

Viessmann, a manufacturer of solar PV systems, responds to Government's statement on Feed-in Tariff

Yesterday, the government provided much needed clarity on how it will respond to the imminent court decision on when proposed cuts to feed-in tariff incentives can come into effect.

It proposes that, should the appeal be defeated, the December 12th 2011 deadline would move to March 3rd 2012 meaning that anyone installing and registering a system before March 3rd would be eligible for the 43 p/kWh tariff for 25 years (for installations less than 4 kW). After March 3rd these installations would be entitled to the tariff of 21 p/kWh (less than half), which would remain as initially indicated and would not be cut further as some had predicted. Large installations, with between 50 kW and 250 kW of capacity, will see feed-in tariff payments cut to 12.9 p/kWh. Mid-sized installations with 4-10 kW will see tariffs cut from 37.8 p to 16.8 p/kWh, while installations while 10-50 kW will see payments cut from 32.9 p to 15.2 p/kWh.

However, if the Government wins its appeal then December 12th as a cut-off date will remain.

Says Graham Russell, managing director of Viessmann, one of the leading international manufacturers of heating systems: "This holding statement is great news for those who had already planned solar PV but became uncertain about it last year.

“Despite all the confusion and very clouded messages coming from the Government, home owners have a chance, if they react quickly, to enjoy higher tariffs of 43.3 p/kWh until March 3rd.

„Homeowners should still strongly consider installing solar PV as even the worst case scenario of 21 p for 4 kW installations is still a great return and if homeowners act before the March 3rd deadline, they can install without any requirement for their home to meet an EPC level, requiring remedial work for most homes in the UK.“

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About Viessmann Limited

Viessmann Limited is part of the Viessmann Group of Companies which is one of the leading international manufacturers of heating systems. Founded in 1917, the family business is overseen by the chairmanship of Managing Partner Dr. Martin Viessmann. The Group has annual turnover of EUR 1.7 billion and employs a staff of approximately 9,400. Viessmann's comprehensive product range encompasses all fuel types and applications, allowing it to deliver high quality, efficient and fully integrated solutions. With an output range of 1.5 to 20,000 kW, Viessmann offers oil and gas-fired boilers, solar thermal and photovoltaics, combined heat and power modules (CHP), ground, air and water sourced heat pumps and biomass boilers.

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In all the debate surrounding the new FiT tariff levels, we hope that the domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is not forgotten. The addition of the RHI will offer a much more inclusive package for homeowners than the UK Feed-in Tariff alone and it is therefore important that the criteria set for Solar PV tariff qualification is also mirrored with the RHI. A level playing field between the two renewable sectors will create a better balance between electricity and heat generation that allows homeowners to choose from a wider selection of renewable heating options, appropriate to their circumstances.

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