

# Saving our Soils: Understanding & Improving Soil Health

In its 25 year Environment Plan Defra's Secretary of State Michael Gove has committed to protect soil health and make it as a central pillar of farming policy and the system of farm support that will replace the CAP. Improved soil health is a key environmental public good that will underpin the new agricultural policy the Government consulted on in February 2018. Recent press reports claim that UK soils have reached an emergency situation, and that soil erosion and compaction have been worsened by poor land management practices.

This event, organised by the Renewable Energy Association in conjunction with AD Network and British Society of Soil Science, will examine these claims more closely, with a view to understanding the current situation and exploring how soil health can be improved through best-practice use of existing biomass resources such as digestate, compost and bio-char.

The event will also be a fantastic networking opportunity, where operators, agronomists, spreading contractors, consultants and farmers can meet the scientists and academics who are undertaking research in the field of soil health and applying organic materials to land.

## Who should attend?

- AD and composting operators and developers
- Consultants
- Farmers
- Academics
- Policy makers
- NGOs
- Interested stakeholders
- Agronomists
- Landspreading contractors
- Scientists
- Local Authorities
- Environmental Regulators

This event is supported by the CLA, the NFU and REAL's Compost and Biofertiliser Certification Schemes.



**This event will run 10am to 4:30pm. Programme and speakers to follow.**  
**This event has been approved by BASIS and will provide BASIS CPD points.**

**20<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP**  
**107 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DN**

## Delegate bookings

*REA, AD Network, BSSS, CLA and NFU Members - £75.00 + VAT*  
*All Other Delegates - £125.00 + VAT*

To register visit - [www.r-e-a.net/events/saving-our-soils-understanding-and-improving-soil-health](http://www.r-e-a.net/events/saving-our-soils-understanding-and-improving-soil-health)  
or search "REA Events" [www.r-e-a.net](http://www.r-e-a.net) To contact the Events Team email [events@r-e-a.net](mailto:events@r-e-a.net)



**Biogas**

**Organics Recycling Group**  
Renewable Energy Association



# Saving our Soils:

Understanding & Improving Soil Health

20th June 2018 | 10am-4.30pm | Basis CPD  
Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe, London EC2



Organised by the REA in conjunction with:



## Event Programme

**10:00 - 10:30 Registration and refreshments**

**10:30 - 10:35 Welcome and housekeeping**

**10:35 - 12:05 SESSION ONE - The state of our soils**

**Chair: Anna Becvar, Earthcare Technical and British Society of Soil Science**

Improving soils - opportunities to use recycled organic wastes

**Key note speaker: Emeritus Professor Stephen Nortcliff, Reading University**

Importance of soil health and good soil management practices

**Key note speaker: Helen Browning OBE, Chief Executive, Soil Association**

Soil in sustainable farming

**Key note speaker: Professor David Hopkins, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester**

**11:50 - 12:05 Q & A**

**12:05 - 13:05 Lunch and networking**

**13:05 - 14:35 SESSION TWO - Using organic materials to restore/improve soil health**

**Chair: Angela Bywater, AD Network**

Research into compost and digestate applications in agriculture and soil-grown horticulture

**Dr Audrey Litterick, Earthcare Technical**

The role of biochar in improving soil health

**Dr Peter Kuikman, Wageningen Environmental Research**

Valuing applications of Soil Organic Matter (SOM) to agricultural fields

**Professor Andrew Whitmore, Rothamsted research**

**14:20 - 14:35 Q & A**

**14:35 - 14:50 Refreshments and networking**

**14:50 - 16:20 SESSION THREE - Sustainable agriculture and emission mitigation**

**Chair: Dr Kiara Zennaro, Renewable Energy Association**

Sustainable maize growing

**Dr Stephen Temple, Director, JF Temple & Son Ltd, farmer and Chair of Maize Growers Association**

Agriculture and air quality: the Defra policy perspective

**Jennifer Horrocks, Policy Advisor Air Quality: Agricultural Emissions and Anaerobic Digestion, Defra**

Understanding and mitigating ammonia and greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural sources

**Professor Tom Misselbrook, Rothamsted Research**

**16:05 - 16:20 Q & A**

**16:20 - 16:30 Closing remarks**