

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party
for the South East of England

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath OBE - Minister of State
Department of Energy and Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

November 6th 2009

Dear Minister,

I am writing to call on the government to introduce at least another 10 pence on its proposed solar PV feed-in tariffs, currently at 26-36.5 pence depending on installation size.

PV industry modelling suggest that simply by adding 10 pence to the starting tariff from April 2010 could deliver well over 12 TWh per annum by 2020, more than six times the government's own 2TWh per annum target for the scheme. Crucially, adding 10 pence to the tariff could also help guarantee rapid take up of the technology in the schemes early stages, thereby delivering around 30,000 new UK solar PV jobs and 400,00 domestic PV installations in the lifetime of the next Parliament. The extra cost of an additional 10 pence on the solar PV tariff would be £2.50 a year to domestic FIT levy payers.

Both the Energy Saving Trust and DECCs parliamentary adviser on feed-in tariffs, Alan Simpson MP, have stressed the importance of a higher rate of return than the government's own 5-8% target. Indeed the latter has argued that this is urgently needed in order to help correct the extent to which the UK renewable energy sector lags behind its EU counterparts, as well as because of the necessity of making good progress towards the 2020 target. More widely, if the EU is to meet even its derisory target of cutting CO2 emissions by 20% by 2020, renewable energy must play a central role and I would urge the government to step up the mark by giving genuine support to solar PV feed-in tariffs.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.