

# GOVERNMENT REVIEW INTO SOLAR P.V.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) recently announced a review into the support for the Solar PV energy generation. On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March they released revised tariff rates for Solar PV over 50kW. These changes are likely to be agreed by July 2011 and brought into force from the 1st August 2011, see new tariff below:



## Solar PV Rates From August 2011

Old Bands and Rates		New Band and Rates	
10-100kw	31.4p	50-150kW	19p
100kw – 5MW	29.3p	150kW – 250kW	15p
		250kW – 5MW	8.5p
Stand Alone	29.3p	Stand Alone	8.5p

So what does this mean for future and current schemes?

For many existing schemes that have already progressed to planning or that are close to being submitted, there is still a window of opportunity to gain planning, build and connect the installations before 1<sup>st</sup> August. A big push on these particular sites is being made by a number of developers.

Many Solar Farm Developers are also currently reviewing their businesses and appear likely to re-focus on small scale Solar PV for agricultural builds as well as exploring other forms of renewable energy production such as small to mid scale wind turbines and Anaerobic Digestion (AD), which conversely has had its support increased.

Some of the key requirements to develop sites for renewable energy production are the proximity to the national grid connections (normally via either 11KV or 33KV power lines), good access and minimal impact on neighbours, landscape, environmental and historical features.