



12.30-14.00 23 January 2014

Committee Room 2, Scottish Parliament

Chair: Sarah Boyack MSP

Energy standards for new and existing domestic buildings; and the potential for gas transition technologies

MINUTES

1. Attendees

A provisional list of attendees is attached to the end of this note. If you attended and are not shown on the list, please email Elizabeth Leighton (elizabeth.leighton@est.org.uk).

2. Introduction and approval of minutes from the last meeting

Sarah Boyack MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced the speakers, and asked if there were any corrections to the previous minutes. There were no suggestions.

Neil Phillips (Positive Solutions) agreed and another member seconded that the minutes represented an accurate description of the last meeting.

3. Data protection procedures

Sarah Boyack introduced a paper on data protection procedures by SPREEE. The SPREEE membership list is only used to advertise meetings or any notices relating specifically to the SPREEE group; as members have only consented for their details to be used for that specific purpose. Only the secretariat have access to this list, which is password protected.

The following points on data protection were agreed by the members:

- The members are content with the current level of data protection and for their details to be processed only by the elected Secretariats and only for the purposes of the being notified about SPREEE business.
- Gavin Donoghue (SR), one of the group's Secretaries, will assume the role of data controller. He will liaise with the Conveners on any potential data protection issues that arise as, ultimately; the Conveners will still have the final say on how the group operates.
- All contributions at group meetings are recorded (although not verbatim) and meeting notes are then publicly available online once they have been approved at

the subsequent meeting of the group. However, a member can request the minute note be amended before it is published if they feel it is inaccurate.

- On an annual basis, members will be given the opportunity to confirm, in writing, that they wish to remain on the membership list through an email asking them to re-sign up to the group in advance of the AGM, when the membership list is passed to Standards and then uploaded onto the website.
- Any new group members are notified to Standards within a 30 day period.
- When any new member joins the group, a pro-forma notification should be sent to the individual outlining that they are becoming a member of the group; their details will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act, i.e. their details will not be passed on or used for any purpose other than notification of SPREEE meeting or notices; and that their contributions to group meetings may be recorded and made available online via the Parliament's website.
- The secretariat will share the cost of an annual fee of £35 to the UK Information Commissioner which is required as SPREEE processes data.

Tony Brunton asked if the LinkedIn group set up previously for SPREEE is still active. Gavin Donoghue confirmed that the group is no longer used to send out information or as a discussion forum due to data protection issues.

4. Presentation: Building standards and the Sullivan Panel - Update 2013: Lori McElroy (Sust Programme, Architecture and Design Scotland)

Lori McElroy of Architecture and Design Scotland gave a presentation on the conclusions of the report, *A Low Carbon Building Standards Strategy for Scotland: Update 2013*. The report was prepared by a panel of experts chaired by Lynne Sullivan – the reconvened 'Sullivan Panel'. The panel was called together to review progress on the original 2007 report on building standards, particularly in light of the challenging economic climate, and other developments in policy elsewhere in the UK. The key conclusions in the Update 2013 report are:

- Defer energy standards proposed for 2014 until 2015
- Investigate if 60% and 75% reductions in carbon dioxide emissions meet the definition of 'nearly zero energy' new buildings in the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)
- Next review of energy standards should align with EPBD requirement for 'nearly zero energy' new buildings
- Delivery of a 'net zero carbon' standard is linked to the development of the concept of 'Allowable Solutions'
- Publish an 'Action Plan' setting out a range of work elements to support the successful implementation of each staged improvement

There were also a series of recommendations to encourage the marketing and valuation of low energy buildings. The report also recognises the importance of improving the energy performance of existing buildings.

Lori also introduced a new organisation, Retrofit Scotland, supported by Architecture and Design Scotland, the Scotland's 2020 Climate Group, Edinburgh Napier University, BRE and Historic

Scotland. Retrofit Scotland (www.retrofitscotland.org) will disseminate best practice through case studies, events and resources.

If members would like copies of the report, please contact Lori McElroy (Lori.McElroy@ads.org.uk) and she will send you a copy.

5. Presentation: Development of regulation for consultation on energy efficiency in private sector housing – a progress report: Valerie Sneddon, Team leader, Home Reports and Regulation of Energy Efficiency in Private Sector Housing, Scottish Government

Valerie Sneddon started with an introduction to the Sustainable Housing Strategy which includes four strands: Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland, the role of standards, financial market transformation, and new build market transformation. The Sustainable Housing Strategy aims to achieve warm, affordable, low carbon homes throughout Scotland. Key objectives of the strategy are to help meet fuel poverty and climate change targets.

As part of the strategy, standards for the social sector have already been developed – the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH) for 2020. Now the Scottish Government has set up a working group of stakeholders to recommend to Ministers proposal for regulation of the energy performance of private sector housing for consultation by spring 2015. The working group will consider issues such as: the standard, mechanisms for implementation, incentives, exceptions, and engagement with key stakeholders. The agreed criteria for any regulation are: contribution to fuel poverty and climate change targets, fit with incentives, clarity, financially sustainable and equitable, sufficient lead in time, and enforceable.

The Scottish Government is keen to get views and evidence to add to their considerations. Successful regulation will rely on acceptance and support by stakeholder, so significant effort will be made to engage with the property industry, landlords and home owners. Papers for the Scottish Government working group are available here: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/sustainable/Energy-efficiency-private-sector-homes>

6. Presentation: Leveraging Scotland's gas legacy to deliver a low carbon heating future: Lesley Rudd, Consultant, Ecuity Consulting

Lesley Rudd's presentation focused on how gas can contribute to low carbon heating, given that gas is the dominant fuel supply for heating at least until 2030. Lesley argued that 'transition technologies' such as micro CHP, gas absorption heat pumps, and hybrids (combining air source heat pumps and condensing boilers) makes the best use of the gas we have, while evolving towards more renewable sources of heat.

Gas absorption heat pumps offer 30% reduction in CO2 over condensing boilers, significant savings in running costs, and are relatively easy to retrofit. Micro CHP produces both heat and electricity and any excess of electricity supply can be sold to the grid. They provide direct energy supply, so there are no losses in transmission. There is also high customer engagement, as the householder is aware of the benefits of electricity production. It offers a simple means of retrofitting existing properties and can work in urban, rural, and off-grid situations.

According to Lesley, these technologies make the most of consumer's familiarity with gas, and the existing gas supply chain. They can also be upgraded to renewable heating when renewables are

more affordable for the mass market. Lesley argues that more policy support and coordination is needed to ensure delivery of environmental and economic benefits. Lesley concluded that given the right market drivers and enablers, Scotland could excel in gas transition technologies providing more jobs and manufacturing growth.

7. Questions

A range of questions were directed at the panel; please note that the intention of this meeting note is not to record a verbatim account of the meeting. Questions posed to the panel included:

- Sarah Boyack MSP and Chair asked about the premium cost of a micro CHP compared with a conventional gas boiler. Lesley replied that they are significantly more expensive (approximately £6,000) but if there was more demand the prices would drop.
- Pete Roche asked why it is taking so long for micro CHP to come on the mass market – they were introduced about ten years ago. Lesley replied that there has been a huge amount of investment, and now has MCS certification. There needs to be more sales volume to bring the costs down.
- Richard Leslie asked if the private rented sector will be asked to take action on Energy Performance Certificate recommendations. Valerie replied that the working group is looking at this as one of the options for regulation.
- John McKinney noted that the condition of the property is not linked to energy efficiency, and it is disappointing that this is not included in the government's low carbon framework. Valerie agreed that condition is very important, and that local authorities already have powers to address this. The working group looking at regulation will also look at condition issues. Sarah Boyack added that the issue of condition is very important and that including energy efficiency in common repairs has been debated before.
- Keith Baker questioned the claim that a gas heat pump could be called renewable. Lesley replied that micro CHP is not renewable, but gas heat pumps are according to the EU definition – though not all power is eligible for RHI.
- Norman McLean commented on the excessive lighting in the committee room and asked if there are PV solar panels on the parliament. Sarah Boyack replied that the building was state of the art (at time of construction) in terms of energy efficiency and it does have solar units.
- Tony Bruntsfield noted that standards and regulation are only useful if policed properly. Problems with compliance of building standards must be addressed. Lori agreed and noted that Scottish Building Standards is working with local authorities on compliance issues.
- Neil Phillips asked about avoiding the disaster of Green Deal. He thinks there is a need for more district heating. Lesley agreed that the Green Deal has lots of issues, and the Energy services company (ESCO) model could be more effective.
- Scott Restrict asked what happens if a low carbon technology fails which was put in to meet the standard – does it still comply? Lori replied that the emphasis should be on fabric first, then renewables. She also noted that these technologies would be more market-ready by the time net zero carbon standards are set.
- Sarah Boyack asked about timescales for regulation of the private sector – this has been discussed for a very long time – since the Climate Change (Scotland) Act was passed in 2009. If not implemented until 2018 (Scottish Government suggestion) it will be nine years. Yet industry needs greater certainty for investment. She raised the issue of whether point of sale and point of rental could make good triggers for regulation and make it easier for compliance.

8. Date and Topic of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on 20th of March 2014 between 12.30pm and 2.00pm in Committee Room 2. The meeting will focus on community benefit and renewables.

9. AOB

For suggestions for correction of this note and to request copies of presentations, please contact the secretariat, Elizabeth Leighton (Elizabeth.leighton@est.org.uk).

9. Attendees

Martin	Surridge	Arup
Emma	Megaughin	Bellenden
Caroline	Henderson	Bellenden
Douglas	Prentice	Geocapita
Andrew	Bright	Energised Environments
Elizabeth	Gore	Energy Action Scotland
Chris	Cook	Nordic Enterprise Trust
Paolo	Buoni	EU Energy Centre
Colin	Campbell	Currie and Brown
Willa	Straker-Smith	
Nigel	Holmes	Scottish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association
Jamie	McGrigor MSP	Scottish Parliament
Andrew	Faulk	Consumer Futures
Annie	McGovern	Consumer Futures
David	Stewart	SFHA
Iain	MacKinnon	Charlesfield First LLP
Lorna	Ross	
Moira	Scobbie	Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association
Ken	Brady	Energy Saving Trust
Wilson	Shaw	BCA Group
Jim	Eadie MSP	Scottish Parliament
Stefan	Buettner	Scottish Parliament
Jamie	Carruthers	Dormont Estate
Simon	Kemp	Carillion
Trevor	Jackson	Charlesfield
Neil	Phillips	Positive Solutions
Claudia	Beamish MSP	Scottish Parliament
Ross	Moffat	EU Energy Centre
Bill	Rodger	
Mike	Martin	Associate of District Energy Development Ltd
Grant	Thoms	MacThomais Political Consulting and Public Relations
Neil	Anderson	Ledingham Chalmers LLP, Solicitors
Richard	Leslie	Tods Murray
Mike	MacKenzie	Scottish Parliament
Elizabeth	Leighton	Secretary

Gavin	Donoghue	Secretary
Patrick	Jack	Scottish Parliament
Karen	Freel	Perspectiva Consultants
Alex	Hill	Met Office
Patrick	Harvie	MSP
Ian	Lindsay	EUROWind UK
Maureen	Parnell	SERA Scotland
Shane	Campbell	Office of Claudia Beamish, MSP