

Renewable Energy Strategy – Consultation Initial response to consultation responses

The Government published a consultation on a new Renewable Energy Strategy for the UK in June 2008. The consultation closed in September. We received 748 responses, through our website, by email and by post. We also attended conferences and seminars where a variety of individuals, organisations and businesses gave us their views on the consultation.

The purpose of the new Renewable Energy Strategy will be to set out an action plan to meet the UK's share of the EU 2020 renewable energy target. This will require us to increase our renewable energy (across electricity, heat and transport) to 15% by 2020 (from about 1.8% in 2007).

We are drawing on the consultation responses in developing the Strategy, and the Strategy will be our formal response to the consultation. The Strategy will be published later this Spring.

We are very grateful for the number and quality of responses to this consultation, which covered a wide range of issues and policies. We have published a summary of responses, which is available to download on our website: www.berr.gov.uk/renewableconsultation. You can also view the full responses of those respondents who did not request confidentiality.

The summary of responses shows that the majority of respondents agreed with the assessments and proposals set out in the consultation document on most issues. The majority of respondents supported retaining the Renewables Obligation and introducing a Renewable Heat Incentive, and there was significant support for introducing feed-in tariffs for microgeneration electricity. The Government has already announced that it will retain and extend the RO, and has taken powers to introduce the two new financial incentives.