Solid Biomass Heat Potential

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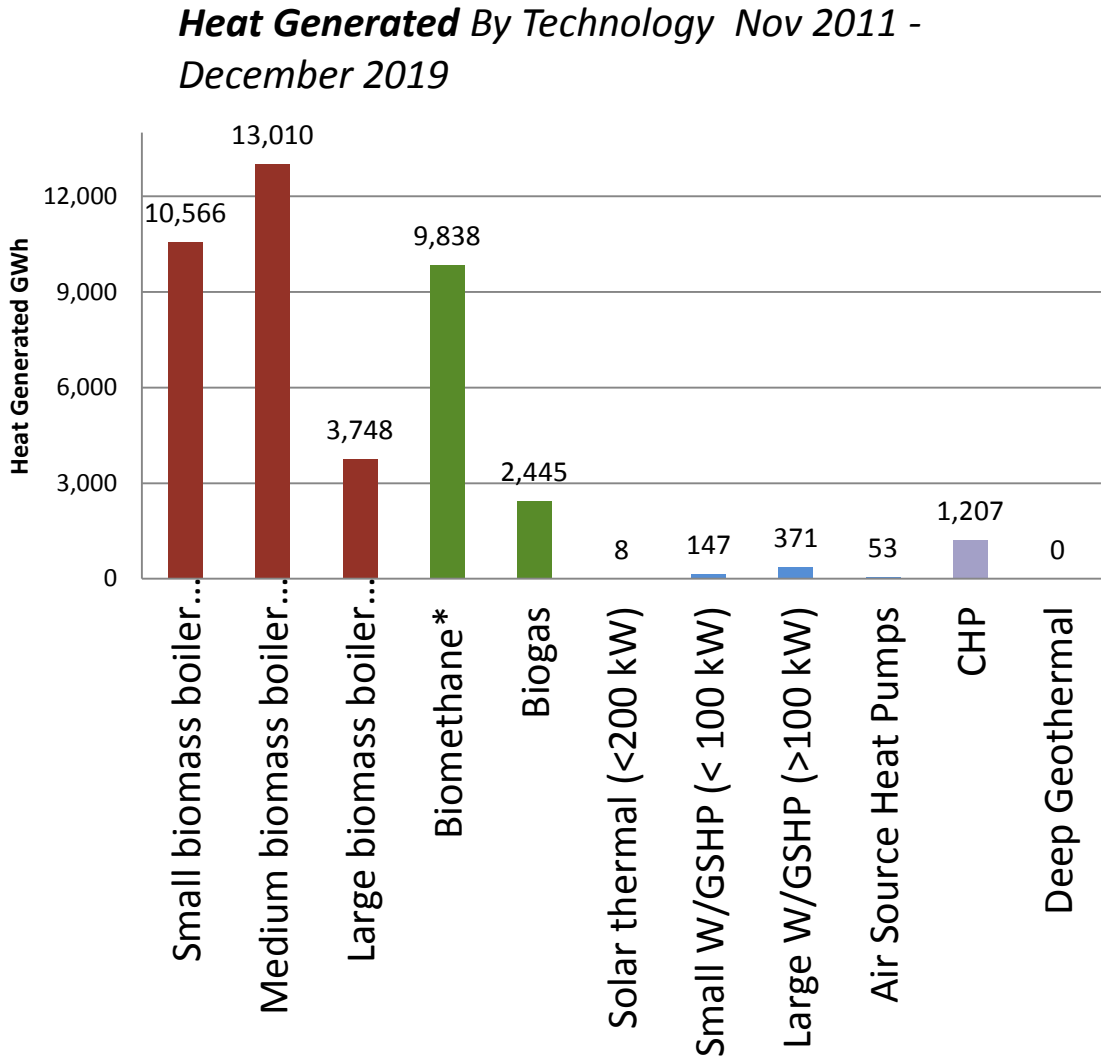
Biomass Heat Deployment – Non Domestic RHI

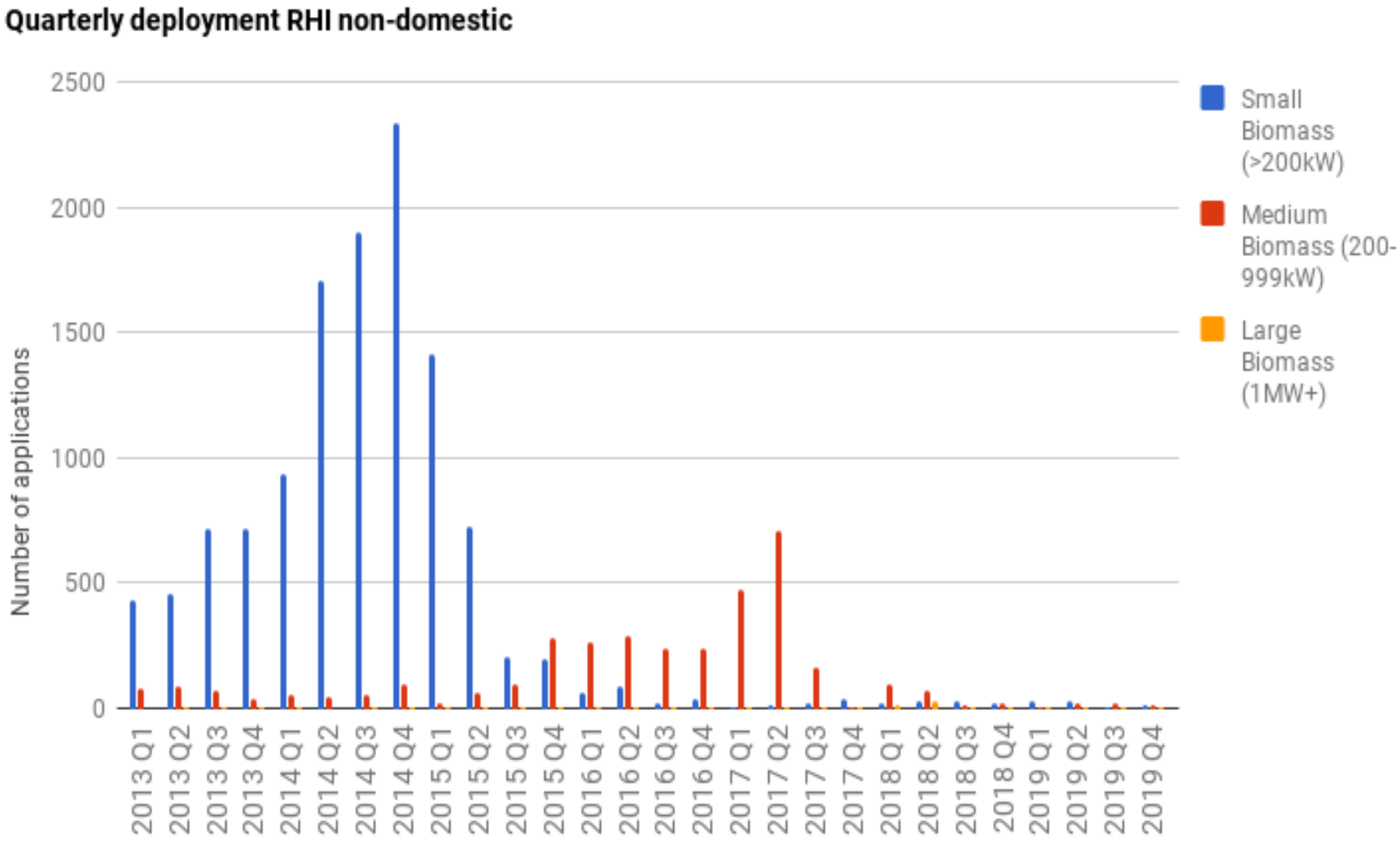
Biomass Heat has been the largest recipient of the ND RHI to date and accounts for ***66% of renewable heat so far generated by the scheme.***



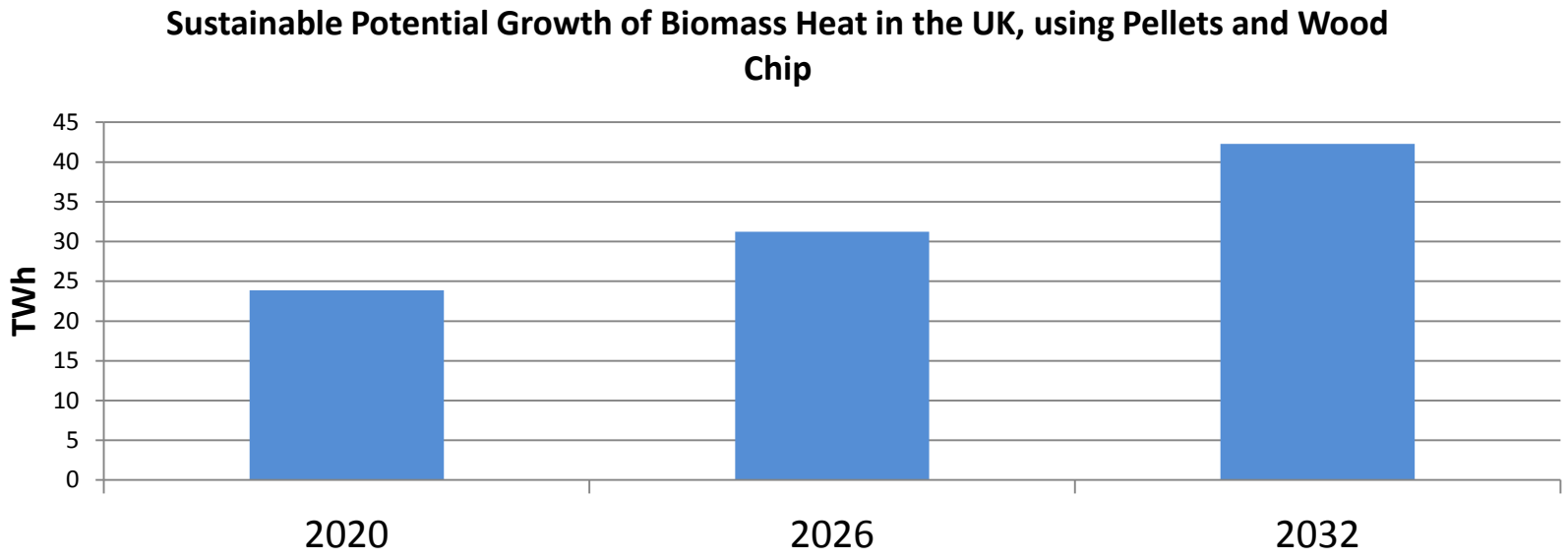
Source: BEIS

Deployment of Biomass has Stalled under the ND RHI

Biomass heat deployment slowed following RHI degression and policy uncertainty, reducing the levels of heat decarbonisation that could have been achieved to date.



Potential Growth of Biomass Heat – REA Bioenergy Strategy



Sustainable level of deployment at around 700 MW/year would allow for market and supply chain development (as achieved during the RHI).

If installation rates grew to this level by 2025 and then continued at that level until 2032, the additional contribution to energy supply would grow from the current level of around 24 TWh (85 PJ/year) to over 42 TWh (150 PJ/year) by 2032.

Feedstock demand demonstrated to be met by increases in domestic feedstock availability, as modelled by BEIS to 2030, and continued feedstock import.

Key Benefits to Biomass Heat

- Direct conversion to heat is most efficient use of biomass
- Available now – including further reduced emissions
- One of the lowest cost options for renewable heating
- Suitable for existing, hard to heat, buildings
- Reduces extra requirements on electricity infrastructure
- Development of local supply chains, which are well adapted to the dispersed nature of UK forest resources, can help stimulate improved forest management and afforestation, including some new planting on unprofitable agricultural land
- Key Technology for powering new Heat Networks and district heating systems.

What's Required?

- Clear indication of post 2021 policy support in order to facilitate continued deployment

- Time limited extension to the RHI in order to allow time for transition to new heat policy and given expected underspend under the RHI.

- Longer term policy that creates a level playing field for renewable heat systems competing with fossil fuel alternatives

- Supportive tax policies and building regulations that encourage installations of renewable heat systems

- Recognition of the role that Biomass heat has to play in heat decarbonisation, especially in off gas grid areas and situations requiring high heat loads.