



## Newsletter – December 2008

### Building Research Establishment (BRE) See the light!

The BRE have finally changed their view on the need for private wire networks to fully account for the benefit of using Combined Heat & Power (CHP) in the Code for Sustainable Homes, which is excellent news.

The reason for the change is that BRE have acknowledged that the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) deals with all the CO<sub>2</sub> savings from CHP units via the carbon intensity of the heat output. Following that methodology through it means that the carbon saving for creating the electricity is bound up in the heat output of the CHP and logically therefore there no longer exists a requirement for the electricity output to be specifically used by the dwelling being assessed.

This change of heart ensures that CHP is given true credit in terms of reduction of carbon emissions without constraining the consumer to an electricity supply from the private wire operator as held to be illegal in the recent much-publicised Citiworks Case.

Peter Walker, EcoCentroGen's CEO commented, *"EcoCentroGen welcome the BRE's positive decision as it finally applies a joined up approach to the way carbon reduction is assessed. It also further justifies our decision to obtain an Electricity Distribution License and become an Independent District Network Operator."*

The BRE's decision together with other initiatives being introduced in the Government's Energy Bill such as the Low Carbon Feed in Tariff which will obligate large energy companies to buy output from small scale low carbon/renewable power projects and the Renewable Heat Incentive, a financial support mechanism for people who install renewable heat generators or heat pumps, will ensure that more on site generation projects will be implemented and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduced.

The ever-changing legislation and guidance does however have some drawbacks as Planners and Developers alike often need assistance on interpreting how these changes affect their decisions and developments. EcoCentroGen's Consultancy group can assist in all aspects of a compliant end deliverable energy strategy from legislative interpretation through pre-planning advice all the way to IDNO adoption and infrastructure solutions.

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