

News & Views From SML

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Case Study

SOLAR PV AND HOT WATER FOR
BRIXTON SOCIAL HOUSING

Work has commenced on the installation of SML solar water heating and PV systems at an innovative social housing project in Brixton, South London.

The development at the Hillmead Community Centre was built for Metropolitan Housing Trust by London-based developers Lad Construction Ltd using highly efficient calcium silicate blocks.

The solar systems are being installed by SML partner company Southern Solar Ltd who assisted Metropolitan in obtaining grants of 30% for the solar water heating and 50% for the solar PV through the Government's LCBP Phase 2 funding scheme.

The solar water heating system incorporates 15 Filsol 4m² in-roof solar collectors to be connected to individual hot water cylinders in each of the 15 flats. In addition, 32 Sharp 180W PV modules have been installed onto the same roof structure to generate free electricity.



This Issue

- LCBP Phase 2 Grant Increases P.1
- Case Study: Brixton Social Housing P.1
- Case Study: Solar Heating at Forgeside P.2
- Solar Planning Rules Relaxed P.2

LCBP Phase 2 Government Grants Increased to 50% for Solar Water Heating

Government funding of solar water heating installations through the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) Phase 2 scheme has increased from 30% to a maximum of 50% of the eligible costs.

Speaking at the opening of a LCBP Phase 2 funded solar installation at a junior school in Richmond, Energy Minister Malcolm Wicks announced that all microgeneration technologies covered under the LCBP framework will receive grants from the LCBP at 50% of the eligible costs, bringing them into line with the existing funding level available for solar PV. The change will apply to all applications received by the BRE from April 1st 2008.

The LCBP Phase 2 scheme provides £50 million of capital grant funding for the installation of microgeneration technologies by organisations in the UK public and not-for-profit sectors, including local authorities,

housing associations, schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, public service organisations and registered charities.



Under the rules of the programme, the supply and installation of these technologies can only be carried out by 'Framework Suppliers', such as SML, who have been appointed by the Government.

Since the launch of the LCBP Phase 2 scheme in December 2006, SML have established themselves as the leading Framework Supplier for solar water heating.

"Overhauling the grant scheme makes small scale green energy technology a more affordable option for public organisations, schools and charities"

Malcolm Wicks

Technology	Funding Available	% Grant Available
Solar Water Heating	£7M	50%
Solar PV	£17.5M	50%

Policy News

GOVERNMENT GREEN LIGHT FOR SOLAR

New rules to allow homeowners to install solar water heating, solar PV and other microgeneration technologies were given the green light today by Planning Minister Caroline Flint. From April 6, homeowners will be able to install microgeneration equipment, like solar panels, without needing to get planning permission, as long as there is clearly no impact on others.

Flint said: "Technology like solar panels can make a real difference, but homeowners can be put off by the time and expense of getting planning permission. These new rules, together with our world-leading timetable for all new homes to be zero carbon from 2016, are a key part of our commitment to tackle climate change."

Solar panels on buildings must not protrude more than 200mm from roof slopes while stand alone panels must not be more than 4m in height or 5m from the property boundary.

Funding News

BIG LOTTERY FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

A £10.1 million pound scheme to assist communities in financing renewable energy installations has been announced by the Big Lottery Fund. Through the Community Sustainable Energy Programme, community groups (including schools, village halls, registered charities) can apply for grants of up to £50,000 or 50% of the project cost for the installation of renewable energy technologies including solar water heating and PV. BIG funding can also be used in conjunction with the LCBP Phase 2 grant scheme.



Solar Regeneration at Forgeside Housing Estate

30% Government Grant Funding for Solar Water Heating

The community of Forgeside near Blaenavon has benefitted from a grant of over £38,000 from the Government's Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) Phase 2 funding scheme for the installation of SML solar water heating systems.

SML partner company, Filsol Solar Limited, were approached by United Welsh Housing Association to design, supply and install solar water heating systems for 30 south facing properties on the Forgeside estate. The solar panels were installed as part of a wider refurbishment programme of the 1980s estate. Part-funded by the Heads of the Valleys regeneration initiative, work included improvements to insulation as well as new high efficiency condensing boilers to work in conjunction with the solar panels. Visiting the estate, Leighton Andrews, the Welsh Deputy Minister for Regeneration said: "The Assembly Government is

supporting, promoting and encouraging the use of microgeneration and renewables. We want the Heads of the Valleys to be a model of good practice in sustainability and this project is an excellent example of how the latest technologies can be used on older properties."

United Welsh opted to include solar water heating in the refurbishment programme to give their tenants cheaper heating bills, whilst also helping to reduce carbon emissions. Solar water heating also offered a low maintenance solution over the lifetime of the systems.

The solar systems included flat plate solar collectors which are manufactured in Filsol's factory in Carmarthenshire. Each system will typically reduce household energy consumption by 1,500 to 2,000kWh per year, providing as much as 70% of the total annual hot water requirement per household.

SML specialize in the design, supply and installation of solar water heating and photovoltaic (PV) systems.

For further information contact us on 01295 201 201 or email info@solarmicrogeneration.co.uk.

