



21st August, 2015

Dear Prime Minister

We are writing to express our strongest support for the continuation of the Feed-in Tariffs (FiT) for renewable energy and ask you to ensure the forthcoming FiT Review supports an ambitious level of local deployment.

As representatives of communities, co-operatives, workers, local government, farmers, social enterprises and companies who support the development of a green economy we have been surprised and concerned at a succession of recent announcements – from sudden changes to the renewable energy market, to scrapping the Zero Carbon Homes initiative and the absence of energy efficiency schemes - which undermine Britain's position in the run-up to the climate talks in Paris.

In light of this the upcoming review of the FiT is causing great concern.

Introduced with strong Conservative support, the FiT has resulted in a thriving local industry employing tens of thousands of people and enabling hundreds of thousands of people to take a direct stake in renewable power generation. So far it has resulted in 625,000 solar homes, businesses and innovative community schemes. It has also resulted in nearly 7,000 homes, offices and communities powered by small wind turbines, micro CHP, anaerobic digestion and hydro power. No wonder last year you described the progress of solar, a key FiT technology, as "a huge success story".

Stable support provided through FiTs has been key to the sharp cost reductions delivered by British renewables and has put the prospect of zero subsidy within reach. Maintaining a strong FiT scheme offers excellent value for money; analysis shows that continued ambitious deployment of renewables under FiTs will have a very modest future impact on household bills.

We welcome the prospect of generating our own clean power, subsidy-free. This would be an enormous prize - unleashing unprecedented competition and technological innovation for the benefit of consumers, communities, our health and the environment, and lowering consumer bills for hard working families. Yet this cost reduction can only happen through the maintenance of stable and effective policies.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the vital importance of the FiT scheme, and representatives from our coalition respectfully request a meeting at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

Paul Barwell, Chief Executive, Solar Trade Association

Maf Smith, Deputy Chief Executive, RenewableUK

Ray Horwood, Director, National Federation of Roofing Contractors

Gillian Drakeford, Country Retail Manager, IKEA UK and Ireland

Dr Jonathan Scurlock, Chief Adviser, Renewable Energy & Climate Change, National Farmers' Union

Dax Lovegrove, Director, Sustainability & Innovation, Kingfisher

Frances O'Grady, General Secretary, TUC

Christine Blower, General Secretary, National Union of Teachers

Professor Anthony Ryan OBE, Pro-vice Chancellor, University of Sheffield

David Sheard, Leader, Kirklees Council

Tony Stacey, Chief Executive, South Yorkshire Housing Association

Craig Bennett, Director, Friends of the Earth

Peter Lipman, Chair, Transition Network

James Owen, Commercial Director, Public Power Solutions

Andrew Eagles, Managing Director, Sustainable Homes - managers of the Sustainable Homes Index for Tomorrow

Brian Cuthbertson, Head of Environment and Sustainability, Diocese of London

Sarah Javaid, Executive Director, Muslim Action for Development and Environment

Mark Cox. MBA M.I.Ref.Eng, Contracts Manager and Head of Renewable Energy Group, Cement Division, Hanson UK

Simon Letts, Leader, Southampton City Council

Dr Nina Skorupska, Chief Executive, Renewable Energy Association

Niall Stuart, Chief Executive, Scottish Renewables

Ramsay Dunning, General Manager, Co-operative Energy

Alasdair Reisner, Chief Executive, Civil Engineering Contractors Association

Joanna D. Haigh CBE FRS, Co-Director - Climate Change and Environment, Grantham Institute

Grant Davey, Leader, Northumberland County Council

Nick Mabey, Chief Executive, E3G

Leo Murray, Director of Strategy, 10:10

Julia Groves, Chief Executive, Trillion Fund

Steve Bratt, Chief Executive, Electrical Contractors Association

Neil Schofield, Head of External Affairs, Worcester Bosch

Gareth Williams, Chair, Business futures forum

Peter Holbrook, Chief Executive, Social Enterprise UK

Jonathon Porritt, Founder Director, Forum for the Future

Emma Bridge, Chief Executive, Community Energy England

Piers Telemacque, Vice President Society & Citizenship, National Union of Students

Ian Gough, Energy Manager, Wokingham Borough Council

Ollie Pendered, Chair, Community Energy South

Jo Abbess, Associate Research Fellow, Birkbeck University of London

Emeritus Professor Keith Barnham, Distinguished Research Fellow, Physics Department, Imperial College London

Hugh Cripps, Chief Executive, Yorkshire Energy Partnership

Professor Jim Marshall, Liverpool University

Professor Catherine Mitchell, Energy Policy Group, University of Exeter

Cllr Claudia Webbe, Executive Member for Environment & Transport, London Borough of Islington

Gareth Jones, Managing Director, Carbon Zero Renewables Limited

Toddington Harper, Chief Executive, Big60Million

Barbara Hammond, MBE, Chief Executive, Low Carbon Hub

Pete West, Renewable Energy Development Officer, Dorset County Council

Mike Smyth, Chair, Energy4All

Lesley Bennett, Chair, Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy

Dr Jane Hindley, Lecturer, Essex Sustainability Institute

Nina Shields, Member of Ledbury Community Solar

Nick Sherwood, Director, Pomona Solar Co-op

Karl Harder, Managing Director, Abundance

Ruth Busbridge, Director, Ledbury Community Solar Co-operative

Emeritus Professor John Vickerman, University of Manchester and a Director of the Ledbury Solar Cooperative.

Anne Crane, Co-Director, Ledbury Community Solar Cooperative

Simon Hamlyn BA Hons, Chief Executive Officer, British Hydropower Association

Kate Gilmartin, Director, My Green Investment CIC, Coordinator Micro Hydro Association and Community Hydro Forum

Joe Nixon, Director, REPOWER Balcombe IPS

Jeremy Leggett, Chairman, SolarAid

Vivien Arscott, Secretary, Ledbury Community Solar Co-operative

Giles Willson, Managing Director, Glass and Glazing Federation

Chas Warlow, Environment Director, Teddington & Ham Hydro Cooperative Ltd

Merlin Hyman, Chief Executive, Regen SW

Ruth Jarman, Co-ordinator, Hartley Wintney Solar Action Group

David Elliott, Emeritus Professor of Technology Policy, The Open University

Dr Stuart Parkinson, Executive Director, Scientists for Global Responsibility

Ruth Busbridge, Director, Ledbury Solar Co-op

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Andy Heald, Director, Generation Community

James Skinner, Trustee Emeritus, New Economics Foundation

Cllr John McCreesh, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Cumbria County Council

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Stephen Collins, Director, Sussex Energy Advisors

Cllr Letts, Southampton City Council

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Matthew Locking, Energy Strategy Officer, Herefordshire Council

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Ben Boswell, Energy & Environmental Management Team Leader, Herefordshire Council

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Kate Henderson, Chief Executive, Town & Country Planning Association

James McGinlay, Head of Sustainable Communities, London Borough of Merton

John Sauven, Executive Director, Greenpeace

Matt Rhodes, Labour Group Research Officer, London Borough of Islington

Polly Webber, Chief Exec, Hebden Bridge Alternative Technology Centre

Dr Mary Gillie, Director, Energy Local

Cllrs Loakes, Ali & Ashgar, Cabinet Office, Culture & Communities Directorate, Waltham Forest

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