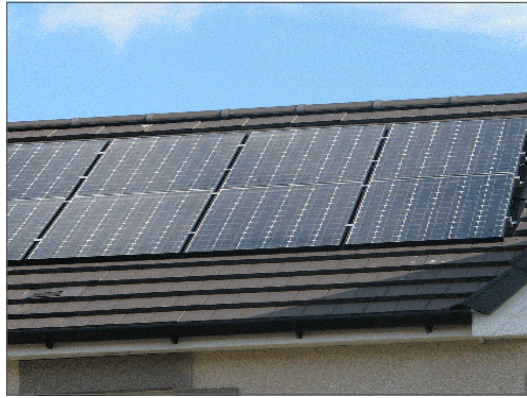


MICROGENERATION CERTIFICATION SCHEME



bre global

CASE STUDY: AISSAC ELECTRICAL & SOLAR

Background:

Aissac Electrical & Solar has been established as a partnership for over two years, providing electrical services throughout Aberdeen. The first organisation in Scotland to gain Microgeneration Certification Scheme accreditation, Aissac is planning to expand the installation of solar photovoltaic systems for domestic, commercial and community properties throughout Scotland and the rest of the UK.

Certification Process:

Following research into solar photovoltaic installation, it became apparent that in order for clients to take advantage of government grants available on the Low Carbon Buildings Programme, Aissac needed to be an approved installer on the Clearskies scheme. Whilst applying, the Clearskies programme was closed and replaced with the BRE Global MCS, for which Aissac immediately applied.

The Aissac partnership has a strong background in quality assurance, as well as a highly qualified electrician installing the PV systems. Consequently the certification process was straightforward and Aissac was accredited swiftly with no non-conformances raised—a record the company are planning to maintain.

Our Success:

Following certification, Aissac's reputation within the field of solar PV has been noticeably raised, plus clients are now being made aware of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme grants available through using accredited products and installers.

One example is the Perrett family home in Aberdeen. As owners of Aissac Electrical and Solar, the Perretts wanted to use their home installation as an show case for prospective clients to experience their work first hand and learn more about the energy efficiency gains potential of Aissac installations. The Perretts installed a 2.2kW system comprising 10 Sanyo HIP-215 NHE5 panels in September 2007 and since then have experienced a significant reduction in their energy bills:

"This installation has saved our family over 25% in energy bills. The system works automatically so you forget it's there and it's so simple, even my daughter can operate the display" - Ruth Perrett

BUILDINGS ACCOUNT FOR 47% OF CARBON EMISSIONS IN THE UK. MICROGENERATION HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE UK'S CHALLENGING EU 2020 RENEWABLES AND GREENHOUSE GAS TARGETS.

MICROGENERATION CERTIFICATION SCHEME

The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) is owned by the department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR formerly DTI) and is designed to evaluate products and installers against robust criteria for microgeneration technologies, providing greater protection for consumers and ensuring that the Government's (i.e. taxpayers) grant money is spent in an effective manner.

This new scheme will underpin BERR's grant schemes, such as 'the Low Carbon Buildings Programme' where grants are only available to applicants using both products and installers certified under approved schemes such as MCS. The scheme also creates a quality framework for other initiatives aimed at supporting microgeneration. Examples include stamp duty land tax relief for new zero carbon homes, the Carbon Emission Reduction Target scheme, and new simplified planning regulations.

The aim is to:

- Help build a rapidly growing Microgeneration industry based on quality and reliability
- Make a substantial contribution to cutting the UK's dependency on fossil fuels and its carbon dioxide emissions
- Provide consumer confidence that products and installers meet and continue to meet robust standards
- Grow the Microgeneration industry

For full details on product and installer listings, please visit www.greenbooklive.com



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PROTECT PEOPLE, PROPERTY AND THE PLANET

And we aim to achieve this by:

- researching and writing standards
- testing and certification in the areas of fire, electronics, security, and sustainability
- undertaking research and consultancy for clients and regulators
- promulgating standards and knowledge throughout the industry through publications and events
- developing and delivering training

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