

BWEA Gets Active on Small Wind

by Mari Martiskainen, Programme Officer

While the Government has been committed to renewable energy technologies for over three years following the introduction of the Renewables Obligation, the majority of this support has been mainly focused on large scale technologies.

New strategy for microgeneration

Despite a few grant schemes for specific technologies such as PV and wind, there has been a lack of clear policy support for small scale renewables. However, this is all due to change in 2005 with the Government now committed to producing a Microgeneration Strategy by April 2006, as required in the Energy Act 2004.

Furthermore, technical changes made to the Renewables Obligation Order in April 2004 meant that the threshold for claiming ROCs was lowered from a minimum of 500 kWh per month to a minimum of 500 kWh per annum, making it possible for smaller generators to have access to ROCs.

2004 also saw an increasing amount of development in new technologies, particularly in small scale wind, including both rooftop and stand-alone models.

BWEA Small Systems Focus Group

Towards the end of 2004, BWEA set up a Small Systems Focus Group which is feeding into the wider work of the Association. Members of the Group range from small system manufacturers, installers and energy suppliers, whose expertise in the area is proving very valuable.

2005 is therefore set to be an exciting year for small scale and micorenrenewables. Rachel Crisp from the DTI is leading the Microgeneration



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Strategy consultation process, which is due to go into public domain sometime in May. BWEA has been talking to the DTI and is feeding into the Microgeneration Strategy throughout the consultation process. BWEA is also holding meetings with other stakeholders, particularly with the Health & Safety Executive, various other organisations involved in small scale renewables, as well as local authorities and development agencies in London.

Other work in 2005 will include a road map on small scale wind, which will identify barriers and actions to financing small scale wind. This is one of the most crucial issues to be resolved in order for small wind to enter the wider market. BWEA will also be producing briefing materials on small scale wind, and updating the BWEA website accordingly.

Last but by no means least, BWEA is supporting a one day wind event organised by the Building Research Establishment on 28th April, which has an extensive speaker programme on the various issues affecting small wind, from policy to finance, technology and planning.

To find out more about the Focus Group, and to join, contact Mari on 020 7689 1935 / mari@bwea.com. □

Events Diary 2005

19-20 April 2005
BWEA's Fourth Annual Offshore Event, London

www.bwea.com/offshore/conference.html

28 April 2005
BRE Small-scale/Building Integrated Wind Conference, Watford

www.bre.co.uk

28-29 April 2005
SRF Annual Conference - 2020 : Realising the Renewable Vision, Glasgow

www.scottishrenewables.com

5 May 2005
Clean Energy Technology & Investment, London

www.clean-energy-expo.com

25-26 May 2005
All-Energy Opportunities, Aberdeen

www.all-energy.co.uk

20-24 September 2005
HUSUMWind Trade Fair, Germany

www.husum-wind.de

17-18th October 2005
Wind Turbine Noise: Perspectives for Control, Berlin

www.windturbinenoise2005.org

18-20 October 2005
BWEA's 27th Annual Conference & Exhibition, Cardiff

www.bwea.com/27

27 Feb-2 March 2006
European Wind Energy Conference & Exhibition, Athens

www.ewea.org

16-19 May 2006
WindEnergy International Trade Fair, Hamburg

www.hamburg-messe.de