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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### Planning Requirements mean more Renewable Energy

The number of new developments incorporating renewable energy is growing significantly, and this is in large part due to a planning policy known as the 'Merton Rule' (after the London borough that developed it). The policy requires new developments of over 1000m<sup>2</sup> floor area to generate a proportion of their energy needs (generally 10%) from on-site renewable energy sources.

Photon Energy are already dealing with numerous enquiries every week from developers seeking advice on how to meet the requirements of these planning policies. The number of developments using renewable energy is set to increase rapidly as presently only 31 Local Authorities across the country have policies of this sort in place, but 66 have included a policy in their draft planning frameworks due to come into force in the near future. A further 63 Local Authorities are actively progressing policies of this type. Further information can be found at [www.themertonrule.org](http://www.themertonrule.org)

In London, the requirements are even more stringent as the current *London Plan* states "*The Mayor will ... adopt a presumption that developments will achieve a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of 20% from on-site renewable energy generation.*"

Photon Energy has been involved in a number of projects where on-site renewable energy has been specified by planners. Proven Energy's new 15 kW wind turbine has

been particularly popular in assisting developers to meet the on-site renewable energy generation requirements and Photon Energy has recently installed these turbines for Fitzpatrick Contractors Ltd, SDC Construction Group, and Southern Electric Contracting.



*Proven Energy wind turbine installed at Big Yellow Self Storage*

The Big Yellow Self Storage site in Barking, East London has one 15 kW turbine installed. The turbine was

installed as part of the planning requirement to provide 10% of electricity for the site from on-site renewable energy. The Proven Energy turbine should provide up to 23,000 kWh of electricity each year, representing an annual saving of just under 12 tonnes of the global warming gas carbon dioxide.

A new Chancerygate Business Centre in Milton Keynes has two 15 kW Proven turbines installed, and a further site in Southall, London will have four 15 kW turbines operating in the near future.



Photon Energy is currently working on a project with Rushmon Homes at Constitution Hill in Woking where 64 m<sup>2</sup> of solar water heating collectors will be installed to meet planning requirements.

There are a large number of projects currently in development where planning policies require the use of renewable energy. Often solar

PV systems (which generate electricity from sunlight) are the most suitable technology as they can be used on almost any building and almost all developments have an electricity demand.

Photon Energy Director, Lucy Aitchison said, "We are receiving new enquiries every week from developers needing advice on how to meet planning requirements. Often renewable technologies are new to them, but we are happy to reassure them that we have worked on numerous building sites and are confident that our installation team can integrate seamlessly with their construction schedule."