



Solar Trade Association  
53 Chandos Place  
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Baroness Neville-Rolfe DBE CMG  
Minister of State for Energy and Intellectual Property  
Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0ET

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Dear Minister,

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of State for Energy and Intellectual Property. We welcome the new department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the tremendous opportunities renewable heat can offer to both the green growth and carbon reduction agenda.

We write to stress the importance of your decision on Government's future support for solar thermal technology. We urge you to retain solar thermal within the RHI and to ensure that the increasingly diverse applications of solar thermal are fully recognised within the scheme.

Solar thermal is an internationally proven technology with the potential to play a major role in decarbonising heat in the UK's domestic and commercial sectors. It is a perfect match for tackling fuel poverty in social housing given its uniquely low running costs. It is also the best heat technology for dense, urban areas where space and air quality may be an issue, as London demonstrates, where solar thermal is the dominant technology for RHI applications.

As building fabric performance continue to improve, hot water demand represents an increasing share of the energy use in buildings, which makes solar thermal a technology of particular strategic importance.

The UK currently lags well behind other countries in its use of solar thermal - ranking 44th according to the IEA for installed capacity per capita. However, with continued support from government under the Renewable Heat Incentive solar thermal has the opportunity to contribute to ever-wider range of applications, including district heating, space heating, industrial process heating and valuable integration with other renewable heating technologies. The scope for solar thermal to displace fossil heating in industrial process heating is remarkable. Analysis by IRENA shows that solar thermal technologies could technically provide nearly half of heat demand in the industrial sector, displacing large amounts of carbon.

If the proposal to remove solar thermal from the RHI is implemented, the technology will be at a competitive disadvantage and there is every prospect that the current supply chain will atrophy, together with valuable UK skills and the manufacturing industry where the UK has cutting edge capabilities. We urge you to back solar thermal technology.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Barwell, Chief Executive, Solar Trade Association  
Bill Edrich, Director, Bristol City Council Energy Service  
Craig Bennett, Director, Friends of the Earth  
Merlin Hyman, Chief Executive, Regen SW



Doug Parr, Chief Scientist and Policy Director, Greenpeace UK

Julian Brooks, Network and Programme Manager, Good Homes Alliance

Pedro Dias, Secretary General, European Solar Thermal Industry Federation

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

David Weatherall, Lead Policy Adviser, Energy Saving Trust

Stuart Elmes, Chief Executive, Viridian Solar

Bill Wright, Sustainability Consultant, Sustainable Homes

Finbarr McCarthy, Specification Design Manager, Kingspan Thermomax

Syed Ahmed, Director, Energy for London

Gabriel Wondrausch, Strategy Director, SunGift Energy

Niall Stuart, Chief Executive, Scottish Renewables

Kathy McVeigh, Managing Director, CoolSky Ltd

George Goudsmit, Managing Director, AES Solar

Mark Krull, Director, Logic Certification Ltd

Duncan Lee, Technical Director, Solar UK LTD

Peter Randall, Managing Director, Solar Kingdom Ltd

Isaac Occhipinti, Head of External Affairs, Hot Water Association



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