

## Welcome to the Spring edition of the RECC Newsletter

Welcome to the Spring newsletter of 2019 to all our members!

Of particular note to those who install solar PV, our headline article in this newsletter offers more details on the Government's proposals regarding the Smart Export Guarantee. You will also find information on some of the export schemes that energy suppliers are offering their consumers following the end of the Feed-in-Tariff.

There is a summary of the Chancellor's Spring Statement, and an outline of a call for evidence from Scottish Government

on its Energy Efficient Scotland programme. Elsewhere you will find further MCS-related news, including its upcoming battery storage standard as well as updates to its Competency Guidance. There is also more news on developments in the EV-sector including a link to RECC's chargepoints guide.

Finally, you will find details of upcoming renewable energy awards events. In particular, we hope you will join us at the British Renewable Energy Awards on 11 June!

Boris Eremin, Editor

### RIP FiT, hello SEG



Solar PV array. Image courtesy of [Solarsense](#)

As the Feed-in Tariff closed to new projects from 31 March, Government continued to consider a Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) to stand in its place.

The SEG will require that all large energy suppliers to offer a rate (or export tariff) at which they are obliged to purchase power exported from small-scale renewables (see [RECC Newsletter, January 2019](#) for more on this).

RECC has welcomed the proposals to reward consumers for their exported electricity and, in particular, the requirement for MCS-certification to qualify for the SEG. (RECC was previously a co-signatory, along with MCS, the REA, STA, and others, pressing the Government to put that requirement in place.)

You can find RECC's response to the SEG consultation: [here](#).

In the meantime, BEIS has issued a consultation on the proposed changes to the electricity supply licence conditions needed to introduce the SEG. These include bringing those supplying 150,000 domestic consumers or more into the scheme, and setting the final deadline for mandated suppliers to be required to offer a tariff as the end of 2019. The deadline for responses to the consultation is **27 May 2019**.

You can find more information on Part B of the consultation: [here](#).

### IN THIS ISSUE

- 1** RIP FiT, hello SEG
- 2** Export Tariffs 2.0  
The Chancellor's Spring Statement  
Scottish Government wants to hear from you  
UK GHG Emissions down again in 2018
- 3** MCS to add battery storage to its certification schemes  
Renewables hit 'record high' generation  
Final FiT quarter deployment figures  
MCS Competency Guidance updated
- 4** RECC publishes EV chargepoints guide  
DNOs streamline grid-connection for EVs and heat pumps  
Business driving demand for EVs, Climate Group Reports  
HMRC VAT increase for combined solar & storage
- 5** RECC at Futurebuild  
Three RECC Members among nominees for the 2019 British Renewable Energy Awards  
Solar & Storage Live Awards: nomination deadline approaching

## EXPORT TARIFFS 2.0

A number of suppliers are already beginning to offer, or at least trial, their own export tariffs, even as the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) itself is likely still some months away.

Recent offers include:

- Octopus Energy's flexible 'Agile' tariff, under which the price paid to generators for export will move with the wholesale rate, and its fixed rate deal offering 5.50p per kWh exported;
- E.ON's Solar Reward, which will pay 5.24p per kWh exported for a year to the first 500 customers who sign up; and
- Bulb's alpha trial for 50 'members' (as Bulb prefers to call its customers) who will be paid wholesale electricity prices and who must be willing to provide feedback as the firm looks to develop its offering.

You can find more information on the Agile Octopus scheme: [here](#).

You can find more information on Octopus Energy's export tariff: [here](#).

You can find more information on E.ON's Solar Reward scheme: [here](#).

You can find more information on Bulb's scheme: [here](#).

## The Chancellor's Spring Statement

The Chancellor's Spring Statement provided an update on the overall health of the economy since the Budget 2018 and its prospects. A section on clean growth included plans for:

- a consultation later this year on increasing the proportion of green gas in the grid to help reduce dependence on burning natural gas in homes and businesses;
- the introduction of a Future Homes Standard by 2025 to see new build homes have low carbon heating and 'world-leading' levels of energy efficiency;
- a call for evidence on an Energy Efficiency Scheme for Small and Medium Sized Businesses exploring how the Government can support investment in energy efficiency measures; and
- a further call for evidence on 'offsetting transport emissions' to "give people the option to travel 'zero-carbon'".

Renewable Energy Association welcomed this Statement, with Director of Policy James Court describing it as 'encouraging' to see the Chancellor reaffirm commitments to tackling climate change and delivering clean growth.

"A Future Homes Standard", Court said, "could help remove some of the uncertainty surrounding the path to decarbonising heat, ensuring a clear plan for clean and cost-effective heating" while the acknowledgement of the need to green the gas network "is a promising start as this offers a low-cost way of utilising existing infrastructure to decarbonise".

You can find the full Spring Statement: [here](#).

## Scottish Government wants to hear from you

Assuring quality in Scottish Government's flagship 'Energy Efficient Scotland' programme is the subject of a new report by an independent working group – and it wants to hear what suppliers think of the recommendations.

The ambitious programme, first set out last year, aims to deliver homes and buildings that are warmer, greener, and more efficient by 2040. The industry-led working group's report suggests delivering it will require:

- the development of quality assurance criteria to detail the key requirements for suppliers wishing to participate in the programme;
- robust vetting and verification requirements that do not place undue administrative or financial burdens on SMEs (particularly micro-businesses);
- independent inspections of installations to ensure quality standards are consistently met; and
- Energy Efficient Scotland installations to be based on robust skills and competencies.

You can find the full report: [here](#).

Scottish Government is currently consulting on the further development of the programme, including changes to the original timescales. The deadline for responses to the consultation is **17 June 2019**.

You can read the consultation document: [here](#).

It has also issued a call for evidence on the future for low carbon heat for off gas buildings: [here](#).

## UK GHG EMISSIONS DOWN AGAIN IN 2018

BEIS provisional estimates issued at the end of March suggest total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the UK fell by 3 per cent, and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2 per cent, in 2018.

With the continuing shift away from coal, the energy supply sector experienced the largest reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, falling by an estimated 7 per cent.

You can find more information about the figures: [here](#).

	2017-2018 % change	1990-2018 % change
Energy supply (including power sector)	↓ 7%	↓ 59%
Business	↔ 0%	↓ 41%
Transport	↓ 3%	↓ 3%
Residential	↑ 3%	↓ 16%
Public	↑ 4%	↓ 39%

Changes in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the energy supply sector. Source: [BEIS](#)

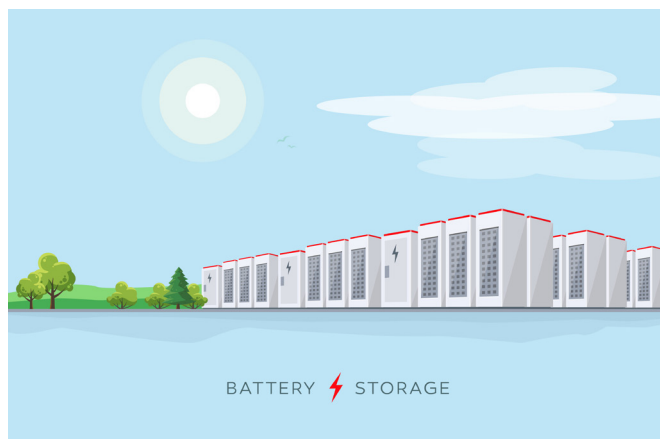
## MCS to add battery storage to its certification schemes

MCS is working on a battery storage certification scheme. Energy storage technologies are often installed alongside or added to solar PV systems. Chris Roberts, MCS Director leading on the project said: *"The move reflects the convergence between technologies as internet connectivity develops and smart meters are rolled out"*.

Due to launch mid-2019, installers will register battery storage alongside existing small-scale renewable energy installations that are currently held centrally within the MCS Installation Database.

Ian Rippin, Chief Executive of MCS added: *"For Installers this represents a one-stop-shop for all of their registrations without the need to access a different system. For consumers, it delivers the benefit of being able to search for all of their renewable energy needs, including battery storage solutions, in one place"*.

RECC's Chief Executive Virginia Graham welcomed the announcement. *"Extending the suite of standards will increase the level of consumer protection by reducing the opportunities for mis-selling battery storage systems"*, she said. *"We look forward to working closely with MCS on this exciting project"*.



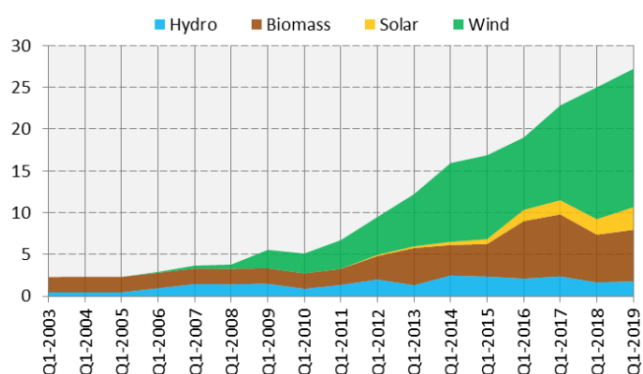
Prospective battery storage scheme logo. Image courtesy of [MCS](#)

The scheme will also build upon research funded by MCS Charitable Foundation and carried out at Loughborough University and BRE to gauge levels of self-consumption from a solar PV system with or without an associated battery storage system (see [RECC Newsletter, January 2019](#) for more on this).

## Renewables hit 'record high' generation

EnAppSys

### GENERATION BY FUEL (Q1), TWh



Percentage generation by renewable fuel type in Q1 from 2003-2019

Source: [EnAppSys](#)

The first quarter of 2019 saw renewables reach a new high, generating 27.2TWh, a third of all UK generation, according to a report from energy market analyst EnAppSys.

Wind farms were responsible for more than half the renewables total (16.6TWh), while a 43 per cent rise in energy generated by solar farms saw them contribute 2.7TWh.

Paul Verrill, director of EnAppSys, said *"significant growth in levels of renewable generation...on current trends, could overtake fossil fuels in the not-too-distant future"*.

You can find the EnAppSys GB Electricity Market Summary for Q1 2019: [here](#).

## Final FiT quarter deployment figures

Ofgem's quarterly report for 1 January to March 2019 shows there were 23,106 solar PV installations in the sub-10kW category, representing 76,175kW of capacity. Despite the impending closure of the FiT scheme, this was well below the 400,000 plus kW cap for FiTs.

The report also includes figures for larger and stand-alone PV installs, as well as for wind, hydro, and micro-CHP.

You can find the full quarterly report: [here](#).

## MCS Competency Guidance updated

MCS updated its Competency Guidance to:

- amend the courses accepted under *"Heat Technologies General - Energy Efficiency"*;
- add to the accepted courses for Biomass, Heat Pumps, Metering and Solar Thermal; and
- make minor updates to the courses listed under solar PV.

You can find the updated Guidance (Issue 1.1) on the MCS website: [here](#).



## RECC publishes EV chargepoints guide

RECC has published a practical guide for consumers thinking about installing an EV chargepoint at home.

The guide, *"An Introduction to Electric Vehicle Home Chargepoints"*, explains the different chargepoints on offer and sets out the issues consumers need to consider.

It includes information on costs of EV charging, 'time-of-day' tariffs and specific EV tariffs. It also contains a list of questions consumers should ask their installer before going ahead.

You can download the guidance for free: [here](#).



Example of an EV chargepoint from the RECC guidance

## DNOs streamline grid-connection for EVs and heat pumps

Reforms by Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) will see a new, standardised process for connecting EVs to the grid. The change will cover all types of properties and businesses, including, for the first time, commercial properties and enable more mass installations. The changes also cover the process for connecting heat pumps to local networks.

David Smith, Chief Executive of the Energy Networks Association (ENA), says:

*"We want to help super-charge Britain's EV roll-out. By finding new ways to cut the amount of paperwork, we are making it easier and quicker for EV charge points to connect to the network...At the same time, we want to ensure that they can access the latest low-carbon heating technologies, such as heat pumps, as easily as possible, to keep their homes warm throughout the year."*

*DNOs need to know where and when charge points and heat pumps are being installed so they can manage the system in the most reliable, flexible way possible."* The changes, Smith says, *"will make it easier for installers to provide that information whilst helping network operators fulfill their responsibilities to the public"*.

You can find more information about the new process: [here](#).

## HMRC VAT increase for combined solar and storage

HMRC has announced its intention to raise the VAT rate for combined solar PV and storage installations from 5% to 20%, with a limited exemption for those aged over 60 and/or where the equipment cost element of the overall installation is 60% and below. Renewable Energy Association has lodged its objections to the plan which has taken industry by surprise.

HMRC consulted on VAT rates in 2015/16, before there was much residential storage being installed, but the decisions were never implemented in law. In 2017 HMRC confirmed to the Solar Trade Association that the reduced 5% VAT rate could apply to developers installing a storage system alongside a new solar PV system in residential accommodation.

The VAT rate for separately-installed residential storage has always been 20%. The State Aid agreement which allows lower VAT to be applied to energy saving technologies or materials is based around the concept of 'social good' not 'environmental good', effectively ruling it out.

## Business driving demand for EVs, Climate Group reports

More companies than ever are switching to electric vehicles, according to the Climate Group's first report on its EV100 initiative. Among the top drivers for businesses to switch to EVs, the report finds, are cutting air pollution, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and generating financial savings.

The Climate Group brings together networks of business and governments in a bid to accelerate climate action. It set up the EV100 global initiative to speed up the transition to EVs by 2030. The Group wants to see the electrification of more than 2 million vehicles by 2030 to make electric transport 'the new normal'.

The EV100 Annual Report includes the commitments of 23 member companies, among them pledges by retailer Ingka Group (formerly IKEA Group) for 100 per cent zero-emission last-mile deliveries in five major cities by 2020, a goal it reached last month, a year early, in Shanghai.

The commitments in the 'Progress and Insights' report amount to switching 145,000 vehicles to electric in 66 markets worldwide by 2030, saving over 6.6 million metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e – equivalent to the carbon footprint of 1.9 million UK households.

You can read more about EV100: [here](#).

You can download the EV100 Annual Report: [here](#).



Cover of the EV 100 Annual Report. Image courtesy of [The Climate Group](#)

To find out more about the benefits of becoming a Trust Mark registered business with RECC please see [here](#).



**TRUSTMARK**  
Government Endorsed Quality

## RECC AT FUTUREBUILD

RECC was delighted to exhibit once more at Futurebuild, a key gathering of opinion-shapers, decision-makers, and product innovators to explore the latest thinking and debate the biggest issues facing the built environment.

You can view a short video with highlights from the show: [here](#).

You can view slides from the many presentations at the show: [here](#).

futurebuild  
05-07 March 2019 / ExCeL, London



RECC stand at Futurebuild 2019

## THREE RECC MEMBERS AMONG NOMINEES FOR THE 2019 BRITISH RENEWABLE ENERGY AWARDS



Promotional banner for the British Renewable Energy Awards 2019

The REA has announced the shortlisted nominees for the prestigious British Renewable Energy Awards for 2019. The awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of companies and individuals who have done something amazing in renewables and clean technology over the past year and range from community projects to communications agencies.

Congratulations go to RECC members [@MoleEnergy](#), [@the heat source](#), and AOS Energy Efficient Heating Systems Limited who have been shortlisted for the Installer Award sponsored by RECC, for a company which has excelled in the installation of small-scale energy generation systems in homes. Virginia Graham, CEO, will be a judge at the awards.

You can find the full list of nominees: [here](#).

The British Renewable Energy Awards for 2019 will be presented at a gala dinner at The Intercontinental, Park Lane on **Tuesday 11th June**.

Come and celebrate with us and support the industry!

Book your place: [here](#).

## Solar & Storage Live Awards: nomination deadline approaching



Image from the [Solar & Storage Live Awards website](#)

There is still time, just, to nominate a person, firm or project for a Solar & Storage Live award. Nominations, which must be made via an online form close on **13 May**.

This year the awards include three new categories – Woman of the Year, Best Industry Innovator, and the Smart Energy Award. Virginia Graham, RECC CEO, will be one of the judges.

The awards will be presented on **18 September** at Birmingham's Hilton Metropole.

You can make your nomination: [here](#).