

# Everybody loves the sunshine

**With the ballooning price of energy in the UK, come December most of us will be putting cheaper gas and electricity on our Christmas lists. It seems like a month does not pass without news of a further hike in the price of energy. And it appears that the days of cheap energy have passed. Coupled with the credit crunch, the UK looks set for some testing times. The current economic climate does however, give us the opportunity to stop and think about how we can work together to be more energy efficient. If you look closely at your energy consumption at home, then you'll probably see that just like your old maths report used to say, you could do better.**

Saving energy is something we can all do and can range from simply switching off the lights when you leave a room, to turning the central heating down a degree or two. If you have access to the internet then shopping around for the best energy deals available won't hurt either. It all makes a difference.

MITIE specialises in saving its clients money with our energy efficiency initiatives. We also know a thing or two about renewable technologies. From wind turbines and ground source heat pumps, to phase change balls and solar panels. Our expertise has recently led to a strategic partnership with EDF Energy to undertake the installation of renewable microgeneration technologies for their household market.

EDF Energy is one of the UK's largest energy companies and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the EDF Group, one of Europe's largest energy groups. They generate 7% of the UK's electricity, employing around 13,000 people, EDF Energy deliver electricity to 7.8m customer homes and businesses.

MITIE's energy team has been working with EDF over the last eight months to create a unique partnership which combines our energy team's experience of microgeneration technology and passion for quality services delivery with EDF Energy's drive, under the Government-set CERT (Carbon Emission Reduction Target) funding scheme. The scheme's objective is to cut household carbon emissions by helping their customers make their homes more energy efficient and affordable to heat.

#### CERT-ain success

It couldn't have come at a better time too. CERT spending over the next three years is expected to exceed £2.8bn – double the expenditure of the scheme's predecessor, the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC). As part of this, our framework agreement will continue to boost MITIE's growth as demand for domestic energy efficiency maintains its upward trend.

Renewable energy technologies such as solar heating are all heavily promoted within CERT and are expected to gain increased attention as the delivery of obligations under CERT accelerates further over the coming months, and MITIE is ideally placed to offer these solutions.

It may be hard to believe after the lack of sunshine this summer but there are over 40,000 solar energy systems installed in the UK, and even in our temperate climate we receive sufficient sunshine to provide up to

70% of our annual domestic hot water needs from a well designed solar installation.

Mark Denham of MITIE's energy team said: "As one of the key players in the renewable energy marketplace, we're absolutely delighted to have negotiated this agreement with EDF Energy. This will provide continued visibility on future revenues, and help MITIE continue its growth in the renewable energy solutions market."

#### And there's more...

To help our clients manage their environmental impact further, our energy team has recently taken part in a two-day Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) accredited Low Carbon Energy Assessors course for 15 of its employees at the MITIE Training Centre in Frimley Green. The first of many, this marks the start of a series of training programmes to enable MITIE to extend our current offering for the provision of both Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and Display Energy Certificates (DECs) for commercial property, which is now a requirement under the EU's Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD).

This underpins MITIE's new sustainable development offering which consolidates the environmental impact management activities throughout the organisation into a single programme. Focused around the delivery of a collaborative package of services and building infrastructure enhancements, this programme will deliver reductions in usage of natural resources and improved operating costs for our clients while fulfilling and exceeding legislative requirements. A MITIE bright future after all.

**The Incas and ancient Egyptians worshipped it and vampires hate it. The Sun accounts for about 99.8% of the Solar System's mass and it supports almost all life on Earth. The Sun has the ability to satisfy all of our future energy needs without breaking a sweat. As the price of producing solar energy comes down, here are ten facts on why everybody loves the sunshine:**

- 01** It takes eight minutes 17 seconds for light to travel from the sun's surface to the Earth;
- 02** Leonardo Da Vinci predicted a solar industrialisation as far back as 1447;
- 03** A Swiss scientist, Horace de Saussure, invented the world's first solar energy collector or 'hot box' in 1767;
- 04** In the 1830s British astronomer John Herschel used a solar energy collector box to cook food during an expedition to Africa;
- 05** Albert Einstein won the Nobel Prize in 1921 for his experiments with solar energy and photovoltaics;
- 06** Enough sunlight falls on the earth every minute to meet the world's energy demands for an entire year;
- 07** If we covered a small fraction of the Sahara desert with photovoltaic cells, we could generate all the world's electricity requirements;
- 08** All TV and communications satellites are powered by solar energy using photovoltaic cells;
- 09** The earth receives more energy from the sun in just one hour than the world uses in a whole year;
- 10** Shell Oil predicts that 50% of the world's energy will come from renewable sources by 2040.