



17 November 2010

Agri assist launches Solar Power scheme to Dairy Crest Suppliers

Agri assist, the joint venture between Dairy Crest Direct and Dairy Crest, has announced the launch of a solar electricity initiative for Dairy Crest suppliers. This new offer has been developed in partnership with Enact Energy to give suppliers the opportunity to significantly reduce both energy costs and their carbon footprint.

This new energy solution for suppliers will be delivered by renewable energy experts, Enact Energy, and is a major development for Agri assist, who successfully launched their specialist carbon measurement tool earlier this year.

Photovoltaic (PV) technology is the process of generating electricity from daylight and requires solar electricity panels. Typically, all that is required is a south facing roof – the amount of electricity produced will depend on the size and number of panels together with the angle of the roof and if the location is subject to some shading.

The aim is for suppliers to be able to generate electricity for their own use and in many cases they will also be able to supply the surplus electricity generated back to the grid.

Installing a PV system offers a number of potential benefits for suppliers, the most significant being a saving in energy bills. As solar electricity is a renewable energy source it will also significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the farm business, and help towards the government's environmental targets. In addition suppliers will receive the government's Feed in Tariffs.

Richard Stanbury, Chairman of Agri assist stated: "We believe this an excellent opportunity for suppliers, with the potential to significantly reduce energy bills and make a positive contribution to the environment - both of which are key drivers for dairy farming.

"We set up Agri assist with clear aims to propose farm efficiencies and explore opportunities for revenue generating initiatives. This project ticks both of these boxes."

- Ends -

Notes to Editors:

Agri assist is the new joint venture between DCD and Dairy Crest, with the majority ownership by DCD [60:40]. www.agriassist.co.uk

Enact Energy was established in 1996.

What the scheme offers to suppliers

- Agri assist will communicate this new solar offer to Dairy Crest suppliers.
- Enact Energy will handle any incoming enquiries from interested suppliers through their call centre and free phone number 0800 093 40 50 and will ascertain whether a domestic or large commercial installation is required.
- Small scale domestic installations (up to 4kW) will be suitability assessed and installed through Enact Energy's existing scheme, which includes detailed information and guidance.
- Larger scale installations will be assessed and a cost estimate provided. A full structural survey and eligibility assessment will be carried out before installation commences.

Payment options

- Suppliers can choose to pay for the installation of the PV system or finance options will be available going forward.
 - Suppliers who pay upfront will be eligible for the free electricity, the Feed in Tariff (FiT) rate, and energy bill savings.
 - Suppliers who take up the funding option will receive cheaper, green electricity and corresponding electricity bill savings, or land/roof rental income depending on the site of the installation. They will however, not be eligible for the FiT incentives.

PV technology:

- Sunlight is used to generate electricity via PV panels, normally mounted on the roof or walls of a building. They are made from one or two layers of semi-conducting material. When light shines on the panel it creates an electric field across the layers. The stronger the sunshine, the more electricity is produced.

FiTs explained:

- Through energy company feed-in tariffs (FiTs), domestic householders can earn 41.3p per kWh for all electricity they generate using a solar PV system - whether consumed within the home or exported to the grid. For all electricity exported to the national grid, households earn an additional 3p per kWh.
- The domestic FiT rate of 41.3p per kWh applies to small scale (up to 4kW) domestic systems.
 - Systems above 4kW (up to 10kW) earn 36.1p per kWh generated
 - Systems over 10kW (up to 100kW) earn 31.4p per kWh generated.
- The FiT rate is due to be reviewed in 2013 for new customers but existing rates will apply for all customers with installations completed up to March 2012, for the 25 year lifetime of the tariff.
- All generation and export tariffs are linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI) which ensures that each year they follow the rate of inflation.

Installation:

- Installation is by a Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) accredited installer. The customer is then registered on a central FiT database and a certificate will confirm FiT compliance.
- The customer's energy provider will then receive proof of eligibility to receive the FiT and payments will be made as agreed with the supplier and the energy provider.

For further information – please contact one of the Agri assist Directors:

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