Setting the steps in place for Zero Carbon Homes by 2016 - a microgeneration industry perspective

Dave Sowden,
Chief Executive, Micropower Council

Microgeneration

Heat generating technologies:

Microgeneration

Electricity generating technologies:

The Micropower Council

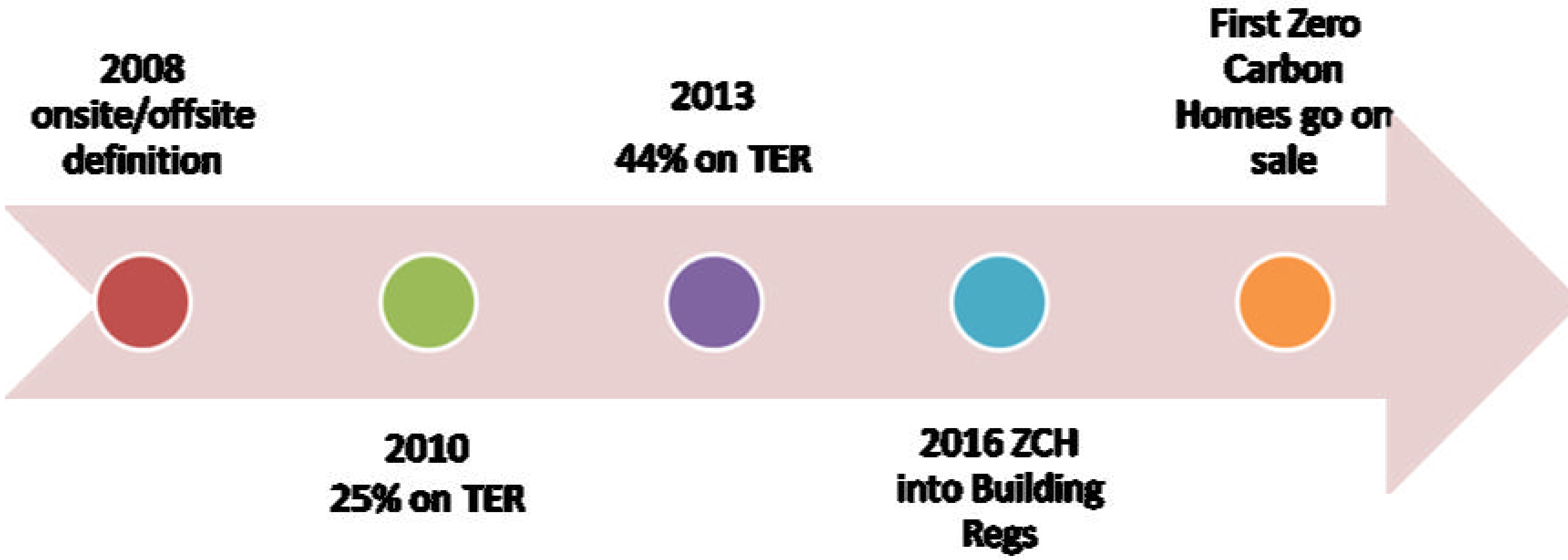
Zero Carbon Vision – England

New Homes by 2016	Zero Carbon Schools by 2016
Zero Carbon Public Buildings 2018	Zero Carbon Buildings 2019

Benefits

- Contribution to 2020 targets
- Future proofing the building stock
- Aspirational standards for retrofit

Milestones on the route to 2016:



- 2016 is not as far away as some would like to think – it is now time for action!

Policy development under way in Scotland too:

Scotland has the potential to match, or even better 2016 ambitions for England and Wales. The Sullivan Report made a number of recommendations:

- Staged increases in energy standards in 2010 and 2013
- Aim of net zero carbon emissions for space heating, hot water, lighting and ventilation within the next 10 years, **<u>if practical</u>**;
- Total-life zero carbon buildings by 2030;

MICRO POWER

ZCH – the key issues for microgeneration:

1. Conclude, then move on from definition debate
2. Engagement with construction industry and officials
3. Building supply chain capacity/ local planning policies
4. Financial Incentives, skills and consumer awareness
5. And finally, don't forget the other 99% - existing homes!

Onsite versus Offsite Definition

- Treasury and CLG definition already stated.
- Some have questioned whether this definition is viable- need to examine evidence base behind assumptions being made
- The level of carbon compliance and buyout price are critical factors in the development of ZCH.

- RAB and GBC have produced reports with some possible solutions.
- The final policy decision is likely to have a big impact on take up of technologies – creating uncertainty for investors.
- The wider microgeneration community needs to be included in this discussion.

Engagement with industry is critical

- The industry and its trade bodies are keen to engage with officials across Government and devolved administrations.
- GBC Report is timely – Appears to have struck a workable balance between the need to encourage microgeneration and allowing flexibility.
- However, the detail will be fundamentally important and the industry needs to assess the true impact of these proposals.
- An inclusive approach from Government is essential, in order to find the best possible solution

Building industry capacity (1)

- MPC membership shows that serious players now entering the market:
- Microgeneration is no longer a cottage industry, but investors and shareholders need confidence in order to invest in building capacity.
- Strengthening supply side measures will help build supply chain capacity

Building Industry Capacity (2)

Local Planning Policies – a critical factor:

- The only instrument which currently obligates use of microgeneration in new build
- Helping the construction industry to build up know-how, now (and not on the eve of 2016).
- Makes developers start thinking about on site generation now
- Raises awareness and understanding (builders, architects, planners)
- Builds up the necessary supply chain and commercial relationships

Financial incentives, skills and consumer awareness

Financial Incentives

- Giving householders a fair reward for producing low carbon heat and electricity is essential.

Skills

- Work to be done on MCS, simplification and cost.
- Challenge of getting heating engineers and electricians, not only to learn how to install, but to advocate microgeneration.

Consumer Awareness

- Currently, most microgeneration is taken up by early adopters/elective choice. We need to think how we educate homebuyers.

But, don’t forget the existing stock!

- Two thirds of residential energy is used for home heating.
- 90% of existing homes currently have a gas boiler
- Two thirds of all homes standing in 2050 will have already been built.
- Over 1.6 million boilers sold last year.
- New build equates to just 1% of housing stock each year.

“Over the next decade my aim is that every home for which it is practically possible will become low carbon”

Rt Hon. G Brown, March 2007

New policies?

Where are they

In summary

- Zero Carbon Homes - important opportunity for reducing carbon emissions, and for industry.
- Policies are essential to build the industry now.
- In practice this means;
    - providing confidence to investors,
    - clear definitions through better engagement,
    - promotion of local planning policies,
    - fair financial reward, and
    - work to develop skills.

Dave Sowden,
Micropower Council

info@micropower.co.uk

www.micropower.co.uk

+44 1564 771554