



LCT Funding Guide

Smart Export Guarantee

Available in England, Scotland and Wales

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1. Overview

The Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) is a government-backed support mechanism that aims to encourage UK homeowners to install renewable electricity generating technologies. Under SEG, homeowners are guaranteed to be paid for every unit of excess renewable electricity that they export to the grid.

To take advantage of the Smart Export Guarantee, you have to sign up for an SEG export tariff with an energy company. All companies with 150,000 customers or more must offer at least one SEG export tariff which must be available for all eligible installations, not just their customers. This means that you can often sell your electricity to one company and buy your electricity from another. However, you may be offered better rates if you use the same company for both.

Tariffs can be fixed, meaning that you are paid the same price for exported electricity at any time of day, or variable, where you are paid different prices depending on the electricity demand on the grid.

2. Eligible technologies

The following technologies are eligible if the installed capacity is less than 5MW:

- [Solar PV](#).
- [Wind turbines](#).
- [Hydro](#).
- Anaerobic digestion (note that this technology is most commonly used by farmers rather than individual households).

In addition to the above technologies, [micro combined heat and power](#) (micro CHP) systems are also eligible, provided that the electrical capacity of the system is 50kW or less.

3. Eligibility criteria

The eligibility criteria for the Smart Export Guarantee are:

- You must live in England, Scotland or Wales.
- The installation must meet the capacity requirements outlined in the section above (a qualified installer will ensure that).

- The technology installer must be certified under the [Microgeneration Certification Scheme \(MCS\)](#) or equivalent. The MCS quality assurance scheme ensures that installers are competent and the products they use meet the correct standards.
- You must have a registered electricity meter capable of half-hourly readings for electricity export (most likely a [smart meter](#)).

4. How to apply

1. Find an [MCS certified](#) installer who is able to carry out the work. It is recommended to obtain quotes from at least three installers to ensure that you are getting the best deal.
2. Ensure that your electricity meter is suitable for SEG (a certified installer should be able to advise you on that). If your meter is not suitable, you should contact your electricity supplier to arrange the installation of a smart meter.
3. The chosen contractor installs and sets up the system, ensuring that it meets the technical requirements of SEG.
4. Once the system is installed, search for and compare suppliers offering SEG tariffs in your area to find the best deal (you can visit the [Solar Energy UK](#) website to compare different SEG tariffs available). In most cases, you can apply for an SEG tariff directly through the website of the chosen supplier.

5. Useful websites

For more information on the Smart Export Guarantee, please visit the following websites:

[Energy Saving Trust](#)

[Simple Energy Advice](#)

[Which? Guide](#)

[GreenMatch](#)