

4<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Dear MP,

**Threat to 2,000 green jobs in south west**

The government is proposing a dramatic cut in the feed-in tariff (FiT) which supports renewable energy in homes and communities – and to bring forward that cut from 1 April 2012 to 12 December this year. Our research shows this will put 2,000 skilled green jobs at risk - hitting all constituencies in the south west.

**In view of the importance of this issue to businesses in your constituency I am writing to ask you to contact Chris Huhne to urge the government 1) to make changes to the scheme on 1 April 2012, as previously announced, not on 12 December and 2) to introduce a community tariff to support the social, environment and economic benefits of community led schemes.**

Regen is the independent centre of expertise in renewable energy with a track record of pioneering project delivery. Over 180 member organisations support our mission to drive forward renewable energy and create local jobs.

I should be clear we, and our members, agree that substantial cuts to the FiT are needed. The price of solar panels and installations have fallen rapidly and the money to support them could now be spread out much further by making the Feed-in Tariff less generous.

**It is the speed of the proposed changes that has come as a shattering blow to businesses that install PV and communities looking to benefit from it. Demand will come to a virtual halt overnight leaving businesses that have entered into contracts, taken on staff, purchased stock etc. no time to adjust. Major job losses are inevitable.**

Yet DECC's own figures in its Impact Assessment show the cost of sticking to 1 April 2012 date for reducing the tariff is less than £1 a year on customer bills.

Businesses that invest in good faith on the basis of government schemes must be given reasonable timescales to adapt to changes. I urge you to raise your concerns with the Secretary of State about the job losses in your constituency that dramatic cuts in the FiT would cause.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,



Merlin Hyman

Chief Executive

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