



J Brand becomes a MCS Accredited Installer

The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) is an independent scheme that certifies microgeneration products and installers in accordance with consistent standards. It is designed to evaluate microgeneration products and installers against robust criteria providing greater protection for consumers.

The MCS is the only certification scheme to cover all microgeneration products and services, and has support from the Department of Energy and Climate Change, industry and non-governmental groups as a prime method for making a substantial contribution to cutting the UK's dependency on fossil fuels and carbon dioxide emissions.

Our homes account for around 27% of the UK's carbon emissions, a major cause of climate change. Many consumers want to increase their energy efficiency and contribute to a low carbon economy. Microgeneration offers a range of technically advanced low carbon and renewable technologies that will help to:

- provide consumers with energy sources that use existing natural resources;
- contribute to the future security of our energy supply;
- contribute to a low carbon economy;
- reduce reliance on energy imports; and addressing fuel poverty by reducing the cost of energy.



Solar Photovoltaic (PV)

PV uses energy from the sun to create electricity to run appliances and lighting. PV requires only daylight - not direct sunlight - to generate electricity.

How it works

Photovoltaic systems use cells to convert solar radiation into electricity. The PV cell consists of one or two layers of a semi conducting material, usually silicon. When light shines on the cell it creates an electric field across the layers, causing electricity to flow.

The greater the intensity of the light, the greater the flow of electricity...

PV systems generate no greenhouse gases, a typical domestic system can save approximately 1.2 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year - adding up to almost 30 tonnes over a system's lifetime.

PV arrays now come in a variety of shapes and colours, ranging from grey 'solar tiles' that look like roof tiles, to panels and transparent cells that can be used on conservatories and glass to provide shading as well as generating electricity. As well as generating "free" electricity, they can provide an interesting alternative to conventional roof tiles!

Solar PV and your premises

PV systems can be used for a building with a roof or wall that faces within 90 degrees of south, as long as no other buildings or large trees overshadow it. If the roof surface is in shadow for parts of the day, the output of the system decreases.

Solar panels are not light and the roof must be strong enough to take their weight, especially if the panel is placed on top of existing tiles.

Feed-in Tariffs

Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) became available in Great Britain on 1st April 2010.

Under this scheme energy suppliers make regular payments to householders and communities who generate their own electricity from renewable or low carbon sources such as solar electricity (PV)

The scheme guarantees a minimum payment for all electricity generated by the system, as well as a separate payment for the electricity exported to the Grid. These payments are in addition to the bill savings made by using the electricity generated on-site.

