



Retailers coy on Green Deal

Sainsbury's, Tesco and M&S don't rule out Green Deal involvement, but are not on provider list

By Vern Pitt

Three of the UK's largest retailers have not ruled out participation in the Green Deal despite their names being absent from a list of 22 firms signed up to deliver the government's flagship energy-efficiency scheme.

Major retailers Sainsbury's, Marks & Spencer and Tesco, which have all previously been linked with participation in the scheme, were not on the list of 22 organisations, which included contractors Carillion and Willmott Dixon and housebuilder Keepmoat.

However, M&S and Tesco have joined a new group formed to draft recommendations on the details of the scheme (see story, right), while Enact Energy, which provides insulation services for both M&S and Tesco, was included on the list (see box).

A spokesperson for M&S said the retailer was still considering its options, while a Tesco spokesperson said: "We already provide home energy-efficiency services and we're in discussion with the government and our supplier Enact to look at ways to expand that service."

Sainsbury's said: "We are supportive of the Green Deal and are working closely with the Department for Energy and Climate Change on the requirements for providers."

Kingfisher, the parent company of retailer B&Q, was included in



the agreement, which commits the parties to work to become the first providers of the scheme.

Providers of the Green Deal are central to the scheme as they will broker the deals with consumers and provide the finance necessary to fund the energy-efficiency installations, which consumers then pay back through a charge on their energy bills.

The list also included specialist contractor Mark Group, social housing developer Gentoo Group and community interest

small enterprise Yorkshire Energy Services.

Ian Sutcliffe, chief executive of Keepmoat, said: "Having already delivered Green Deal fundable works to over 250,000 homes, we're well placed to deliver the Green Deal with our partners."

Sally Hancox, director at Gentoo, said: "It's vital that we get the finer detail of the Green Deal right in order to deliver warmer homes for our customers while simultaneously tackling fuel poverty and carbon reduction."

Green Deal providers form working group

A new Green Deal provider group has been set up to make recommendations to the government about how the details of the scheme should work.

Members of the group include major contractors Carillion and Willmott Dixon, retailer B&Q, builders' merchants Travis Perkins and Wolsey and social housing provider Gentoo.

The group, which combines previous provider groups working under the UK Green Building Council and the Green Deal Finance Company, will also contain major retailers such as Marks & Spencer and Tesco.

David Adams, director of retrofit at Willmott Dixon Re-Thinking, who has been setting up the group, said: "There will be a series of different work groups focusing on different aspects of the Green Deal."

He said the group would examine how providers would need to build a market and how the contracts in the supply chain would work.

A steering group of representatives from 17 firms will oversee the work of the subgroups.

The group will make recommendations to the government in 12 weeks' time.

New energy efficiency body to tackle market barriers

An organisation called the Energy Efficiency Partnership for Buildings (EEPB) will be launched next week to help implement the Green Deal and aid communication between the government and industry.

The organisation replaces the Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes, a network of 1,300 individuals from 760 organisations from across the energy efficiency supply chain, which was established in 1999.

David Strong, sustainability consultant and chair of the EEPB, said: "Our priority working groups will be looking at how we overcome market barriers and unlock opportunities from the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation [which replaces the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target], especially for small and medium enterprises.

"We will be organising a lot of constructive dialogue and interaction with policy makers to

develop practical solutions to all the current issues of concern."

The EEPB has been asked by the Department of Energy and Climate Change to co-ordinate four Green Deal advisory forums and advise on implementing its microgeneration strategy.

The EEPB will be a subsidiary of the National Energy Foundation, one of the country's longest established bodies for energy efficiency.