

## New Solar Photovoltaics deployment table

### Introduction

In September 2013, in addition to existing quarterly and annual tables on renewable energy, DECC will publish for the first time a table specifically focussing on overall UK solar photovoltaics (PV) deployment. With the rapid growth in solar PV deployment (at both small-scale and large-scale) experienced over the last four years, and the resulting increasing amount of financial support being given to the technology, there is a need for more frequent and up to date figures of overall deployment.

The new table shows the cumulative capacity, as well as number of sites, commissioned; disaggregated by geography (GB/NI), size and financial support mechanism. This monthly table will provide a comprehensive and up to date summary of PV deployment. These data are published one month in arrears in the new table 'ET 6.4' at:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/renewables-section-6-energy-trends](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/renewables-section-6-energy-trends)

### Data Source

In order to provide a comprehensive measure of deployment, table ET 6.4 utilises several data sources. The table below summarises these data sources:

Source	Description	Geographical coverage	Capacity coverage
Central Feed in Tariff Register (CFR)	Sites confirmed on the Feed in Tariff	Great Britain	<= 5 MW
Renewables Obligation (RO) accredited stations list	Sites accredited on the RO	United Kingdom	All (NI) >50 kW (GB)
ROO-FIT accreditations	Sites accredited under ROO-FIT	Great Britain	>50 kW – 5 MW
Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS)	Sites registered under MCS	United Kingdom	<=50 kW
Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD)	Sites going through the planning process	United Kingdom	Typically non-domestic sites (i.e above 50 kW).

The first three of these sources are provided, at installation level, to DECC by the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM), who administer the schemes. Whilst these are provided as internal reports, data are also publically available in the Feed in Tariff (FiT) installations report and RO accredited stations list<sup>1</sup>. An installation level report of MCS registrations is provided by Gemserv, who administer this on behalf of DECC. The REPD, administered by Ricardo-AEA on behalf of DECC, is also available publically, as a data extract.<sup>2</sup>

### Methodology

From the reports listed, table ET 6.4 shows cumulative capacity, and count of sites, commissioned each month, aggregated by location, support mechanism (RO/FIT/unaccredited) and capacity band (typically above and below 50 kW). To ensure the greatest coverage of operational sites, but without double-counting any, the following methods are used.

The CFR and RO accredited stations lists are the primary sources used, as establishing the relative take-up of PV under each support mechanism is a key output of this table. All sites

<sup>1</sup> RO accredited stations list:

[www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/Public/ReportManager.aspx?ReportVisibility=1&ReportCategory=0](http://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/Public/ReportManager.aspx?ReportVisibility=1&ReportCategory=0)

FiT installations report:

[www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/feed-tariff-fit-scheme/feed-tariff-reports/installation-reports](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/feed-tariff-fit-scheme/feed-tariff-reports/installation-reports)

<sup>2</sup> REPD: <https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/planning-database-reports/>

### *Special feature – New Solar PV table*

accredited, and commissioned as at the end of August 2013, on the FiT/RO are included in the first publication.

In Great Britain, to be eligible for support under FiTs, solar PV sites must first register under the MCS (for sites up to and equal to 50 kW) or ROOFIT (for sites above 50 kW, up to and including 5 MW). Due to time lags between schemes gaining accreditation under MCS/ROOFIT and being confirmed on to the CFR, there is always a significant amount of capacity registered, but as yet not confirmed on to the FiT scheme. As such, the capacity (and number) of sites accredited/registered on ROOFIT/MCS *but not yet confirmed on the CFR* is also included. Similarly, in Northern Ireland, sites up to and equal to 50 kW must be registered on MCS to be eligible for support under the RO; so any MCS registered capacity not yet accredited under the RO is also included in the table.

The REPD tracks the progress of all sites that have been, or are going through, the planning process. As many RO/FiT accredited schemes will also be listed here, only those certain to not be captured in the other sources are included. Unlike the RO, the CFR, ROOFIT and MCS data are all anonymous, so it is difficult to identify which sites are also captured by the REPD. Therefore, *only those unaccredited GB sites above 5 MW* (the FiT threshold) as well as *all unaccredited NI* sites are included.

Prior to the introduction of the FiT scheme in April 2010, there was little data on solar PV deployment, other than the handful of schemes accredited under the RO. Solar PV deployment was therefore modelled (in capacity only). To be consistent with previous years, the amount of modelled capacity in excess of FiT/RO sites commissioned (in the pre-FiT years), is carried forward.

### **Revisions and constraints**

The monthly table ET 6.4 will be using more up to date information than that used for the quarterly renewable electricity capacity table, ET 6.1. Therefore, there is the possibility of publishing inconsistent figures at the same time. To avoid confusion resulting from this, table ET 6.4 will be constrained to ET 6.1 for the time period up to, and including, the latest quarter published in the latter. Each quarter, when table ET 6.1 is revised (to the beginning of the latest calendar year), so will ET 6.4. For months published in ET 6.4 beyond the latest ET 6.1 quarter, the latest information is used.

### **Latest statistics**

Provisional figures show that, at the end of June 2013, overall solar PV capacity was 2,413 MW. This total includes 1,684 MW accredited on FiTs, 120 MW on the RO, and 609 MW of unaccredited capacity.

Since June 2012, solar PV capacity has increased by 70 per cent (991 MW). Whilst growth in solar PV since June 2009 has been driven by the FiT (and particularly smaller-scale, <=50 kW schemes), more recently there has been an increasing amount of larger-scale capacity. Since December 2012, of a total increase in PV deployment of 707 MW, around 110 MW of RO accredited capacity has been commissioned, with a further 251 MW of as yet unaccredited >50 kW capacity.

### **User feedback**

We welcome all feedback from users; therefore, if you have any comments or queries regarding this new monthly table, please contact James Hemingway using the contact details below.

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