SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION

SEA Members Survey

The SEA member survey included a range of questions to gather general views on the current policy landscape for renewables and energy efficiency in buildings.

Survey headlines

SEA Members are concerned about the current policy and post-election policy for the growth of renewables, low-carbon and energy efficient technologies. The biggest barriers to success proved to be the lack of long-term strategy, complexity of Government schemes and little funding/support. Key to improving concerns about policy is to provide stable funding support for energy efficiency and renewable heat. SEA members also felt improvements could be made through stronger regulation, support for an energy in buildings strategy and cross-departmental objectives linked to this.

Other survey outcomes

- More than 70% SEA members disagree or strongly disagree that there is effective current policy which supports the growth of renewable, low-carbon, and efficiency.
- More than 80% of our members also agree or strongly agree that policy support for building level energy solutions post-election is a concern.
- When asked, in terms of the Government schemes that impacted their business, what is the biggest barrier to their success, lack of long-term strategy, complexity of Government schemes and little funding/support ranked top selected by all members.
- Other areas for concern were sudden changes to policy, unpredictable budget management, subsidy rather than regulation and delays to implementing policy against planned.
- Key to improving concerns over policy was stable funding support for energy efficiency and/or renewable heat and having a clearer vision for role of demand-side energy technologies in the energy system.
- In addition, the SEA members would like cross party support for an 'Energy in Buildings Strategy', including cross-departmental objectives through this strategy, policy which is whole house focussed and stronger regulation. Recognising retrofit as a National Infrastructure Priority (and budgeting it accordingly) was also raised

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- 75% of SEA members think it unlikely or very unlikely that ECO 2015 - 2017 and GDHIF funding offer enough support for energy efficiency delivery after the Election.

> *ECO is overly complex and restrictive and the GDHIF is a boiler scrappage scheme in all but name.*

- More than 60% of SEA members are concerned or very concerned about RHI funding post-2016.

> *Politics take priority over delivery. RHI is starting to have an impact and demand is increasing. Uncertainty over funding levels the future of funding does affect customer decisions.*

- 80% also think it unlikely or very unlikely that Zero Carbon Homes commitments can be met by the Building Regulations and/or Allowable Solutions policy.

> *Regulation has to be announced and adhered to. Watering down of regulations does not drive change.*

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Post-election key policy issues for SEA members include:

- Whole house street by street
- Securing a significant budget for the RHI post 2016 with suitable/simplified degression and funding for different technologies.
- Stability and longevity of market based EE schemes.
- Creating sustainable long-term growth of EE/Renewable heating without peaks and troughs.
- A new simpler green deal with gas boilers and controls at the heart of efficiency policy.
- ECO, RHI.
- Funding for retro improvements
- Energy Efficiency in existing homes
- Energy Efficiency Retrofit
- Climate change and Carbon reduction targets being prioritized.
- 2015 feed in tariff review and hence continuing uncertainty.
- How energy efficiency policy develops, also allowable solutions.
- Long term security of FIT
- Building Regulations
- Lack of installer training- lack of customer desire to change their energy usage
- Reducing Time wasting processes and non-sales based attitude within MCS
- ECO 2 clarity

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