

The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS), launched in 2008, is a product and installer quality assurance scheme for microgeneration technologies. It covers renewable sources of electricity (with generation capacity up to 50kW) and heat (with generation capacity up to 45kWth).



While the scheme has done much to improve standards in a growing sector, its complexity and reliance on Government incentives such as the Feed-in Tariff and Renewable Heat Incentive need to be addressed to ensure its longevity.



NAPIT | registration

Purpose

MCS is a mark of quality. It demonstrates compliance with industry requirements, reassuring consumers that companies are able to install or manufacture to a consistent standard.

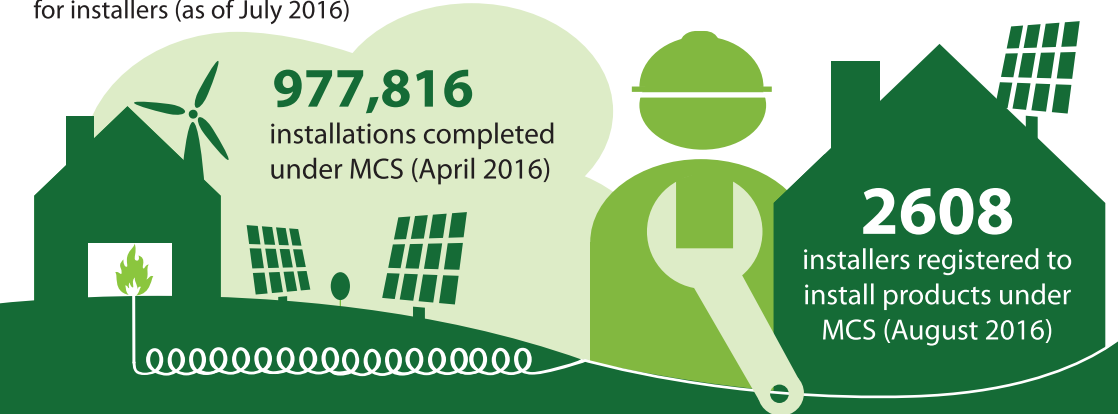
Deployment




There are **10** Certification Bodies accredited to operate Microgeneration Certification Schemes for installers (as of July 2016)

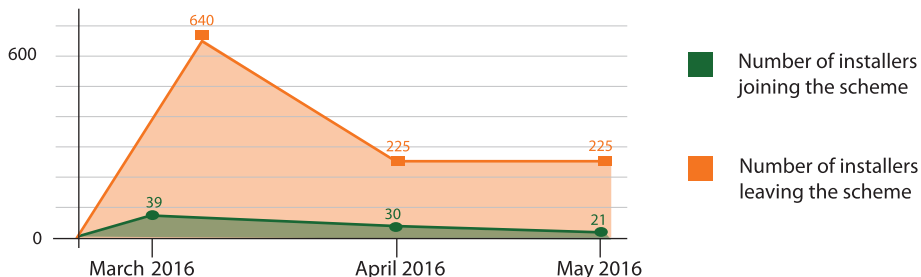
977,816
installations completed
under MCS (April 2016)




2608
installers registered to
install products under
MCS (August 2016)



Issues








-  The number of installers leaving the scheme vastly out number those joining, showing a decreasing interest in the renewables sector



-  Complying with the Quality Management System (MCS 001) and competency framework (MCS 025) are seen as unnecessarily complicated by installers
-  Dual consumer code approval/assessment by Certification Body and Consumer Code Schemes adds time and cost to the process, creating unnecessary confusion for customers
-  Reliance on Government incentives, which are subject to quick changes, casts a shadow over the scheme's future



Solutions

-  Simplify the language in MCS standard documents to ensure routes to compliance are clearly communicated and improve installers' membership journey
-  Ensure regular updates are made to the MCS competency checker online tool, including all currently compliant courses and details of the experienced worker route
-  Fund a national consumer marketing campaign to promote both microgeneration technologies and the benefits of using a MCS registered installer, providing a valuable short term boost and communicating a sustainable long-term rationale to break the scheme's reliance on external incentives
-  Create a more joined up approach between MCS, Certification Bodies and Consumer Code Schemes to ensure a more efficient experience for members and customers (this could include aligning assessments to reduce costs for the installer)
-  Create a clear complaints flow diagram to prevent customers being passed between Certification Bodies, MCS and Consumer Code Schemes
-  Strike a more appropriate balance between the need to ensure compliant installations and the cost and training times installers face
-  Encourage the Government to set out a clear, long term strategy outlining the transition from traditional fossil fuel heating and electricity generating systems in domestic properties to renewable ones. Preferably through the use of Building Regulations rather than incentives to provide certainty to the market

