promotional materials for your customers, setting out the benefits of choosing a RECC member.
- Use of RECC's Primary Authority-approved suite 'model documentation' including domestic consumer contracts and technology-specific quotes and performance estimates.
- Access to RECC's comprehensive guidance documents on all relevant legislation and regulation.
- Access to assured advice from RECC's Primary Authority, giving you extra assurance that your practices are legal and that you are protected from claims.
- Access to RECC's free ADR-approved mediation service as well as a low-cost, legally-binding arbitration

process provided for RECC by CEDR.

Other exclusive benefits to RECC members include:

- Discounted membership of the Which? Trusted Traders endorsement scheme.
- Good value TrustMark registration including listing on TrustMark's respected 'Find Your Local Tradesmen' website.
- Discounted purchase prices for the IET's Battery Storage and Solar PV Codes of Practice.
- Access to tailored business insurance including public liability and professional indemnity insurance from reputable broker JELF.

To discuss anything here contact RECC directly via membership@recc.org.uk or on 0207 981 0850. We look forward to hearing from you!



New Primary Authority Partnership

RECC is in the process of finalising a new Primary Authority Partnership with Hampshire County Council Trading Standards Service.

This means that RECC will continue to offer its members the benefits of this Government-led scheme. It is designed to ensure that you receive reliable, consistent and legally recognised advice on matters relating to compliance over a wide range of consumer protection legislation that impacts your business.

Not only can you rely on the advice, you can also be assured that all Local Authorities that enforce the legislation in your area must have regard for the advice and liaise directly with the Primary Authority. You can also be assured that the RECC model documents have been approved as accurate by the Primary Authority.

Primary Authority is a statutory scheme, established by the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008, which allows businesses to form a legally recognised partnership with a single Local Authority in relation to regulatory compliance. This Local Authority is then known as its 'Primary Authority'. The initiative is aimed at cutting red tape through a partnership approach and promoting consistency of advice.

Hampshire Trading Standards is one of the largest Trading Standards Services in the country and has a wealth of experience across the full range of consumer protection legislation and of dealing with businesses from the largest to the very smallest. (This arrangement replaces the one we previously had with Slough Borough Council.)

For RECC members who decide to opt in, this will enable you to receive this legally recognised advice and support via RECC, who will act as co-ordinators for the partnership. Members who wish to participate in the scheme will need to contact RECC via info@recc.org.uk or on 0207 981 0850 and ask for Lorraine.

GOVERNMENT RELEASES 25 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN



Government plans to step up its efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change to reduce its impact.

As part of its 25 Year Environment Plan, released on 11 January, it will seek to minimise waste and reuse materials as much as possible, including by managing materials at the end of their life to minimise their impact on the environment. The Plan outlines

the full range of Government's goals for improving the environment and for working with communities and businesses to do this. A summary of the other goals and targets outlined in the Plan include:

- Clean Air.
- Clean and plentiful water by improving at least three quarters of our waters to be close to their natural state as soon as is practicable.
- Growing and achieving a resilient network of land, water, and sea, allowing plants and wildlife to thrive.
- Reducing the risks of harm from environmental hazards by reducing the risk of harm to people, the environment and the economy from natural hazards including flooding, drought and coastal erosion.
- Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently.
- Enhancing beauty, heritage and

engagement with the natural environment

- Managing exposure to chemicals, making sure that chemicals are safely used and managed, and that the levels of harmful chemicals entering the environment (including through agriculture) are significantly reduced.
- Enhancing biosecurity to protect our wildlife and livestock, and boost the resilience of plants and trees.

RECC welcomes the ambition of the plan and is confident that REAL's other schemes in compostable packaging, composting, renewable fuels, and biogas can help support Government in delivering its goals going forward.

The full Plan can be found [here](#).

Solar Together London



The Greater London Authority (GLA) intends to launch a group buying scheme for domestic solar PV in several selected London Boroughs.

The GLA and selected London Boroughs will partner with iChoosr, who specialise in collective purchasing schemes and have already completed a successful smaller scheme in Norfolk and many other bigger schemes in the Netherlands and Belgium.

The Mayor of London aims to boost residential solar PV by making it easier for residents to find a trustworthy installer and easier for installers to find willing customers. By creating volume, efficiencies for the installers will increase and therefore allow them to drive down costs and still offer a high-quality product. This will enable the winning installer(s) to offer lower prices, and still realise a sound profit.

Open for installers

Solar Together London is accessible to certified installers with sufficient capacity to deliver in a high volume domestic scheme in London. After passing the thorough qualification process, and meeting quality control criteria, installers are then allowed access to participate in a one-round reverse auction which will

set the pricing. Installers have until 2 February 2018 to apply by submitting the first set of qualification documents. Installers can register their interest online at

www.ichoosr.co.uk/suppliers.

Installers interested in participating as a main contractor, responsible for product choice and turn-key delivery, should register as "supplier."

Installers interested in participating in the works can leave their details by registering as "installer". Successful candidates will be put on a list that is provided to main contractors and might be contacted to assist as a subcontractor.

For more on this, and for contact details see [here](#).

EU puts forward renewable energy targets for 2030 and backs net zero carbon-emissions by 2050

EU Environment and Energy Ministers, meeting on 18 December 2017, agreed to source 27 per cent of energy from renewable sources by 2030 - an increase of 7 per cent on the target for 2020. This falls short of the target of 35 per cent agreed by the European Parliament on 17 January and supported by a group of big technology, industry and power companies in January this year.

The renewable energy target is part of the EU's overall plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40 per cent between 1990 and 2030 so as to help limit global warming to no more than 2 degrees.

Europe's climate commissioner Miguel Aria Canete said that the level of ambition was "clearly insufficient". He claimed that, following the spectacular reduction in the costs of renewables, the EU could reach a target of 30 per cent for around the same cost as had previously been estimated for a 27 per cent target.

MEPs also voted overwhelmingly in favour of bringing forward a proposal to bring down to zero the amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted in the atmosphere by 2050. The proposal will set out exactly what can be emitted into the atmosphere.

UPDATE TO MCS INSTALLER STANDARD

The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) published a minor update to its Installer Standard MCS 023 in November last year. This sets out additional requirements for MCS contractors complying with PAS 2030 involved in the supply, design, installation, setting to work and commissioning of the following technologies:

- Microgeneration heat pump systems
- Solid biofuel heating systems
- Heat and electricity led micro-CHP systems
- Micro and small wind turbine systems

- Solar Photovoltaic (PV) microgeneration systems
- Solar heating microgeneration systems

Contractors have to be able to prove their business and financial probity, and to show that the design is adequate for the building. Any site-specific requirements, such as the protection of bats, birds or butterflies have to be agreed in advance.

A certificate will only be issued and details published on the MCS website after the project has been fully assessed.

The standard can be found [here](#).

Changes to the MCS Service Company Board

Three new directors have been appointed to form the MCS Service Company Board. They are Chris Roberts, Catrin Maby, and Tim Lunel. They replace Gideon Richards and Dave Sowden who have stepped down following 10 years at the helm of MCS.

Chris Roberts is a director/owner of clean energy businesses, Catrin Maby is an independent consultant and researcher specialising in energy in buildings, and Tim Lunel is Managing Director of Co-Control Ltd, a socially focused heating control and property analysis system.

This change anticipates the 'novation' of MCS from Government control to independent status, expected soon.

Scottish Parliament sets up new Consumer Committee

SNP MSP Clare Haughey has established a new Cross-Party Group aimed at improving consumer protection in the energy market. The new Cross-Party Group on Consumer Protection for Home Energy Efficiency was established after getting the go-ahead from the Scottish Parliament's Standards Committee.

The CPG was set up following concern over problems with the UK Government's Green Deal initiative, with Haughey pointing to examples of businesses selling renewable technology to consumers, who were then plunged into debt after bills spiralled.

REA WELCOMES MAJOR INVESTMENT IN FARADAY BATTERY CHALLENGE

Government is investing £120 million in the Faraday Battery Challenge which aims to make the UK a world leader in the development and production of battery technology. Government flagged this in its Clean Growth Strategy.

£80 million will be invested in a new National Battery Manufacturing Development Facility in the West Midlands. This state-of-the-art centre "will be responsible for turning the most promising early- and mid-stage battery research and development activities into scalable business propositions that are commercially viable, while also providing a learning environment to enable training and skills development". The centre will be openly accessible to any UK-based companies wishing to develop

battery technologies. A further £40 million has been allocated to 27 projects involving 66 organisations that won in recent Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund competitions. These include the development of battery materials and cell manufacturing, the design and production of modules and packs including advances in thermal management and battery management systems, and recycling of battery packs.

Renewable Energy Association has called on Government also to support the creation of markets for battery products.

For further information see [here](#).



Landlords to pay for improving energy efficiency

Government is proposing that landlords must pay for energy improvements to ensure that the properties they rent out meet minimum standard regulations. From April 2018 landlords will no longer be able to seek a "no cost exemption". They will be expected to pay up to a cap of £2,500 to ensure their privately-rented properties meet a minimum EPC standard of Band E.

There are currently about 280,000 privately-rented properties in England and Wales which meet only Band F or Band G EPC standards. Landlords are likely to invest largely in loft and cavity wall insulation, floor insulation, draught-proofing, solar PV and low energy lighting. Green Deal and other 'Pay as You Save' funding will no longer be available to them.

If the plan proceeds, Government estimates that: some 85,000 homes will have to meet the new standard at an average cost of £850; the average annual energy savings for tenants will be £95; and the estimated value of health improvements will be £78 million.

ENERGY STORAGE CONNECTED SYSTEMS

6 - 7 Feb 2018, Olympia, London

This 2 day conference, in association with the REA, brings together 40 leading industry speakers who will talk about the future of energy in the UK. They will give practical examples of storage currently deployed and how they integrate into a broader network of connected systems including smart buildings, grids and electric vehicle infrastructure.

This is a unique opportunity to hear from industry speakers and meet energy storage suppliers.

RECC will be attending, based at the REA's stand. Please make sure you come say hello.

For more information see [here](#).



ENERGY STORAGE SUMMIT

27 - 28 Feb 2018, Victoria Park Plaza, London

This is the largest UK event focused on downstream energy storage. Developers, financiers, utilities, networks, and aggregators will discuss stand-alone storage, co-located and C&I applications. New for 2018 will be two elements dedicated to UK and international case studies.

This year the content will focus on policy and regulation; systems operation; strategy; PPAs; finance and revenue streams; technology, innovation, and integrated systems.

RECC will be attending, please come speak with us.

For more information see [here](#).



ECOBUILD

6-8 March 2018, ExCel, London

Ecobuild 2018 will present the future of design, construction, and the built environment and include the latest developments, new product launches, and attract leading individuals from the construction industry.

The centrepiece of this year's event will be the comprehensive conference programme put together by top industry figures surrounded by eight unique 'futurebuild districts' that will each explore a different aspect of the built environment. These will include building performance, infrastructure and energy.

RECC will be attending the show as an exhibitor so please drop by the stand and ask us any questions you may have or pick up your new RECC van sticker.

For more information see [here](#).



Van stickers



RECC is happy to announce that, as well as our many other member benefits, it can now offer members van stickers.

Please contact the office should you want any. For a full list of member benefits visit the RECC website [here](#).

RECC is moving office

Please note that, as of Monday 29 January 2018, our address will be 80 The Strand, London, WC2R 0DT. All other contact details will remain the same.

ADE AND ACE TO MERGE

The Association for Decentralised Energy (ADE) and the Association for the Conservation of Energy (ACE) are to merge to form one voice for decentralised energy providing solutions across the industrial, commercial, public, and domestic sectors.

The new body will be known as the Association for Decentralised Energy and Dr Tim Rotheray will continue in his role as Director. Dr Joanne Wade, the ACE Chief Executive Officer, will take on the role of Deputy Director. The new ADE will represent nearly 150 members.

Dr Rotheray commented:

"At a time of such rapid change, it is vital that our members have strong and clear representation to decision makers, and by bringing our two organizations together we are creating a powerful and united voice for decentralised energy solutions across the industrial, commercial, public and domestic sectors."

Find more information on [this here](#).