

Government confirms no replacement for Feed-in Tariff

The government has axed subsidies for new small-scale low-carbon electricity generation, sparking dismay from the British Hydropower Association.

The Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) department has announced that there will be no replacement for the Feed-in tariff (FIT) scheme when it ends next March.

A consultation paper, published on the 19th July, states that there will be no 'direct subsidy' for new small-scale hydro generation, which will have to compete on the open market to sell surplus power.

Responding to the government's announcement, BHA Chairman, Adrian Loening said: "The announcement that there will be no replacement for the Feed-in tariff is a major blow to small-scale hydro in the UK. The government has known the FiT would be closing for three years and the fact that they are only now beginning the conversation about new policies is frankly far too little, far too late."

Loening goes on to say "Government plans to close the FiT scheme completely to new entrants, risk both jobs in the sector and decreases in deployment levels of small-scale low-carbon generation. The uncertainty that this creates does not help 'in building a successful renewables industry' that the Government claims.

Indeed it perpetuates the boom and bust cycle that has characterised policy since the inception of the FiT"

The BHA will request an urgent meeting with Claire Perry and will continue to actively lobby BEIS to understand and develop the long term benefits that the hydro industry has to offer.