

# Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Installations:

Proposed changes to Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) for business customers

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The purpose of this factsheet is to provide EDF Energy business customers with an update on proposed changes to the Feed-in Tariff (FITs) scheme. The factsheet has been developed by the Department of Energy and Climate Change and enhanced by EDF Energy to provide guidance for generators with <50kW installations. For installations >50kW please visit: <https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk> for details.

The factsheet is designed for EDF Energy customers. If your property is supplied by another supplier\* you need to contact them directly for guidance on their FIT application process.

For complete details of the proposals, including the proposed tariffs for larger PV installations, please visit [www.decc.gov.uk/FITs](http://www.decc.gov.uk/FITs). Also, the Carbon Trust will be able to answer your questions, the helpline number is 0800 085 2005.

\*EDF Energy will accept generators who are not a direct customer if they are supplied by a voluntary licensee or off grid.

### How does this affect me and my organisation?

On 31 October 2011, the Government announced proposed changes to the FITs scheme for small scale low-carbon electricity generation. **These proposals could have an effect on the rate of FITs payments your organisation will receive if you are looking to install solar PV.** If the proposals are agreed following consultation, your organisation will be affected as follows:

**If you already have an eligible solar PV installation with** a complete and valid Microgeneration Certification Scheme (“MCS”) certificate, and we have received your application form and MCS certificate, there will be **no change to your current payments.** You will continue to be eligible, for 25 years from the eligibility date of your installation.

**If you are in the process of installing, or are about to start doing so, and your installation is completed** and we receive your application for FITs together with a complete and valid MCS certificate before **midnight 11 December 2011**, you will be eligible to receive the current rate for each kWh of electricity you generate.

**If you are in the process of installing, or considering installing PV, but do not complete the installation** and ensure that we receive your application for FITs together with a complete and valid MCS certificate before **midnight 11 December 2011**,

your organisation will receive the current rate for each kWh of electricity generated between the date your application is received by EDF Energy and 31 March 2012.

From **1 April 2012** your organisation will receive a lower rate per kWh generated for the remainder of the 25 year eligibility period. See below for the proposed reduced rates. Please note these are subject to change following the consultation.

PV Band (kW)	Current generation tariff (p/kWh)	Proposed generation tariff (p/kWh)
≤4kW (new build)	37.8	21.0
≤4kW (retrofit)	43.3	21.0
>4 - 10kW	37.8	16.8
>10 - 50kW	32.9	15.2
>50 - 100kW	19	12.9
>100 - 150kW	19	12.9
>150 - 250kW	15	12.9
>250kW - 5MW	8.5	8.5
Stand alone	8.5	8.5

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In addition, if the installation is completed and we receive your application for FITs together with a complete and valid MCS certificate on or after **1 April 2012**, your organisation will be required to demonstrate that the building to which the installation is attached or wired meets specified energy efficiency requirements in order to be eligible for the new tariff. The **consultation paper (click here)** contains more details of the proposed requirements. If your organisation does not meet these requirements at the time you apply for FITs (or, for a transitional period, within 12 months afterwards), your organisation would receive a lower tariff of 9p per kWh.

The installer your organisation chooses needs to be accredited by the REAL assurance scheme which will protect you from bad practice. More information is available via the REAL website: [www.realassurance.org.uk](http://www.realassurance.org.uk)

### What you have to do to ensure you submit a valid application in time?

The important deadline is 12th December. To be eligible for the current higher rates we must have received your completed application for FITs and a valid MCS certificate for your installation by 11 December at the latest.

**PLEASE NOTE:** 11 December is a Sunday and our offices are closed 10 and 11 December. Therefore, if you are posting your application to us, you must ensure that we **receive** your completed application and MCS Certificate by Friday 9 December. To avoid any disappointment please ensure that you send your application in good time.

To sign up with EDF Energy as a FIT licensee please email the Green Energy Team at: [feedintariffs@edfenergy.com](mailto:feedintariffs@edfenergy.com) with the following information;

- Organisation Name
- Full Contact Name
- Address where installation is being or has been installed.
- What Technology it is (i.e. PV, Wind Turbine, Hydro etc)
- How many kWh/Size of system it is
- Email address and Telephone number
- EDF Energy Supply account number

We will respond with a Feed-in Tariff application form, which must be returned to us **fully completed** together with a copy of your MCS Certificate. It is the generators' responsibility to ensure that we receive the completed application form and MCS certificate before the deadline. Any incomplete or late application forms (including ones we receive by post over the weekend) cannot be accepted.

For maximum certainty, we suggest you consider using Royal Mail Special Delivery or a similar alternative from another delivery company which provides proof that the application has been received.

For installations >50kW you must complete your ROO-FIT application form with Ofgem, please apply online at <https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk>

### Why is the Government proposing these changes?

The FITs scheme was designed to promote the take-up of small-scale low carbon electricity generation (largely through the installation of solar PV installations) by domestic consumers and others. Take-up has been much higher than expected and the costs of installing PV have fallen by around 30% since the scheme started. The returns available to customers installing PV are therefore much higher than originally envisaged and are unsustainable without imposing a significant increase on the average electricity customer's bill.

The proposed changes will not affect those who have already installed PV and are registered for FITs, but are designed to reduce the tariffs for new installations in



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the light of developments such as the falling costs of installation. The proposed changes also aim to link FITs with improvements in energy efficiency which is one of the most cost-effective ways of reducing carbon emissions. The average rate of return for people receiving the proposed new rate is expected to be around 4.5%.

### **Why has the Government chosen 12 December as the cut-off date?**

12 December is 6 weeks from the launch of the consultation on 31 October. This is to allow those who have already paid a deposit a reasonable period to complete their installation and apply for FITs.

### **How certain are these changes?**

The Government is currently consulting on these proposals. This consultation will continue until 23 December. The Government may, following receipt and analysis of these consultation responses, change some or all of the detail of the proposals. But it will not bring forward the cut-off date for existing rates to any earlier than 12 December 2011, or the date for reduction of tariffs to before 1 April 2012.

**To take part in the consultation:** please visit:  
[www.decc.gov.uk/FITS](http://www.decc.gov.uk/FITS)



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Our customers appreciate e-guides because they offer timely delivery of easy to access information in an ideal format for the modern screen based working environment.

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To view our fuel mix visit [edfenergy.com](http://edfenergy.com)

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