

RE-NEWSLETTER

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Infolinks ...

- ◆ *For information on Sustainable Energy Training, visit www.nef.org.uk/energytraining/*
- ◆ *To combat climate change by switching to green electricity, visit www.greenelectricity.org*
- ◆ *The 2008 Ecobuild show takes place at Earls Court between 26th and 28th February, for details see www.ecobuild.co.uk*
- ◆ *To view the latest Supplementary Policy Statement on Climate Change see www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/614742*
- ◆ *Send information you would like to see published in the next Re-Newsletter to terry-nas@uk-sda.org*

THINK GLOBAL-ACT LOCAL!

Be the argument founded on exhaustion of fossil fuels or climate change, there can be little dispute that urgent action is required to conserve and make best use of the earth's natural resources.

The UK Sustainable Development Association has been formed to provide a new dimension to help meet this need by playing its part in accelerating activities and initiatives designed directly to help reduce use of non-renewable resources, reduce CO₂ emissions, and reduce mains-water consumption.

Founded at the end of 2007, the Association represents accredited businesses that supply the services and technologies needed to bring about significant reductions in our use of fossil fuels and mains-water. The inspiration of Tony Marmont of Beacon Energy Ltd, the initiative initially brings together 20



East Midlands based businesses experienced in renewable energy and water-saving technologies.

The practical aim of the Association is to provide designers, their clients, and public-sector decision-makers with easy access to the full range of services and

technologies needed to design and build sustainable homes and commercial buildings.

Similarly, support is also available to address the upgrading of the existing homes and commercial premises that form the bulk of national built environment.

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION ...

The UK-SDA is a company limited by the £1-guarantees of its full-members, each of whom exercises one management vote.

The day-to-day administration of the Association is sub-contracted, and con-

trolled by elected Directors who meet monthly.

The Directors, in turn, are accountable to the full membership, meeting monthly to review and agree plans.

Membership of the Associa-

tion is categorised, and open to any individual, business or organisation that meet the requirements of its Bye-Laws.

For further information visit www.uk-sda.org or e-mail info@uk-sda.org

WHAT THE MINISTER SAYS ...

The following is the Foreword by Malcolm Wicks MP, Minister for Energy, to the Government's response to the Renewables Obligation Consultation

"Over the last few months the Government has demonstrated its commitment to renewable energy, in a number of high profile decisions and commitments. These have included our leadership on, and commitment to, the European Council agreement that by 2020 one-fifth of all Europe's energy should come from renewables.

We expect the European Commission to publish their proposals in the near future but we are pressing on with action. We have started an ambitious process to increase the capacity of offshore wind farms beyond the eight gigawatts already planned. We have approved the build-

ing of the world's biggest biomass plant as well as some 2.5 GW of other renewable generating capacity in the preceding twelve months. We have announced a study of the feasibility of generating tidal energy from the River Severn, which alone could provide five per cent of Britain's electricity needs.

To realise these plans, investors will require incentives to commit the necessary funds. I am, therefore, pleased to be able to set out in this response our further decisions on the banding of the Renewables Obligation, the Government's main support mechanism for renewable electricity. The changes outlined here will bring on additional deployment of renewable generation using a wider range of technologies, whilst protecting the position of existing renewable energy projects and reducing the

deadweight costs.

It is right and proper that such important changes need investor and development community buy-in, and I have been very pleased to see the high levels of engagement in this consultation. This process started in 2006 with the Energy Review and has moved significantly closer to its final goal.

We have introduced into Parliament the Energy Bill which will include powers necessary to make the changes outlined here. We then aim to implement the changes as rapidly as possible, subject to Parliamentary time and approval, and state aids clearance. We will, of course, be consulting with you, later this year on the details of a Renewables Obligation Order that will give effect to these changes".

ROC Response Snippets

Co-firing of regular biomass and sewage gas will be awarded 0.5 ROCs per MWh

All microgeneration stations (50 kW or less) will receive two ROCs per MWh

We will introduce a requirement to report on the sustainability of biomass used in generation, with the exception of stations with capacity of 50 kW and under

The Renewables Obligation (RO) is the Government's chief mechanism for incentivising renewable electricity generation in the UK.

Since the introduction of ROs, the proportion of electricity sales attributable to eligible renewables in the UK has doubled from 1.8% in 2002 to 4.4% in 2006

... AND WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT ...

The Renewables Obligation (RO) is the Government's chief mechanism for incentivising renewable electricity generation in the UK.

It is also an important part of the Government's programme for securing reductions in carbon dioxide emissions, working in support of other policy measures such as the EU Emissions Trading System.

It requires electricity suppliers to source an increasing proportion of their electricity from renewable sources, or pay a buy-out price. Since introduction in 2002 it has led to more than a doubling of the proportion of electric-

ity sales attributable to eligible renewables in the UK (from 1.8% in 2002 to 4.4% in 2006), and in its current form is expected to deliver approximately 13.5% renewable electricity by 2015.

The 2007 Energy White Paper therefore announced the Government's decision on future reform of the RO for England and Wales.

It also set out a number of other policies which will have an effect on development of renewables in this country, such as measures to address problems with planning law and grid connection, and efforts to provide appropriate funding for some projects.

Planned reforms to the RO are intended to work in conjunction with these other policies.

The principle change proposed is the introduction of banding - i.e. providing differentiated levels of support for different technologies. Other elements of the reform included a proposal to increase the level of the RO to above the level previously announced (15.4%) if actual generation requires, to a maximum level equivalent to 20% of total supply.

The consultation document, "Reform of the Renewables Obligation" (May 2007), set out the details of the proposed reforms and invited views on them.

RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION CONSULTATIONS

For members of the Renewable Energy Association, the table below shows forthcoming consultations to which it is planned to respond.

If you are a REA member and would like more information about any of these consultations, please email Susan Pelmore (spelmore@r-e-a.net). If there are any consultations not on the list to which you would like the REA to respond, please also send an email.

Govt. Dept./ Organisation	Consultation title	Published	Response due	REA contact
Ofgem	Distributed Energy -Initial Proposals for More Flexible Market and Licensing Arrangements	18-Dec-07	11-Mar-08	Andrew Cooper (acooper@r-e-a.net)
Communities and Local Government	Consultation Paper on new Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Development	17-Dec-07	17-Mar-08	Andrew Cooper (acooper@r-e-a.net)
Scottish Executive	Draft Regulations on the Planning Hierarchy	30-Nov-07	21-Mar-08	Andrew Cooper (acooper@r-e-a.net)
Ofgem	Open letter announcing review of industry code governance -284/07	28-Nov-07	22-Jan-08	Gaynor Hartnell (ghartnell@r-e-a.net)
Scottish Executive	Draft Regulations on Development Planning	31-Oct-07	20-Feb-08	Andrew Cooper (acooper@r-e-a.net)
Scottish Executive	Planning Enforcement Regulations 2007	31-Oct-07	20-Feb-08	Andrew Cooper (acooper@r-e-a.net)
DfT	Moving towards a carbon-linked RTFO and removing support for unsustainable biofuels	25-Sep-07	31-Jan-08	Clare Wenner (cwenner@r-e-a.net)

BREAK-THROUGH IN SOLAR POWER GENERATION

The holy grail of renewable energy has come a step closer as thousands of mass-produced wafer-thin solar cells printed on aluminium film start to roll off a production line in California, heralding what British scientists called "a revolution" in generating electricity.

The solar panels produced by a Silicon Valley start-up company, *Nanosolar*, are radically different from the kind that European consumers are increasingly buying to generate power from their own roofs. Printed like a newspaper directly on to aluminium foil, they are flexible, light and, if expectations are fulfilled, expected to make it as cheap

to produce electricity from sunlight as from coal.

Nanosolar claim that its order books are full until mid-2009 and that a second factory would soon open in Germany where demand for solar power has rocketed. Britain was unlikely to benefit from the technology for some years because other countries paid better money for renewable electricity, it added.

Nanosolar is one of several companies in Japan, Europe, China and the US racing to develop different versions of "thin film" solar technology. It is owned by internet entrepreneur Martin Roeschisen who sold his com-

pany to Yahoo for \$450m and, with the help of the founders of Google, the US government and other entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley, has invested nearly \$300m in commercialising the technology.

At the moment solar electricity costs nearly three times as much as conventional electricity to generate, but *Nanosolar's* developments are thought to have halved the price of producing conventional solar cells at a stroke.

Figures recently released by the Earth Policy Institute in Washington show that solar electricity generation is now the fastest-growing electricity source.

UK-SDA Member benefits include ...

Promotion via the www.uk-sda.org website & printed media

Use of the UK-SDA logo, and accreditation against an industry code of practice

Business referrals & introductions to potential customers

Updates on technical standards, government initiatives and supply-chain intelligence

Participation in the formulation of industry best-practice & standards

Rainwater harvesting highlights ...

Reduces household mains-water consumption by around 50%

Water-savings rise to more than 80% in commercial buildings with a large roof and a high demand for non-potable water

Harvested rain-water is approved for all non-potable water requirements, such as toilet-flushing, clothes washing, garden/grounds irrigation and car/fleet washing

Saves the cost and energy involved in the purification and transport of mains-water destined for non-potable use

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FEATURED TECHNOLOGY — RAINWATER HARVESTING

Alongside the need to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and to reduce CO₂ emissions, sits a similar imperative to economise on mains-water consumption.

Notwithstanding average rainfall levels over the current winter, water-supplies throughout England south of the Humber remain under stress with ongoing population growth continually adding to water supply problems.

These issues are well-recognised in the Code for Sustainable Homes which sets out maximum levels of mains water consumption needed to meet each level of the Code.

Rainwater harvesting is the simplest and most cost-effective way of achieving these minimum standards as a typical domestic system will provide nearly a half of de-

mestic needs. In commercial buildings that combine a large roof with a high de-

mand for non-potable water, rising to 80% in commercial buildings that combine a large roof with a high demand for non-potable water.



Typical domestic system schematic; commercial systems follow the same principles

mand for non-potable water, rising to 80% in commercial buildings that combine a large roof with a high demand for non-potable water.

The systems are fully automatic, and work by collecting the rainwater falling on the roof, filtering it and then storing in an underground

In a typical system, any demand for non-potable water, such as a toilet being flushed for example, is sensed by the control system as a drop on pressure in the non-potable pipework. This pressure is then restored by an electric pump submersed in the storage tank until the demand for water ceases.

From the users perspective, everything works exactly as it would if mains-water was being used.

Storing rainwater where it falls also helps the environment more generally by reducing storm-water run-off, and by saving the energy wasted in transporting and treating water destined for non-potable use.



Sustainabilitylive!

20-22 May 2008 NEC Birmingham, UK

Leading the way for a sustainable future

Sustainabilitylive! is the UK's largest event tackling environmental issues, from energy management solutions and services to efficient water use; it comprises the following four leading industry events (see www.sustainabilitylive.com for more details):



The UK's largest dedicated energy event where visitors can source products and services to all their energy issues.



Environmental Technology Expo is the event to move organisations toward a greener business.



Meet leading water and wastewater companies showcasing innovative water and effluent products, solutions and equipment to enable organisations to use water efficiently.



Brownfield Expo is designed to service the rapidly growing market in Brownfield development including land remediation