



Devon Association for Renewable Energy Newsletter – REID 20 - August 2009

The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan

On 15th July the UK Government launched a package of new climate change strategies. The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan plots out how the UK will meet the cut in emissions set out in the budget of 34% on 1990 levels by 2020.

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/publications/lc_trans_plan/lc_trans_plan.aspx

The Renewable Energy Strategy

Following a major consultation exercise in 2008, the Department of Energy & Climate Change have now published their Renewable Energy Strategy and Executive Summary (below). This strategy sets out how we all have a role to play in promoting renewable energy, from individuals to communities to businesses.

The Renewable Energy Strategy sets out the plan to achieve the Government's legal obligation to produce 15% of all its energy from RE by 2020 - based on the consultation last Autumn. The percentages have been tweaked slightly to around 30% of electricity, 12% of heat and 10% of transport fuel. The RES establishes the structure under which the details of the promised FITS can be announced for introduction in April 2010, and suggests price support levels which are now open to consultation, and therefore not yet agreed.

Alongside the Renewable Energy Strategy document, they have also published a suite of impact assessments and supporting analytical consultancy reports. The main consenting bodies for renewable energy and environmental statutory consultees have also published a joint statement setting out their collective commitment to achieve greater renewable energy deployment.

These documents and further background are available, please see:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/publications/lc_trans_plan/lc_trans_plan.aspx#1

Green energy cashback (feed-in tariffs)

The government has now committed to giving a fixed amount of money, per unit, to those of us that produce our own renewable energy. This is good news, particularly as anyone who goes ahead with fitting renewable energy will be eligible for the new incentive when it comes in.

The scheme for renewable electricity will come into operation next April, and the scheme for renewable heat will come into operation in April 2011. The length of time to get an

incentive for using sustainable woodfuel is disappointing for the south west, which is leading the way on this technology.

The key details are as follows:

- from April 2010, feed-in tariffs will offer a fixed payment per kilowatt hour generated (generation tariff) and a guaranteed minimum payment per kWh exported to the market for a 20 year period
- Feed-in tariffs are proposed at levels that will offer projects a five to eight per cent return on investment, with the aim of delivering 2 per cent of the UK's energy from small scale projects by 2020
- Support will digress in line with expected technology cost reductions (where appropriate)
- Projects up to 5 MW will be eligible across the range of renewable electricity technologies, including off-grid installations
- Projects below 50 kW will need to be installed by MCS accredited installers. 50 kW to 5 MW projects will be subject to accreditation similar to the current renewable obligations process
- Projects installed in the interim period from 15 July 2009 to April 2010 will be eligible to receive the tariff from day one
- The government is not proposing to offer financial support for the up-front capital costs of projects

There are also proposed changes to the Renewables Obligation, which include extending the lifetime of the scheme to 2037, introducing a 20-year limit on support under the scheme, opening it up to include renewable generation outside the UK, and extra support for offshore wind.

Get more, detailed information

1. To read **Regen SW's detailed guide** to feed-in tariffs, including the tariff structure, tariff levels, and eligible projects, please visit: http://regensw.co.uk/downloads/RegenSW_314.pdf

Geothermal Power Plant to Supply Electricity

Britain's slow but steady march towards renewable energy took a step forward yesterday when plans were revealed for the UK's first power plant to produce electricity from geothermal energy.

The plant is a joint partnership between the Eden Project and a geothermal power company, EGS Energy. It is hoped the plant will be built on the Eden site near St Austell, and will power the whole complex.

It will be based around two wells, driven down 4km into the Cornish granite where the bedrock itself is hot enough to heat water to 150 degrees, which will then produce steam to power an electricity generating turbine.

The plant should be able to produce about three megawatts of carbon neutral electricity – about the same as a large wind turbine – which will be more than enough to supply Eden's needs. Power left over could be sold to the national grid.

While there is already a geothermal plant in Southampton which supplies heat to buildings in the city centre, this is believed to be the first such facility in Britain to generate electric power.

Engineers believe that the vast quantity of geothermal energy stored in Cornish granite could eventually enable them to make a significant contribution to UK energy needs – as much as 10% of the total.

Michael McCarthy – The Independent

Devon Environmental Business Initiative – DEBI Awards 2009

Devon is a unique place. It's full of genuine, community-minded people who are immensely proud of their county and what it has given them. A rich and diverse environment offering stunning landscapes, vibrant cities, successful businesses and an abundance of natural resources.

It is also an incredibly creative and stimulating place to be. The people and location fuel a culture of resourcefulness and enterprise – the fact that new ideas are welcome stems from the philosophy that anything is possible. People in Devon also have the freedom to contemplate and take stock. Devon restores and regenerates. The DEBI awards want to celebrate all of these.

Invitation to Devon's top "Environmental Business Awards" 2009 categories are Environmental Goods & Services, Carbon Reduction, Sustainable Devon, Food & Farming and Environmental Champion.

For more information and guidelines on entering are available at www.debi-online.org.uk

2009 Survey of renewable electricity and heat projects in South West England – RegenSW

Devon

Renewable Electricity – Total capacity: 32.80MW, New capacity: 0.21 MW, Total projects: 152, New projects: 27

Devon remains in second place in the region in terms of installed capacity with 32.80 MW. Although it recorded the highest number of new electricity projects (27) in this year's survey, these amounted to only 0.21MW.

However, Devon has 79MW approved that are yet to be built at Fullabrook (66MW), Higher Darracot (3.9MW) and Galsworthy (9.2MW).

Renewable heat - Total capacity: 13.79MW, New capacity: 4.58 MW, Total projects: 461, New projects: 96

Devon is level with Cornwall in terms of the number of renewable heat projects installed and it closely follows Cornwall in terms of capacity, with 25 per cent of the region's total.

2009 Survey of renewable electricity and heat projects in South West England – RegenSW

Oil giant Exxon sees the future – and it is green algae

The oil giant that environmentalists love to hate ExxonMobil, which for years denied the existence of man-made climate change, is sensationally "going green" in a very literal sense – investing \$600m (£393m) in algae.

The company believes it can make a new kind of fuel for cars and aircraft, one that can be produced in existing refineries and will not require modification of vehicles' engines.

At the heart of the project is Craig Venter, the scientist best known for his private-sector effort to sequence the human genome, and his latest company, Synthetic Genomics.

Environmentalists are keen on algae as a fuel source because, unlike many ethanol products, it is not taking up land, water and crops that might otherwise be given over to the production of food.

BP already has a partnership with Synthetic Genomics. Royal Dutch Shell, which is second to ExxonMobil in global refining capacity, announced plans in December for an algae project in Hawaii.

The Independent

Court gives go-ahead to wind farm

Four wind turbines twice the height of Nelson's Column can be erected on the edge of the Peak District National Park, despite the opposition of the park authority and local council, a judge ruled yesterday.

A planning inspector was right to overrule their objections, said Lord Justice Carnwath in the High Court, dismissing a challenge from the Peak District National Park Authority and

Derbyshire Dales District Council, who sought to quash planning permission for the scheme at Carsington Pastures, between Matlock and Ashbourne.

The case has thrown into sharp relief the potential conflict between the need to build wind farms as part of the battle against climate change and the need to preserve the country's landscape, especially when protected sites are involved.

The Independent 18th July 2009

Severn Tidal Power Phase 1 Consultation: Government Response – 15th July 2009

Severn Tidal Power Phase 1's first public consultation was held between January and April 2009. The consultation asked for views on:

- a recommended shortlist of schemes for more detailed analysis
- the scope of the Strategic Environmental Assessment that is being carried out within the feasibility study

• the issues the feasibility study is considering and how these are being approached.

The deadline for responses was 23 April 2009 and a total of 734 formal written responses were received. All responses have been analysed carefully and will be taken into account as the feasibility study continues. They have published a document setting out the main messages received through the consultation and their response to these points, together with a review (by the feasibility study Independent Panel of Technical and Engineering Experts) of some of the detailed responses received on the short-listing process.

The Government Response document sets out the work the feasibility study will be doing this year. This includes:

High-level analysis of the impact of five schemes, including the massive Cardiff-Weston barrage (commonly known as 'The Severn Barrage'), two smaller barrages ('Shoots' and 'Beachley') and two lagoons (one across Bridgwater Bay and one across the Welsh Grounds, roughly between Newport and Caldicot). These schemes remain the only schemes that are potentially technically and economically feasible (i.e. have a realistic chance of being built) at this stage. They will be considered both singly and in combinations where this is possible.

- Work to bring forward the development of schemes using embryonic technologies. The schemes we'll be supporting with funding are two designs for a tidal fence and a low-head barrage (an environmentally-sensitive fixed barrage).
- A feedback loop to excluded schemes, particularly offshore tidal lagoons, as our evidence base develops to see whether new learning suggests they could be feasible for locations in the Severn Estuary.
- Further work on regional economic impacts, including a peer review to check methods used and conclusions drawn in the initial study.
- A formal Strategic Environmental Assessment of the five options above together with a 'do nothing' option covering the environmental, social and regional impacts of each of the schemes. Other schemes, including those using embryonic technologies, will be added to this Assessment if / when they can demonstrate the potential for economic and technical feasibility.
- Further work on whether the schemes would be compliant with the environmental legislation covering the Estuary.
- Strategic-level examination of whether the UK needs a Severn tidal power scheme, compared with alternative sources of supply

PRASEG News July 2009

US marine power firm first to commit to Wave Hub – Thursday, 16th July 2009

American wave power firm Ocean Power Technologies has become the first company to formally commit to taking a test berth at Wave Hub. The New Jersey-based company, which has offices in Warwick, confirmed that it had signed an agreement committing it to deploying its wave power device, Powerbuoy, at the Wave Hub site in Cornwall when it is built. [New Energy Focus](#)

PRASEG News July 2009

£2.5 million government funding to deliver zero carbon new community at Cranbrook

The government this week announced a boost of £2.5 million towards making the new community at Cranbrook, to the East of Exeter, a 'zero carbon' development. Regen SW has been working closely with Exeter and East Devon Growth Point to secure the funding, which comes as part of the government's Housing Stimulus Package. The money will go towards district heating and a combined heat and power (CHP) plant, which is powered from locally-sourced, sustainable wood fuel. This would serve the whole community at Cranbrook and would mean reduced energy bills and unlimited hot water.
