

# Renewable Energy Jargon Busting Guide



Renewable energy and energy saving specialists

[www.noblegreenenergy.co.uk](http://www.noblegreenenergy.co.uk)

## **Baffled by some of the jargon used when talking about renewable energy? Our handy guide explains what they mean.**

**Alternating Current (AC)** Electricity that changes direction periodically. The period is measured in Cycles per Second (Hertz or Hz)

**AMP** The unit that measures the flow rate of an electrical current.

**Available Supply Capacity** Also known as the agreed capacity, this is an amount of electrical load for a property stated in the property's Connection Agreement with the local **Distribution Network Operator (DNO)**.

**Biomass** Organic matter such as wood, agricultural waste or crops that can be processed into a liquid or gas and converted into energy.

**Biomass Gasification** Processing of biomass into a gas through a gasification process which generates energy.

**BREEAM** BRE Energy Assessment Model used to calculate the whole life energy usage of a building.

**Carbon Footprint** Method of measuring impact on the environment. It is an estimate of the carbon generated from energy (derived from fossil fuels) that is used in the home and business, travel, and the producing, making and transport of the products that we buy.

**CCL** Climate Change Levy is a tax on UK business energy use.

**CHP** Combined heat and power energy generation.

**Deep Discharge** Discharging a battery to below 20% of its full capacity.

**DNO (Distribution Network Operator)** The company that operates the network of cables and towers to bring electricity supplies from the National Grid to homes and offices.

**Direct Current (DC)** Electric current in which electrons flow in one direction only.

**Discharge Rate** The rate, usually expressed in amperes or time, at which electrical current is taken from a battery.

**Export Tariff** Payment received for any units of electricity generated that are exported to the National Grid. Systems under 30 kW an assumption is made that half of the electricity units produced will be sent to the Grid due to it being uneconomical to supply a meter.

**Feed-in Tariff (FiT)** Government funded payment made for generating your own energy rather than depending on the Grid. An **Export Tariff** is paid for energy sold to the Grid.

**Gigawatt (GW)** A unit of power equal to 1 billion watts, 1 million Kilowatts or 1,000 Megawatts.

**Inverter** Changes the current from DC to AC. An AC current is required to power most electrical appliances and equipment.

**Kilowatt (KW)** 1000 watts. One kW per hour (kWh) is the equivalent of one unit of electricity. If 1 kW is used in an hour then a single unit of electricity has been used.

**Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS)** nationally recognised quality assurance scheme supported by the Department of Energy and Climate Change. It is an eligibility requirement for Government renewable incentive schemes - **Feed-in Tariff** and **Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)**.

**Peak Watt** Unit used to rate the performance of solar PV. The maximum nominal output for solar PV is normally 1,000 watts per square meter of sunlight.

**Renewable Energy Association (REA)** Not for profit trade association representing renewable energy producers and promoting the use of renewable energy in the UK.

**Renewable Energy Consumer Code (RECC)** Microgeneration technologies must be signed up to this in order to become **MCS** Certified. Clear standards of consumer service are set out before, during and after a contract is signed.

**Renewables Obligation (RO)** Government system of supporting renewable energy generation. Electricity suppliers are required to have a percentage of their sales from renewable energy sources. For each megawatt that they generate and trade, they receive a tradeable certificate called a **Renewable Obligations Certificate**.

**Renewables Obligation Certificate (ROC)** Green certificates issued to electricity generators and bought by suppliers to show that they have fulfilled the **Renewables Obligation (RO)**.