

MICROGENERATION CERTIFICATION SCHEME



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CASE STUDY: AEOLUS POWER

Background:

In an effort to reduce large electricity bills, Peter and Christine Griffiths chose to research microgeneration technologies for their smallholding in South Gloucestershire. Their original plan for solar panels was ruled out due to listed building status, but the Listed Planning Office suggested a wind turbine to be installed in their nearby orchard. Unable to find an installer that could quote them information and costings, they decided to approach this gap in the market, forming Aeolus Power Ltd.

Since establishment in January 2006, Peter and Christine have installed their own 6kW wind-turbine for both electricity production and prospective customer visits and Aeolus Power has grown rapidly, having now installed over 20 turbines (including 2.5kW, 6kW and 15 kW Grid Connect and Battery Charging Units) for both domestic and commercial customers.

Aeolus Power has also now been made 'Stockholders and Installers of Proven Energy Wind Turbines' with installers covering an area from Birmingham in the North to Cornwall in the South West.

Their local council, South Gloucestershire have been very proactive and are keen to promote all renewable energy systems, including setting up, with the help of the Severn Wye Energy Agency, a list of accredited installers in the area. Should customers have a renewable installation fitted by one of these installers, they are eligible to access a grant of £500.00 over and above the Low Carbon Building Programme (LCBP) grant.

The Certification Process:

Having achieved Clear Skies accreditation just three days before the scheme was replaced by the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) – Aeolus Power felt it extremely important to be one of the first to achieve accreditation under the new scheme. The industry has rapid growth potential and they also had concerns about how easy it would be for anyone without relevant qualifications to enter the industry and cause enormous problems.

Though the certification process had particular demands for a small company (it requires step-by-step procedures – so that in the event of a member of staff being away, whoever takes over can follow the procedures laid down in writing), since putting the procedures in place, Aeolus have found it easier to deal with the usual day-to-day running of a busy company.

"Although achieving Microgeneration Certification was a challenge, the rewards I feel are many".

Our Success:

Since certification, Aeolus Power has installed a 15kW Wind turbine for The Environment Agency in Cornwall - Aeolus being MCS certificated was one reason for the invitation to tender a price for installation. Aeolus has also installed a 6kW turbine for Millfield Preparatory School at Glastonbury and a 15kW turbine for a Primary School in Cornwall. Recently one school in particular has been adamant that they will not have a turbine installed unless it is by an approved MCS Installer, as this gives them the peace of mind they require to ensure that there will be no problems.

"The MCS is important not only for domestic customers but also for business. It is a code of Conduct that all participants must adhere to and this in turn gives peace of mind". Aeolus Power

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.

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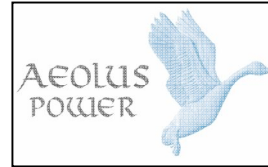
The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) is owned by the department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR formerly DTI) and is designed to evaluate products and installers against robust criteria for microgeneration technologies, providing greater protection for consumers and ensuring 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



Aeolus Power Ltd.

Certificate no: MCS 1017 - BRE Global Ltd. 07/12/07
Foxhole Farm, Pilning Street, PILNING, South Glos.
BS35 4JJ
email: contact@aeoluspower.co.uk
Tel: 01454 633323
www.aeoluspower.co.uk

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For further information, please contact:

BRE Global, Bucknalls Lane, Watford, Herts WD25 9XX
T: +44 (0) 1923 664100
F: +44 (0) 1923 664910
www.breglobal.com