MCS FOUNDATION

MCSFOUNDATION.ORG.UK

So every home benefits

THE MCS FOUNDATION STRATEGY 2026 - 2031

Transforming the way our homes are heated, cooled and powered

CEO Foreword

Much has changed since the MCS Foundation was established in 2018 to oversee MCS, the Microgeneration Certification Scheme.

A lot of that change has been positive. Renewables now generate more than half of the UK's electricity, up from just 19% a decade ago[i]. The renewable energy and clean tech sectors are expected to be valued at more than £41 billion by 2035[ii], as households and markets alike embrace renewables as secure investments in an increasingly unpredictable world.

And more people than ever are putting their trust in home-grown energy. Since MCS became independent from Government and the MCS Foundation was established, certified installations have increased by more than 500%. There's now an MCS certified renewable energy installation every 74 seconds in homes and small businesses across the country.

At the MCS Foundation, we're proud to have played our part in powering this transformation. But the reality is that too many homes are still being left behind on the UK's decarbonisation journey. More than 23 million homes still rely on oil and gas heating, with home heating responsible for about 15% of the UK's emissions[iii]. The costs of heating these homes is rapidly rising, as gas prices surge. 12 million UK households live in fuel poverty, with almost 5 million spending over 20% of their income on energy.

This is what we are trying to change. Every UK home can, and should, benefit from being carbon free. But there are real barriers that must be addressed. For many people, investing in renewables for their homes still doesn't make financial sense. A lack of clarity and confidence is also holding back progress. Low trust in renewable technologies, confusion over their value and perceived risks mean that while many may be interested, most fail to follow through. These issues – clarity, affordability, and confidence – are where the MCS Foundation will focus our next five years.

Changing how we heat, cool and power our homes isn't just about achieving net-zero. Moving from fossil fuel to renewable energy systems in our homes could be transformative for how we live, increase access to affordable energy and, through strong supply chains, ensure a more resilient economy. Electric, energy-efficient homes can reduce household bills, increase our comfort, limit the impact of volatile fossil fuel markets and create jobs for life. This is the future we see.

Developing our strategy has been an exercise done in close collaboration with our partners across the industry, and we're grateful to them for helping us ensure we're mobilising our resources on where we can have the greatest impact and look forward to working together to deliver on our ambitions.

Dr Garry Felgate
CEO

i. Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES), 2025; assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/69cd1451b5210036050bc625/Energy_Trends_March_2026.pdf
ii. REA, 2024; www.r-e-a.net/rea-launches-flagship-review-24-report/
iii. assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6982292019d3abdb495f37cd/2024-final-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-statistical-release.pdf

Helping Everyone Benefit From A Carbon Free Home

Our goal is to transform the way our homes are heated, cooled and powered so everyone benefits from living somewhere that's comfortable, efficient, affordable and carbon free.

We were founded to oversee the MCS certification scheme. MCS sets the standards for renewable energy systems installed in UK homes and provides households with the confidence and protection they need. But our work now goes much further.

We are working with industry and partners to create a clearer consumer journey so 'home-grown energy' is the obvious, desirable choice for households and those shaping policy alike. But clarity alone won't realise our goals. We need to find ways to make renewable energy systems affordable for everyone. That means engaging with public and private sectors to shift pricing and improve finance options, and making the benefits of a carbon-free home accessible across the UK.

OUR VISION

That every UK home benefits from being carbon free.

OUR MISSION

To transform the way our homes are heated, cooled and powered by reducing carbon and increasing electrification, energy efficiency and affordability.

OUR VALUES

- **We are passionate**
  Going above and beyond to make UK homes carbon free.
- **We are evidence-based**
  Ensuring our ideas and work are supported by robust evidence.
- **We are responsive**
  Understanding evolving needs and finding positive solutions.
- **We are collaborative**
  Working with partners to create meaningful change.
- **We are principled**
  Operating in a way that's clear, open and fair.

Our Strategic Priorities

1

PROVIDING CLARITY

We'll work with industry and partners to make renewable energy the obvious, desirable choice for households and those shaping policy alike. Electric homes shouldn't be seen as one-size-fits all, there needs to be simple, accessible solutions for every home.

2

UNLOCKING AFFORDABILITY

Working with our partners, and the public and private sectors, we'll find ways to make renewable energy systems affordable for everyone and ensure the benefits of carbon-free homes are accessible across the country, regardless of their resources.

3

BUILDING TRUST AND CONFIDENCE

Confidence in home-grown energy is essential to mass adoption. So, we'll work with partners, and through our oversight of MCS, to raise the bar on quality, make sure households are protected and create lasting confidence in the transition.

By focusing on these three priorities, we can make the transition to low-carbon homes easier to navigate, more affordable, and more trustworthy.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

Providing Clarity

Across the UK, in households of every kind, we need to shift behaviour. This means creating a clearer consumer journey that reduces fragmentation and confusion so that home-grown energy is the simple, desirable option for anyone considering how they heat, cool and power their home.

As is increasingly the case with electric vehicles, renewable energy systems should be the default choice for every home. But the future electric home isn't one-size-fits-all. What's appropriate in a 1930s semi-detached home in Wales won't be the same as a 1980s maisonette in Kent. Solutions have to be tailored as well as clearly presented.

As a Foundation, we will work with industry and partners across the country to address this challenge. Ultimately, we want to make it easy and obvious for households to choose a renewable energy system. A system that directly benefits them and the planet.

While more than

50%

of people are interested in renewables for their home, nearly three quarters of those are unlikely to actually act.

Citizen's Advice, 2025

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

Unlocking Affordability

For most people, investing in renewable energy for their home still doesn't make financial sense.

The UK has some of the highest electricity prices in the world, with UK households paying more than Americans, Canadians and most other European nations. This makes electric heating systems far less attractive to British households than traditional gas alternatives.

The UK energy market needs a radical shift that allows the true potential of renewables to be unlocked. This includes ensuring these systems are more affordable to run and, where needed, are aligned with attractive financial support, so households see benefits today not in decades' time. Getting there will require changes to both the energy system and households.

As a Foundation, we will work with the public and private sectors to make this happen – influencing policy, undertaking research, and creating and funding programmes to demonstrate solutions that are both practical and scalable. We strongly believe that the future for UK homes is electric and we are at the heart of making that reality.

CUTTING THE COST

We'll double down on our work to cut the cost of electricity and make electric heating systems far more attractive to British households.

So far, we've helped to cut the extra charges paid on electricity bills from 19% to 9%, saving the average household nearly £100 a year on their energy bills and households with a heat pump even more. But we need to go further.

Over the coming years, we'll expand on our current focus on VAT and levies to explore new opportunities to increase affordability.

HELPED CUT EXTRA CHARGES ON ELECTRICITY BILLS FROM

19% to 9%

SAVING THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD NEARLY

£100

A YEAR ON THEIR ENERGY BILLS

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Building Trust and Confidence

It's not just the costs that are holding UK households back. Low trust in renewable technologies, confusion over their value and perceived risk means that while many may be interested, most fail to follow through with switching to renewable energy systems.

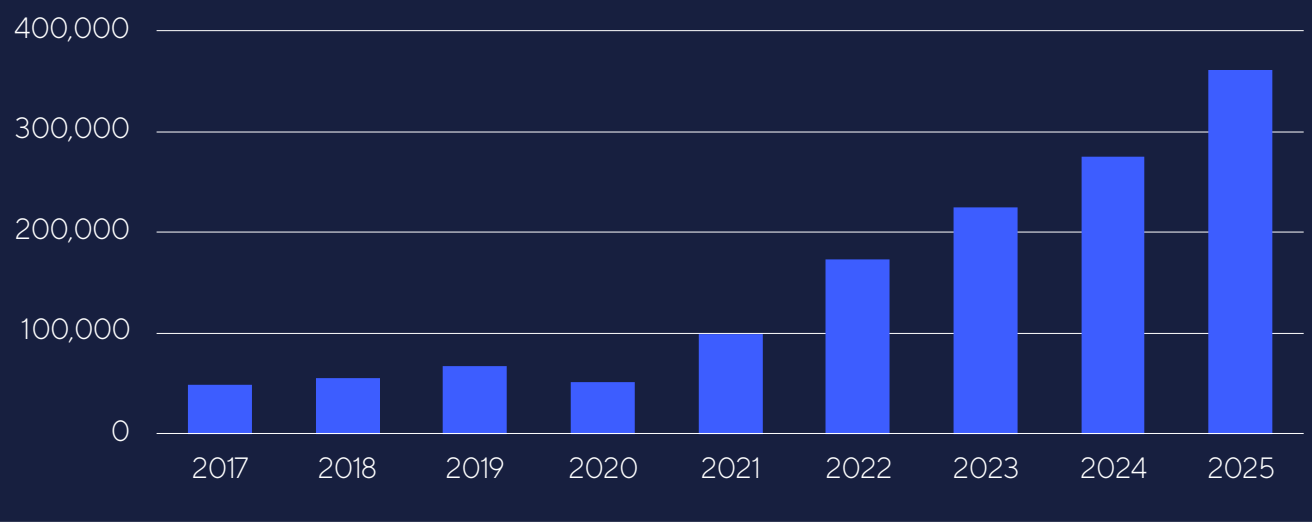
To move from confusion to mass adoption, confidence in home-grown energy will be essential. Households also need to know what good looks like and that there are protections in place should something go wrong.

MCS is the UK's quality mark for small-scale renewable energy systems, ensuring that quality and consumer protection go hand-in-hand, and is crucial in building lasting confidence in 'home-grown energy' for consumers and industry alike. As the MCS Foundation, we will continue to oversee and support the work required to create, enhance and maintain MCS standards. In doing so, we'll help the small-scale renewable industry grow and flourish, while maintaining standards and protecting households.

MCS' EVOLUTION FROM STANDARD SETTER TO CONSUMER PROTECTION BODY

As more people explore renewables for their homes, it's crucial that there is strong consumer protection in place to protect them. So, MCS redeveloped its installer certification Scheme to put quality and consumer protection at its heart. Set to be rolled out to the market by 31 March 2027, the changes MCS has made will drive a fundamental shift in quality and consumer protection, giving more households the confidence to invest in home-grown energy.

Figure: Annual MCS certified installations



Realising Our Strategy

Over
£3 million
provided in grant funding

Transforming the way our homes are heated, cooled and powered won't happen on its own.

Robust independent research, action-oriented programmes, and carefully managed pilot schemes are necessary to show what can be achieved and how. To-date, the MCS Foundation has provided over £3 million in grant funding to support this type of activity. The case for renewable energy in our homes is compelling. It can lower energy bills, improve comfort, and shield households from volatile fossil fuel markets. Additionally, home-grown, renewable energy creates jobs, boosts manufacturing, and unlocks new investment.

Backed by our research and delivery programmes, we are uniquely positioned to champion this cause, and we will continue to do so with the wider energy industry and government at all levels across the UK. And over the course of the next few years, we'll be investing in new programmes and initiatives to achieve the ambitions set out in this strategy and ensure every UK home benefits from being carbon free.

CHARLOTTE LEE
Chief Executive,
HPA UK

"Heat pumps are a proven, highly efficient and scalable technology that will play a vital role in decarbonising heat and strengthening the UK's energy security. Delivering this transition at scale depends on making the switch to clean heating straightforward and affordable for consumers, while building confidence in the performance of equipment and the quality of installations. HPA UK welcomes MCS's renewed strategic focus and ambition to play a greater role in supporting the UK's energy transition. We look forward to working collaboratively with MCS and the wider sector to turn this ambition into tangible progress and help realise the full potential of heat pumps across the UK."

CHRIS HEWETT
Chief Executive,
Solar Energy UK

"Solar Energy UK has long been proud to work in close collaboration with MCS and MCS Foundation. Ultimately, what is good for our members is good for the public and the nation at large: ensuring that everyone can have the confidence and clarity to invest in sustainable energy systems, so that more and more people can benefit from the savings they generate. As energy prices remain persistently high, our collective role in driving down reliance on expensive and volatile natural gas is more important than ever."

Transforming the way our homes are heated, cooled and powered

MCSFOUNDATION.ORG.UK

First Floor, Violet 3
Sci-Tech Daresbury
Keckwick Lane
Daresbury
Cheshire WA4 4ABB

@_mcs_Foundation
TheMCSFoundation
TheMCSFoundation

MCS FOUNDATION

The MCS Foundation is a registered charity in England and Wales (1165752) and in Scotland (SC054191)