

2015 Feed in Tariff Review – Please Help!

This message is for Community Energy Scotland and Community Land Scotland members who are receiving FiT payments for their renewable energy project; and for those who may wish to develop a project. Your input is vital to help make the case to retain the FiT and the opportunity to develop further FiT scale projects.

Update and Suggested Action

On 27 August, DECC¹ launched a public consultation² about a suite of proposed measures to ‘control costs’ relating to the Feed-in Tariff scheme³, introduced in 2012 as “the Government’s main policy measure to encourage the deployment of small-scale low-carbon electricity generation in Great Britain”⁴. The consultation closes on **22nd October**⁵.

The main intention of these measures is to reduce the amount of financial support that is given to those who install renewable energy generators, eg, solar PV or wind turbines. We think this will make many schemes unworkable as the investment in the current technology will not provide the necessary income to cover costs within a reasonable time-scale.

There is a serious risk that community energy projects will be particularly hard hit despite their wider benefits. Community Energy Scotland will be responding on behalf of our community members but groups and individuals are encouraged to respond directly as well.

Ways of Responding

- **Attend the FiT Review Community Energy Workshop** on the 13 October 1300-1530, Edinburgh Training and Conference Centre. An opportunity to put your views directly to DECC Officials.
- **Submit a direct response.** Individual or group responses to the consultation can be emailed to: FITreview@decc.gsi.gov.uk or sent to their mailing address as noted in the consultation document. There are 32 consultation questions although there is no need to answer all of them. Do not be surprised if you do not understand all of them!
- **Join the 10:10 campaign**

We alerted members with an email on the 24th September about this. It’s an easy way of inputting your views to a K wide campaign by 10:10 and 38 Degrees - see keepfits.org. This

¹ Department of Energy and Climate Change, the Westminster government department that is meant to reduce the amount of climate change that the UK is responsible for and enable the shift in our energy supply system to enable and encourage the shift away from destructive fuel-based energy vectors.

² <https://econsultation.decc.gov.uk/office-for-renewable-energy-deployment-ored/fit-review-2015>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/feed-in-tariffs/overview>

⁴ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/35/pdfs/ukxiem_20150035_en.pdf

⁵ Strictly speaking, the cut-off time is 11:45 the following day, Friday 23rd October.

takes you through four simple questions⁶ and gives you an opportunity to upload an image if you want. It also sets up an email to your MP, which you can edit and send (or not!) with your answers and a covering note.

- **Help CES build the detailed case**

We are looking for information from community energy projects that are in receipt of feed-in tariff payments. This could be in your own words but it would be useful to have information on:

Overall, what has been the impact of your FiT project for your community?

What has the project enabled you to do in your community?

(We know that Ministers are likely to be particularly interested in fuel poverty alleviation projects, energy efficiency projects, and socio-economic development measures that have been made possible or improved because of your FiT project.)

What skills have been added or increased because of the project?

What, in your view, the additional benefits of it being a community project rather than a private or commercial one are?

Do you have any further development plans that have been made possible by your FiT project?

If you have any other points please let us know!

We will collate responses and refer to as many examples as we can in our response.

Please respond to Marion.Ohara@communityenergyscotland.org.uk by **Monday 19th October**.

⁶

- I support clean energy in the UK because...
- If you or your community has benefited from clean energy, tell us about that here.
- If you're planning a project that's threatened by these changes, tell us about that here.
- The government are asking for feedback on their plan to slash support for clean energy, or remove it all together. What would you like to say to them?