

PROTECTING CONSUMERS AND PROMOTING RENEWABLES

Welcome to the Summer edition of the RECC Newsletter

We would like to bid you, valued members, a very warm welcome to our latest newsletter!

We hope that you have been enjoying the record-breaking weather the UK has been having and can appreciate its significant influence on solar PV generation across the country.

The renewables sector is also hotting up (pun-intended) with quite a few changes afoot. From the changes to the Feed-in Tariff scheme, the launch of assignment of rights support for heat

technologies, to developments in energy storage solutions and electric vehicles, and more. Be sure to check out the stories in full below.

Further to our request in the previous newsletter, we are still on the look-out for pictures of installations you have done for our website. If you have any you would be willing to share with us please see page 5 for details of where to send them.

Boris Eremin, Guest Editor

RECC MEMBER WINS INSTALLER OF THE YEAR



Cambridge Solar Ltd, won the Installer of the Year Award at the prestigious British Renewable Energy Awards this year.

Cambridge Solar Ltd, a RECC member, provided strong evidence of a consistently high standard of service for its customers with a range of different small-scale renewable energy systems installed in their homes.

Rebecca Robbins, Head of Compliance at RECC, presented the award to Owen Morgan and Shane Kelly from Cambridge Solar UK at the Awards Dinner held at the Savoy Hotel on 14 June this year. Sungift Solar, also a RECC member, was highly commended in the category.

Virginia Graham, RECC CEO, was one of the judges. RECC sponsored the Installer of the Year Award, one of 15 categories recognised.

Dr. Nina Skorupska CBE FEI, Chief Executive of the Renewable Energy Association said:

"The profile of renewables is rising fast, a clear and ambitious energy policy is now essential in order to back these businesses growth potential and ambition. Although the public's switch to green energy is not yet complete, I truly believe that with the continued drive and determination of companies like these we will get there sooner rather than later."

The Lifetime Achievement Award went to Jenny Saunders CBE (below). Jenny recently stood down after 30 years at National Energy Action, the charity working to end fuel poverty and promote energy efficiency and affordable warmth for all.

You can find more information [here](#).



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[Click here for the RECC Annual Report 2017](#)

NEW OPTION LAUNCHED TO FUND RENEWABLE HEATING SYSTEMS

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has introduced an option to help householders and landlords access finance to assist with paying the upfront cost of a renewable heating system which can be expensive to install. Known as **Assignment of Rights**, the option came into effect on 27 June.

Under this scheme an “investor” helps fund the purchase, installation and maintenance of the system. The householder/landlord then assigns their RHI payments to the investor so it can make an attractive investment. Investors have to become a member of a Consumer Code (either RECC or the Home Insulation and Energy Systems Contractors Scheme (HIES)

and have their contract approved. If they are then approved by Ofgem, they can become a registered investor and have the consumer’s DRHI payments assigned to them every three months in arrears for 7 years. The consumer will always own the system.

RECC has worked with BEIS, Ofgem and others to draft a model contract for investors to use. RECC has also published guidance for investors, installers and consumers on its website.

You can find more information from Ofgem [here](#).

You can find RECC's guidance on this in the [Member's area](#).

Ofgem publishes Domestic RHI Annual Report

Ofgem has published a report setting out progress with the DRHI. It covers the fourth year of the scheme’s life, from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

A total of 7,895 renewable heating systems were accredited under the DRHI during the year, bringing the total accredited since its launch to 61,691.

During the year Ofgem paid out a total of £48 million to owners of domestic biomass systems, £29 million to owners of ground source heat pumps, £22 million to owners of air source heat pumps and £2 million to owners of solar thermal systems.

You can find a copy of the report [here](#).



Image courtesy of [Joule UK](#)

MCS PER-INSTALLATION FEE TO RISE

The MCS Installation Registration Fee will increase from £15 to £30 and will apply to any credit purchased from 3rd September 2018.

MCS states that the fee increase is necessary to deliver a balanced budget which considers the need for investment in the scheme, any financial fluctuations and the strategic direction of MCS following novation from the Government.

In the meantime, the MCS Administrator will monitor credit purchasing activity and will consider introducing a capping system if stockpiling is identified.

On 3rd September 2018, the MCS Installation Database (MID) will be down from 09:30 to 13:30 to allow for the fee increase to be implemented. Installers will not be able to log in while the system is down.

The annual Installer Registration Fee has been reduced and is now £55 per year.

More information can be found [here](#).

Government seeks evidence on EPCs

Government is seeking evidence on the quality and availability of Energy Performance Certificates and how effectively they encourage action to improve energy efficiency.

Government is also seeking views on a number of possible improvements to EPCs, as well as asking for further suggestions. Among others they would like to hear from all parts of the energy efficiency products supply chain and anyone else who regularly uses EPCs.

You can find more information [here](#).

Government also published a summary of the responses received to its call for evidence on reforming the Green Deal Framework, including on how to ensure that there are high standards of consumer protection.

You can find more information [here](#).

Government confirms end to Feed-in Tariff support

On 19 July Government released proposals for closing the Feed-In Tariff (FiT) Scheme and a call for evidence on the future of small-scale generation. Stakeholders are invited to respond to the proposals and the call for evidence by 13 September.

In summary the Government's proposals include the following:

- On 31 March 2019 new export and generation payments will be ended.
- There will be no re-allocation of unspent funds from relevant technology and size bands.
- Any project gaining accreditation would receive the relative tariff as of the date of accreditation, as at present.
- Some changes to the FiT Licensee (supply company) levelisation are proposed so as to incorporate actual metered export rates.

Government is proposing a few exceptions to the 31 March 2019 cut-off date for projects:

- MCS (<50kW) community or school projects that apply for pre-registration on or before 31 March 2019 have 12 months to go to their FiT Licensee for accreditation.
- Other MCS installations have until 31 January 2020 to apply for their FiT accreditation where commissioned and holding an MCS certificate on or before 31 March 2019.

See the Consultation here: [consultation on closing the FiT scheme](#).

The second part of the publication includes a 'Call for evidence' seeking ideas on how to remove the barriers to new small-scale renewable energy generation at no cost to Government. It lists a few areas where action is either already happening or may be taken forward, but makes no new proposals:

- The building regulations system could be changed so as to encourage and enable renewables.
- Ongoing changes to the SAP Methodology will impact the rating of properties installing renewables.
- Existing reform packages are underway in the ancillary and balancing services markets in the UK.

In the final few pages of the document Government discusses how the FiT has been successful in providing a guaranteed route to market for smaller generators and acknowledges that removing this could be a block on deployment, especially at the level under 30kWp.

See the Call for Evidence here: ["The future for small-scale low-carbon generation"](#).

SOLAR POWER REACHES RECORD HIGH

The sunny bank holiday at the beginning of May enjoyed the largest ever share of the UK's energy mix for solar power. Between 13:30 and 14:00 on the Sunday afternoon solar panels were powering 28.5 per cent of the nation's electricity, almost 4 per cent more than electricity powered by gas. This beat the previous record high contribution of 26.1 per cent set in July last year.

The maximum output was 9.28GW, not as high as last year's May 26 record output of 9.37GW, but that was a weekday when more conventional power plants are needed to meet the demand from offices and industry. Over 11 per cent of the electricity generated over the whole day came from solar power while gas-fired power provided 34.6 per cent and nuclear power 27.5 per cent.

The UK's solar power capacity is currently around 13GW but this is expected to rise to 18GW by 2023. More battery technology is being developed to make it possible to store energy when the sun is shining so that it can continue to power the grid when there is no sunshine.

You can find more information [here](#).

NEW ENERGY TARIFF FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Over 60 RECC members are also OLEV-approved installers of electric vehicle (EV) charging equipment. IET has published a code of practice for installers of charging equipment. RECC is working with Citizens Advice and others to establish guidance for users of charging equipment in the home, the workplace, and public places.

You can find more information on the IET code of practice [here](#).

In the meantime, Scottish Power has launched its first tariff for electric vehicles offering 100% renewable energy at a fixed price until June 2020. Drivers will be able to access an app telling them where their nearest charging point is located.

You can find more information on the Scottish Power initiative [here](#).



Image courtesy of [EVBox](#)



To find out more about the benefits of becoming a Trust Mark registered business, please click the logo to the left.

Public support for renewable energy up to 85%

A Government survey of over 2000 people around the UK has found that 85 per cent of those questioned support renewable energy. This is the highest level reached since the regular three monthly poll run by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy began in 2012.

Renewable energy support increased by 3 per cent on last year and individual technologies all reached record levels with support for onshore wind at 76 per cent, offshore wind at 83 per cent and solar power being the most popular at 87 per cent.

The survey asks questions about climate change as well as energy and the results showed that the public are becoming more aware of the economic case for renewable energy projects.

Some 75 per cent of respondents thought that they provided economic benefits. 66 per cent said they would be happy to have a renewable energy project in their local area, up 8 per cent on last year's response.

You can find more information [here](#).

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN ENERGY STORAGE

One of the big challenges facing the renewable energy industry is finding ways to store the energy generated when it is very sunny so it can be used at other times. The new technology is currently expensive but according to one estimate battery costs could fall by 50% by 2025.

Ovo Energy has launched a range of batteries that can be used with or without the generation of renewable energy. Its system enables consumers to make the most of cheaper off-peak electricity and to integrate the energy stored in their electric cars.

It involves charging batteries overnight and exporting spare electricity back to the grid during the day. The associated software Vcharge manages the ebb and flow by drawing on information such as weather forecasts and television schedules to predict periods of high demand. Ovo believes the energy saved could produce enough electricity for 2,000 homes a year.

You can find more information [here](#).

RECC AT FULLY CHARGED LIVE SHOW

More than 6,000 people attended the Fully Charged Live Show at Silverstone in early June. The show was sponsored by Ecotricity. RECC provided experts for people to talk to for information and advice. Every electric vehicle in the UK was on show and there was also a wide range of the best renewable technologies. The 16 live sessions were a series of conversations about various issues connected with the renewable energy industry.

A short video with highlights from the show can be viewed [here](#).



85% MORE CONSUMERS HELPED BY CTSI SCHEME

Over 68,750 consumers have been helped in the past year by the Consumer Codes Approval Scheme (CCAS), an increase of 85 per cent on 2016. They received over £2.7 million compensation.

The scheme, which is run by the Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI), was set up in 2013 to help trade associations and others to establish consumer codes which are specific to a particular sector. There are now over 53,000 businesses working in line with 23 approved codes of practice with sponsors from 18 different industries. It replaced a similar scheme previously

run by the Office of Fair Trading.

CCAS makes it possible for consumers to find trustworthy and reliable traders by searching the trading standards website which lists the approved code members. All the traders listed have agreed to go above and beyond consumer law, including Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) which enables consumers to assert their rights without going to court, thus saving considerable expense.

You can find more information [here](#).

RECC CONSUMER SATISFACTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Would you like RECC to know more about your happy and satisfied customers?

RECC has recently updated its online Consumer Satisfaction Questionnaire and would like to encourage installers to spread the word to their customers.

Not only would this help ensure you are aware of your RECC membership, but it is also an excellent way for RECC members to let us know about the excellent work they have been doing!

The RECC Consumer Satisfaction Questionnaire is available here: www.recc.org.uk/feedback.

RECC IS NOW LISTED ON LEXIS

RECC is now listed in the Lexis Library Practice Areas Commentary Section. The Lexis Library gives solicitors up-to-date information, resources and expert opinion from established names such as Butterworths, Tolley and Halsbury's.

You can find more information on the Lexis Library [here](#).

RECC wants your photos

RECC is asking all members to send us photos of your installation work. This is an opportunity to have your photo displayed on the revamped version of the RECC website, and photos will be credited. To send your photo to RECC, send a high resolution version to info@recc.org.uk.

SOLAR & STORAGE
LIVE Empowering the energy transition
CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

FREE TO ATTEND

16-18 OCTOBER 2018
The NEC, Birmingham, UK

FIND OUT MORE

Solar & Storage Live, NEC, Birmingham.

Solar & Storage Live's exhibition is free to attend for all three days with the option to upgrade to join the premium conference. The super early bird rate for the premium conference ends on Friday 10 August.

The exhibition brings together stakeholders in solar generation and maintenance, storage deployment, and emerging ancillary technologies. It provides a platform for the rapid rise in electric vehicles, energy communication, and smart consumption; technologies supporting the move to decentralised energy in the UK and worldwide. The exhibition will showcase the latest in breakthrough storage, smart, and renewable technologies.

- Win business: Solar & Storage Live is packed with buyers – 32% of the audience represented installers, developers/EPCs and large energy buyers (local authorities and landowners)
- Find out how you need to evolve your business in 2019 by arming yourself with the latest strategies to go back out to market
- Meet new partners and customers: with over 4,000 attendees expected, this is a one-stop-shop to make new connections
- Get your key challenges addressed by over 50 international expert speakers, network with them by buying a VIP ticket and quiz them during Q&A sessions in the programmes
- Celebrate the industry's ongoing success at the Solar Power Portal Awards and see who's still doing great business
- See new innovations in our exhibition and test out the best cutting edge technologies that will save you money and maximise project yields
- Get in front of commercial energy buyers and local authorities keen to use solar and storage to reduce carbon and energy bills
- Relax, share a drink and network with clients during the stand parties on the 16th October
- Be inspired by our two fantastic conference programmes and leave with all the information and connections you need to win new business in 2019
- Maximise your time at the event by buying a VIP pass to the strategic conference and get exclusive access to the industry's leaders

RECC will be speaking at the show and will be exhibiting on stand P35. Come and say hi!

Register here: <http://uk.solarenergyevents.com/visitor-registration/>

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