

Survey of RECC members on responses to the planned closure of FiTs

Below are the percentages of Renewable Energy Consumer Code (RECC, a subsidiary of the REA) members who are actively installing solar PV and other renewables and responded to questions distributed in an online survey carried out during the last two weeks of August 2018. To date, we have received 140 responses.

Figure 1: “How did the last FiT reforms, implemented in February 2016, impact your business?”

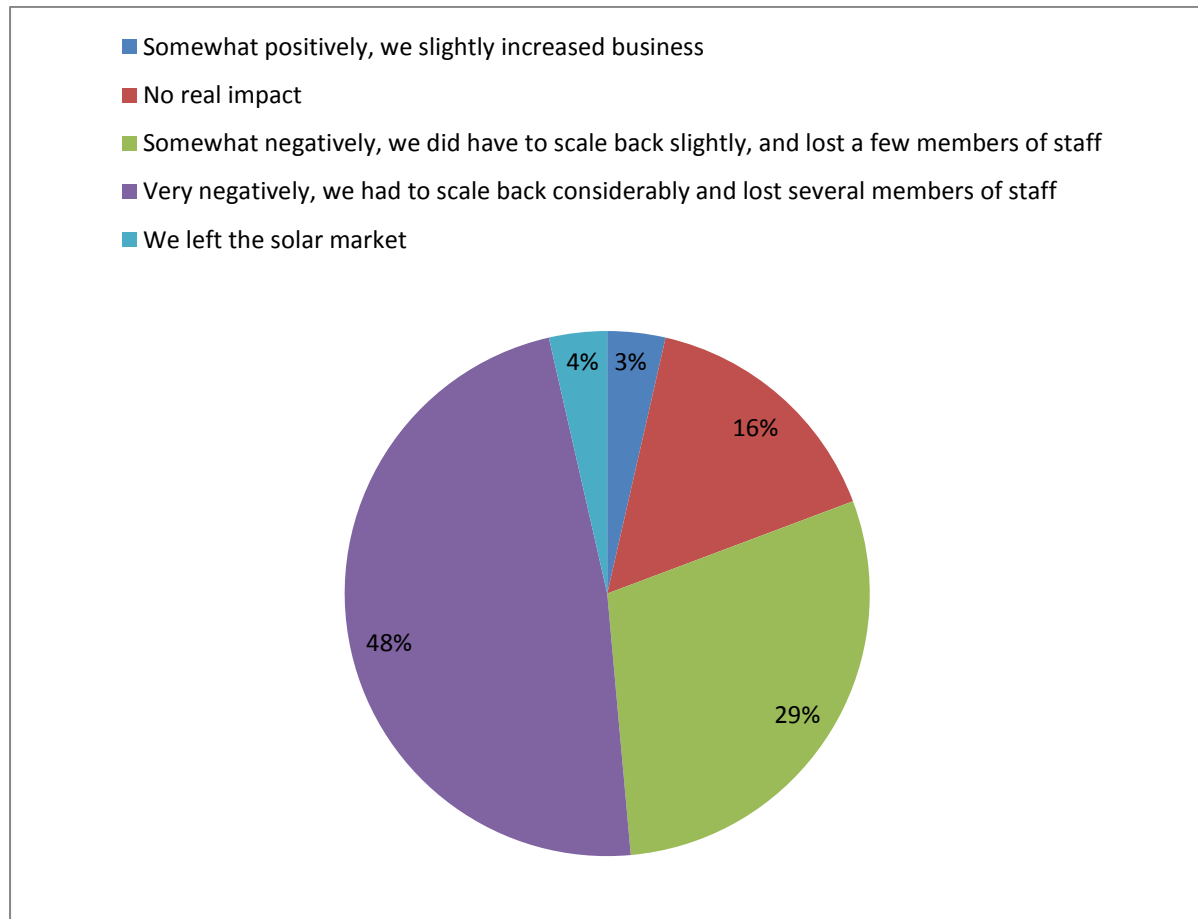


Figure 2: “If the FiT scheme closes without an adequate replacement, or a continued export tariff, what will be the impact on your business?”

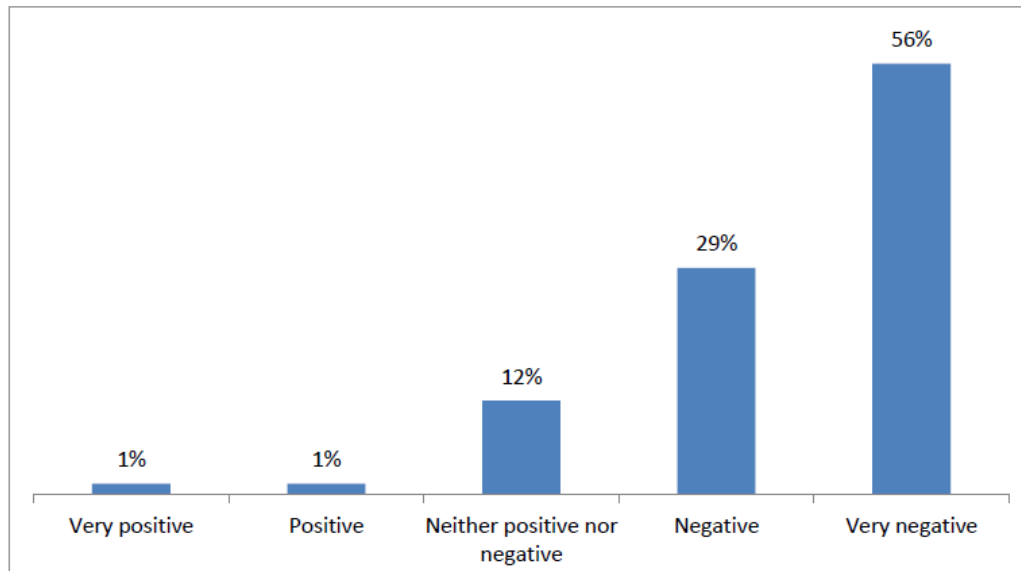


Figure 3: “If the FiT scheme closes without an adequate replacement, or a continued export tariff, what impact could this have on staffing?”

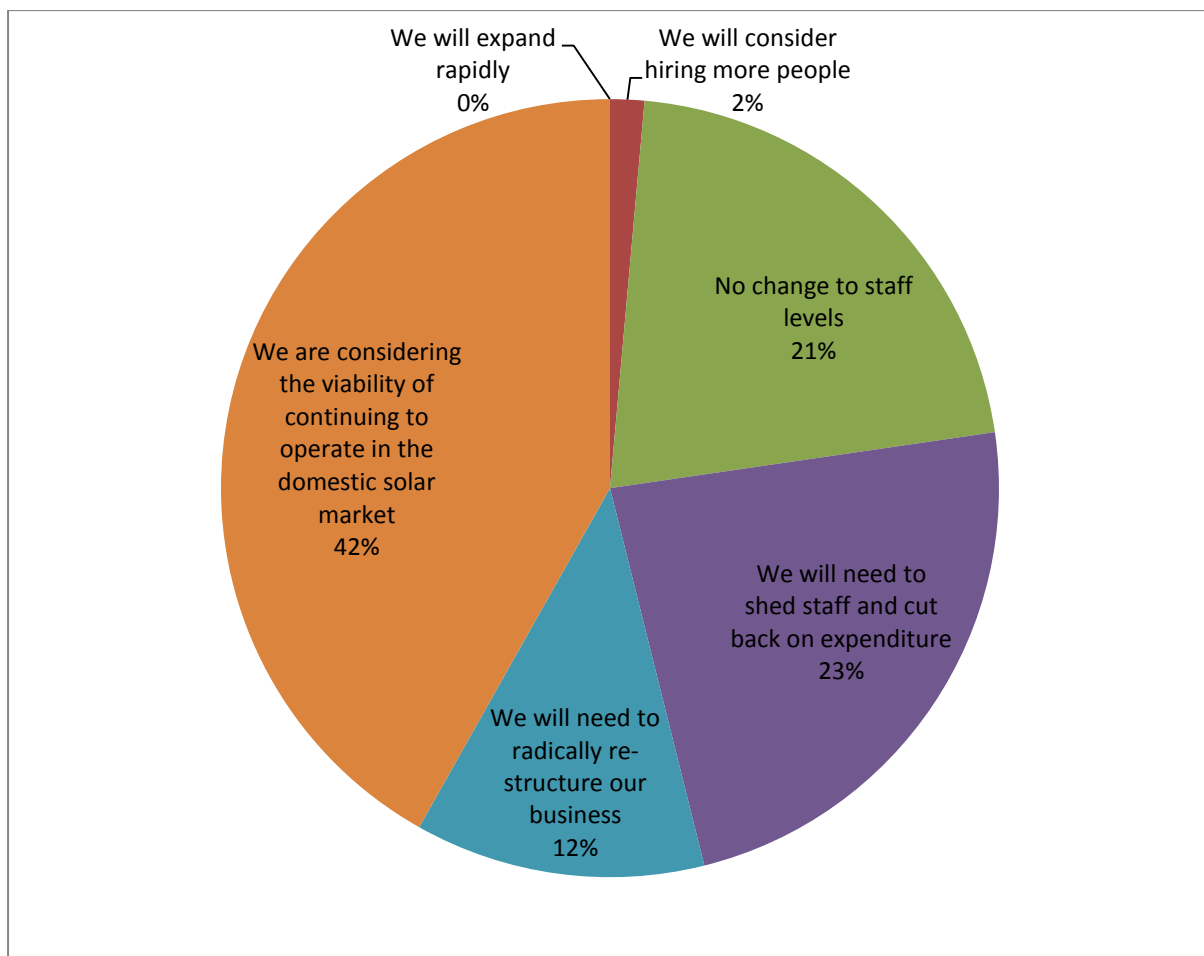


Figure 4: “What percentage of domestic solar jobs do you think you could lose if the FiT scheme closes without an adequate replacement?”

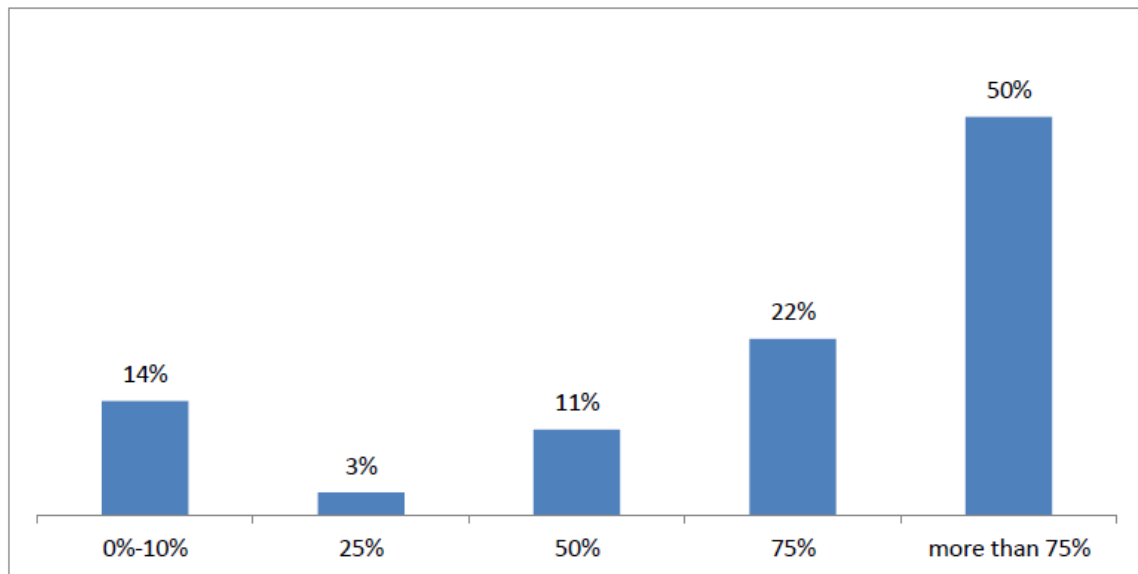


Figure 5: “How do you rate the importance of maintaining high consumer protection standards within the domestic solar market?”

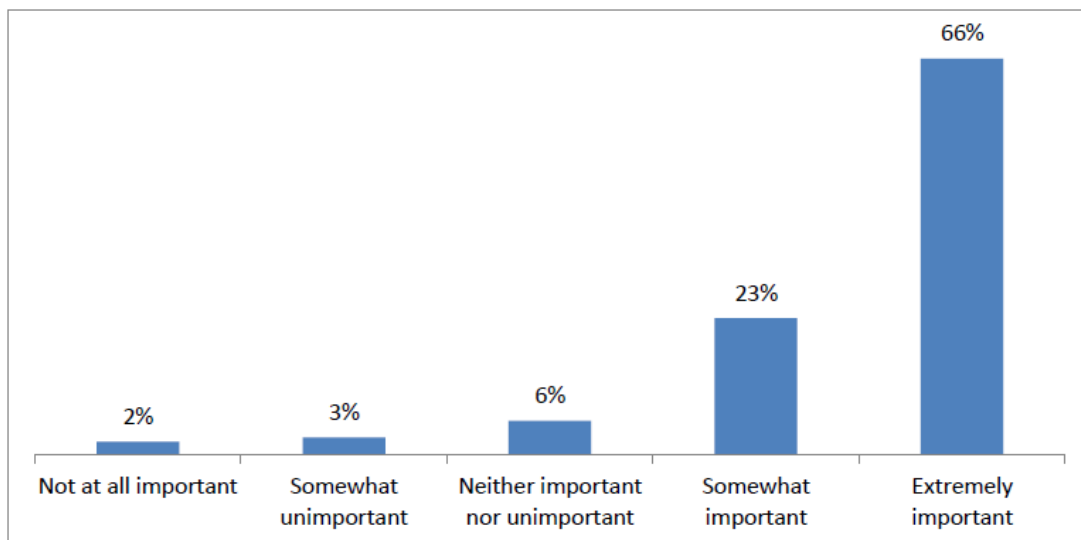


Figure 6: “How do you rate the importance of maintaining high installation standards (MCS or an equivalent) in the domestic solar market?”

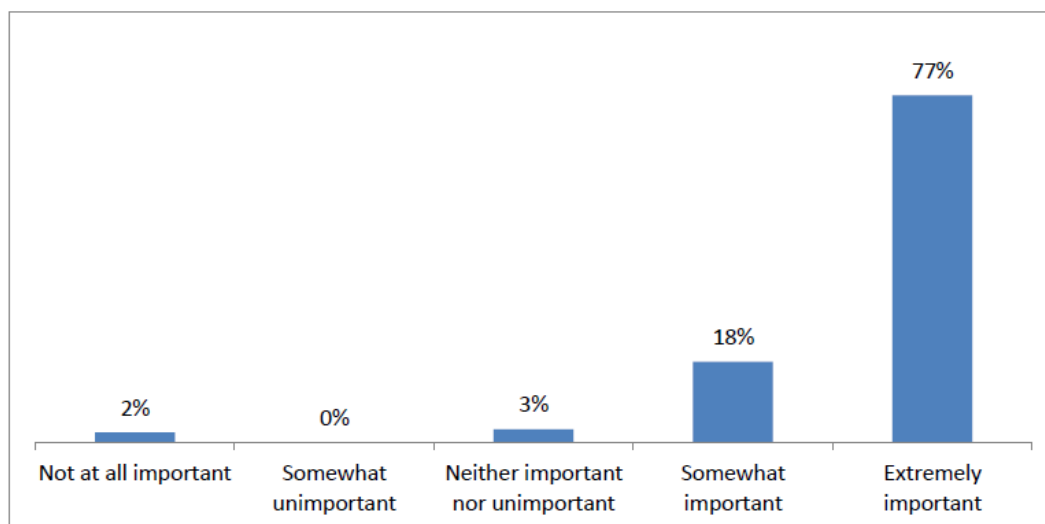


Table 7: “Thinking about the future and the closure of the FiT scheme as we know it, what alternative do you think could benefit the industry?”¹

Alternative	Number of times chosen
Retained Export tariffs (as currently operated)	82
Tighter building regulations to mandate that solar PV or other renewables must be installed on all new homes	81
Tax support – 0% VAT rate for all renewables and storage	63
Interest free loans for renewable installations	47
Increase recognition of the benefits of solar/small wind and storage in the EPC (SAP) methodology (i.e homes with these measures would receive a better EPC rating)	31
Tax support – Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs)	15
A reformed ECO Scheme to mandate on-site renewable installations in fuel-poor homes	13
Other	10
Support for renewables via the Winter Fuel Allowance	6
Tax support – Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS)	3

¹ The table above displays the responses provided to a question on possible alternatives to the FiT scheme. Respondents were asked to select their top 3 choices. 117 of the 140 respondents answered this question, while 23 skipped it

Below is a sample of the responses received by RECC members concerning possible alternatives to the FiT scheme:

“Assistance with Capital [sic] expenditure costs for customers as this is where the bulk of the cost for renewable technology sits”

“Net Metering (same price paid for exports as for imports). How this interacts with initiatives to promote on-site storage would need careful thought.”

“Support for installing battery storage, possibly funded by the energy companies, or clearer methodology of the potential income from grid balancing services that customers could benefit from as part of the selling process.”

“Need a vision to build a true Smart grid with relocation of resources to support the smart grid...”

“...it is essential that some means of maintaining standards is implemented otherwise poor installations carried out in an unregulated manner will result in dangerous installs. If all the regulation was necessary under FITS to ensure safety it should not disappear now.”