

FIT Community and Schools FAQ

Factsheet v2

www.ofgem.gov.uk/fit

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What is the Feed-in Tariffs scheme?

The Feed-in Tariffs (FIT) scheme is a government programme to encourage uptake of small-scale renewable low carbon electricity generation technologies.

The scheme requires FIT licensees to make fixed tariff payments for electricity generated and exported to the National Grid.

To find out more about renewable electricity generation and how to join the FIT scheme, your initial point of contact should be the [Energy Saving Trust](#).

What benefits are available to community energy and school installations?

- A 'tariff guarantee' is available for community organisations planning to commission non-domestic solar PV installations that will not exceed 50kW DNC, for applications made before 1 October 2015.
- A relaxation of the minimum energy efficiency requirement to level G and above (instead of level D and above), for non-domestic solar PV community energy and school installations to receive the higher generation tariff rate. This applies to installations with capacities up to 250kW Declared Net Capacity (DNC).
- An additional six months to the ROO-FIT preliminary accreditation validity period for solar PV and non-PV installations owned by community organisations, for applications made between 1 April and 1 October 2015.
- Two installations can share a single grid connection providing that at least one is owned by a community organisation. This is only applicable from 1 April 2015.

For more information read our [guidance](#).

What is Ofgem's role in Communities and Schools?

The FIT scheme policy and tariff rates are set by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), but the scheme is administered by Ofgem.

We are responsible for pre-registering and determining the eligibility of community energy and

school installations with a DNC up to and including 50kW.

We also assess the eligibility of community energy and school installations with a DNC of more than 50kW as part of the ROO-FIT accreditation process.

We are unable to comment on future policy amendments or on speculative applications.

How do I apply?

There are two routes to apply through, which depends on the capacity of your installation.

If your installation has a capacity of 50kW or under, and you need to access one or more of the benefits, then you will need to send an application letter with supporting documents to the FIT Community Team.

Please read our [guidance](#) for a list of the supporting documents required.

If your installation has a DNC over 50kW you can apply for full ROO-FIT accreditation through the [Renewables and CHP Register](#). You will also need to submit your community or school application letter with supporting documents to the FIT Community team.

Please refer to pages 7 and 8 of the [Essential Guide to applying for ROO-FIT accreditation](#) to help you determine which application route is right for you.

You can download an application letter template from our [website](#). Please make sure the declarations are physically signed.

How is my application progressing?

The application goes through a three-stage review process. If you have met all of the criteria, we will approve your application quicker than if we have to request additional information. If we do raise queries, please answer them as soon as possible as this will allow us to process your application faster.

How do I know if my application has been granted pre-registration or status verification?

Once pre-registration or status is approved, you will receive a letter confirming this.

What do I do once I have been granted pre-registration or status verification?

If you are granted pre-registration, you will receive a reference code beginning with either the letter 'C' or 'S' followed by a six digit number e.g. "C123456" from the FIT Community Team. You will need to send this and all relevant documentation to your FIT licensee once you have commissioned your installation. There is a list of FIT licensees on our [website](#).

If you are granted status verification for your ROO-FIT installation, you will receive a letter confirming this. The ROO-FIT team will also be notified, who will continue reviewing your application for ROO-FIT accreditation.

What does the modification regarding the determination of the "Site" of an eligible installation mean for a community organisation?

Typically under the FIT scheme, two installations sharing a grid connection will be considered as one site. From 1 April 2015, two installations can share a meter point administration number (MPAN) providing that at least one is owned by a community organisation. Both installations must have Tariff or Eligibility Dates on or after 1 April 2015, and the installations must not be otherwise electrically or mechanically connected.

I've already registered for FITs, can I receive the community and school benefits retrospectively?

No, if you have already been accredited under FITs, you cannot access the benefits available for community energy and school installations retrospectively.

Do we qualify as a community organisation?

As part of the application process, you will have to demonstrate that your community organisation is one of the following:

- a Community Interest Company (CIC)
- a Cooperative Society
- a Community Benefit Society
- a charity
- a subsidiary, wholly owned by a charity.

Please see our [guidance](#) for information on the documents you need to provide to prove you are a community organisation.

Can I apply for pre-registration on behalf of another community organisation or education provider?

No, the community organisation or education provider receiving the benefits must make the application. When applying to your FIT licensee, you must provide the pre-registration letter and other required documents to show that the community organisation or education provider has not changed.

We have received a grant towards the cost of the installation, are we still able to receive FIT accreditation as a community/school?

If you have received a grant from public funds towards the cost of your installation, then it is unlikely the installation will be eligible for the FIT scheme.

For more information on grants, please refer to our [website](#).

What is an EPC and when do I need one?

An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) shows how energy efficient a building is and is issued by a registered assessor. A rating band will be given, from G (the lowest rating) to A (the highest).

If you are applying for the tariff guarantee and/or relaxation of the energy efficiency requirement, you will need to submit a non-domestic EPC with your application.

A valid non-domestic EPC must have been issued before the date you apply, and must match the address provided in your application letter.

What is an MCS certificate and when do I need one?

The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) certifies microgeneration products used to produce electricity and heat from renewable sources and also certifies installation companies.

Solar PV and wind installations which have a DNC of 50kW or less and micro CHP installations must be commissioned by an MCS-certified installer using an MCS-certified product.

A valid MCS certificate issued to an installation is proof that the installation is MCS-certified. These should only be issued once the installation is fully installed and commissioned. Do not accept MCS certificates that are issued before completion as these will not be accepted.

More information on MCS products and installers can be found on the [MCS website](#).

More information

Please ensure you read our [Guidance for Community Energy and School Installations](#) and the information on [our website](#) before applying.

You can email any queries relating to the community and school benefits to FITCommunity@ofgem.gov.uk or phone 020 7901 7310 (option 1).

You can also send queries to:
FIT Community Team
2nd Floor
Ofgem
9 Millbank
London
SW1P 3GE