

Other useful organisations:

The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC):

For more information on Government policies on energy and climate change, please visit the DECC website at: www.decc.gov.uk

The Energy Saving Trust

The Energy Saving Trust helps consumers and communities to save energy and reduce carbon emissions by providing direct advice on the microgeneration technologies and incentives available.

For more information, please visit the Energy Saving Trust website at:

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

REAL Assurance Scheme

REAL membership is a sign that the supplier has agreed to abide by the high standards as set out in its Consumer Code. For more information on the REAL Assurance Scheme, please visit the website at: www.realassurance.org.uk



The Certification Mark for Onsite Sustainable Energy Technologies

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www.microgenerationcertification.org

A Consumer's Journey

If you are a consumer looking to have a microgeneration installation, the flow chart below will guide you in the right direction.

STEP 1:

Contact the Energy Saving Trust for advice on renewable technologies

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

STEP 2:

Use the MCS website to search for installers and products online

www.microgenerationcertification.org

STEP 3:

Contact a minimum of 3 installers listed on the MCS website for quotes.

STEP 4:

Choose one installation company to carry out the installation for you, making sure that the products to be installed are MCS Certified.

STEP 5:

You will receive an MCS Certificate for the installation to show that it is MCS Compliant.



The Certification Mark for Onsite Sustainable Energy Technologies

A Guide for Consumers

www.microgenerationcertification.org



MCS Overview

The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) is an internationally recognised quality assurance scheme, supported by the Department of Energy and Climate Change. The MCS certifies

microgeneration products used to produce electricity and heat from renewable sources. In addition to this, the MCS certifies installation companies to ensure that these technologies have been installed and commissioned to the highest standard for the consumer.

The MCS is supported by the industry and non-governmental groups. It is an important certification scheme for making a significant contribution to cutting the UK's dependency on fossil fuels and carbon dioxide emissions.

The MCS gives a mark of quality and competency which demonstrates to consumers that companies are able to consistently install or manufacture to the highest quality every time.

MCS Benefits

The MCS demonstrates quality and competence to consumers. The scheme has many benefits such as:

Consumer Protection

- The MCS is linked with the REAL Assurance Scheme which is a consumer code of practice. All MCS installation companies must be a member of an Office of Fair Trading (OFT) approved consumer code.
- REAL Assurance ensures that MCS installation companies are working to an approved code of practice. MCS installation companies have to make sure that they sell their products and services to consumers appropriately, without mis-selling or misleading a consumer.

Feed-in Tariffs (FITs)

- All MCS products which generate electricity up to 50kW (i.e. Solar Photovoltaic, Wind Turbines, Micro CHP, and Micro Hydro) are linked to financial incentives from the Government called FITs.

- FITs provide guaranteed payments to individuals, businesses and communities for electricity generation.

- To be eligible for FITs, consumers must use an MCS certificated installation company and an MCS certificated product.

The Renewable Heat Incentive

- The first of its kind in the world, the RHI is designed to provide financial support that encourages individuals, communities and businesses to switch from using fossil fuel for heating to heat led renewable technologies.
- MCS registered installations which generate heat up to 45kWth may be eligible for RHI.

Planning permission

- MCS products can be installed without planning permission when installed in accordance with the General Permitted Development Order (GPDO). Details on the planning permission exemptions can be found on the following website www.planningportal.gov.uk

The MCS certifies products and installation companies for the following technologies:

Electricity Generating (up to 50kW)



Solar Photovoltaic - A method for generating electricity by using solar cells to convert energy from the sun into electricity.



Small Scale Hydro - Hydro systems use the kinetic energy in flowing water to turn a turbine and generate electricity.



Wind Turbines - Wind turbines harness the power of the wind and use it to generate electricity.

Co-generation (up to 50kW for electricity, 45kW for heat)



Micro CHP - Micro-CHP (Micro Combined Heat & Power) is the simultaneous production of heat and electricity. Effectively the micro-CHP unit replaces the gas central heating boiler and provides heat and hot water as usual, but additionally can provide a home's electricity needs.

Heat Generating (up to 45kW)



Solar Thermal Hot Water - Solar thermal systems capture solar energy and convert it into thermal energy (heat). The heat is then transferred to the water in a hot water tank either directly or via a heat exchanger.



Biomass - Biomass is often used as a source of energy to generate heat.



Ground source heat pumps - Ground source heat pumps transfer heat from the ground into a building to provide space heating and, in some cases, to pre-heat domestic hot water.



Air source heat pumps - Air source heat pumps absorb heat from the outside air and can extract heat from the air. This is usually used to heat radiators, under-floor heating systems, or warm air convectors and hot water.