

ENERGY EFFICIENCY BRANCH (STUART)**RHI Phase 1**

- Change Control agreed with Ofgem (13 Oct)
- Carbon Trust loan issue ongoing – only 3 affected applications remain. Ofgem will issue letter confirming that only option is to pay-back loan.
- Through the Domestic Regulations we are amending the Non-domestic RHI Regulations to allow repayment of CT loan - exploring.
- Data sharing issue ongoing – Information Management Unit investigating new service for data transfer and will report back to Energy Division shortly.
- Uptake under the scheme remains positive at 4% of total GB figures.

RHI Phase 2

- Regulations were made on 8 Dec and Scheme went live on 9 Dec.
- Work ongoing with NI Direct to finalise some of the Guidance documents.
- Issue has arisen over households wanting to apply for Domestic RHI Scheme who have received NISEP grant for Solar Thermal – seeking legal advice to confirm that this does not qualify as public funding.
- Business Case for additional RHI staff has been submitted to DETI Resourcing Group – approval received for RHI SO post.
- Trading Standards Case against Greenhouse Renewables – MCS/DECC have confirmed that those affected households cannot be included on MCS scheme. DSO have confirmed that draft Domestic Regulations allow DETI to include those households affected on the RHI scheme provided boilers can be checked and validated to ensure they meet certain standards. Court Case (3 Nov) adjourned until Jan 2015 to allow assessments of boilers to be completed. Positive letter received from Solicitor representing Greenhouse Renewables – to arrange inspections.

Energy Efficiency Directive

- Heat Project Board Meeting 29 Oct – agreed action for DETI/DSD/SIB to draft and agree a Strategic Outline Case (SOC). SOC has been revised and is to be submitted to DFP. Working Group established to develop and agree Outline Business Case. Work on the OBC is ongoing – DSD Minister and NEA have written requesting NISEP extension – Submission being prepared.
- Work underway to develop options for meeting EED Article 7 requirements beyond 2016, including measuring/reporting energy savings from other existing/proposed NI energy efficiency schemes besides NISEP (including OFMDFM's proposed HEaT project) work on hold whilst HEAT OBC being developed.
- Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) – Workshops held on 21 Nov to provide advice and training on ESOS requirements for business and industry and NIEA's enforcement role.
- UK Project Board established to commission and oversee Article 14(1) Comprehensive Assessment – NI contribution to be £40k which can be paid this year (14/15). May be 2015/16 before invoices received so may need to accrue this funding to 2015/16.