

CONFERENCE CALL WITH DCENR RE RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPORT SCHEMES: 4 JULY 2016

Participants:

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Key points:

- There will be a gap between closure of the REFIT schemes and the commencement of a replacement. It is anticipated that any new scheme will not be available until the end of 2017
- DCENR is about to go to tender on a piece of work to identify the appropriate technology option, including cost viability and taking consideration of maturity of the technology. This will be shaped by the EU Framework for Climate and Energy published in October 2014 and will include consideration of opportunities to support community-based projects including, an analysis of successful models of community-based schemes in other nations.
- The Invitation to Tender is currently being refined but is expected to issue shortly. DCENR will touch base again before it issues.
- It is expected that the focus will be on commercial (rather than pre-commercial) technologies on the basis that pre-commercial activity is already supported through grant from elsewhere (SEAI) e.g. ocean research/testing
- It is also anticipated that any scheme will be 'market reflective'.
- It is possible that there may be a mandatory requirement to give something back to the community
- In terms of an RHI, the analysis being conducted by Element Energy is coming to a close. Options are being refined and consideration given to tariff design. It is expected that an Irish Government decision will be made towards the end of 2016 with a scheme commencing in 2017.
- It is estimated that the RHI scheme will deliver around 4-6% of the Irish Government's renewable heat target (12%)
- In terms of cost control, DCENR are looking at a number of approaches including degression based on uptake (similar to the UK); degression year on year; or budget cap every year
- With regard to a potential JSG non-paper, it was agreed that this should be postponed until such times as DfE had a clearer idea of direction of travel in relation to BREXIT, the NI Programme for Government and Ministerial priorities