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**ORGANICS
MEMBER
COMPANIES**

ORGANICS

Annual Summary | Sept 2020 - Aug 2021

We exist for the benefit of our members - you.

We aim to help in many ways. This year has been far from business as usual but we've been busy on your behalf and hopefully this update gives a flavour of some of the work we've undertaken over the past year. As pandemic restrictions have relaxed over the summer, the REA team has begun to return to the office in a flexible working format. We would be delighted to hear from you and discuss any issues you may have or to speak about how we can help you.

COVID-19: business continuity, recovery and the new normal

During the pandemic, we prioritised business continuity support for our members and put together a log of issues raised by members and had regular calls with the Defra, Energy Minister, BEIS, Scottish Government and Senior level contact with all relevant Government Departments.

We set up a dedicated webpage and a member briefing note which was updated regularly. We took direct action on various issues including clarifying the waste sector as keyworkers, prioritising waste collections, propane contingency plans, feedstock supply, RHI Tariff Guarantees commissioning deadlines, technical competence, networking surplus food stuffs, HGV driver shortage and communicating regulatory positions.

21

Consultations responded to on your behalf

18

Stakeholders regularly engaged with

23

Events, meetings and training run for you



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Consultation Response

CONSULTATIONS

It's been a particularly busy year for consultations. We are very grateful to all members who have been involved in REA consultation responses by sharing your experiences, thoughts and expertise. This has enabled the REA to present a unified and authoritative voice to governments, regulators and others on behalf of our members. Below is a list of all the consultations we've responded to on behalf of our Organics members from September 2020 to August 2021 inclusive. You can find copies of responses on our website or contact us for more information.

1. REAL: Compost Certification Scheme and Biofertiliser Certification Scheme rules (closed Sept 2020).
2. HM Treasury: Reforms to the tax treatment of red diesel and other rebated fuels: consultation (closed Oct 2020).
3. DAERA-NI: Future Recycling and Separation of Waste of a Household Nature in Northern Ireland (closed Oct 2020).
4. Welsh Government: Reducing single use plastics in Wales (closed Oct 2020).
5. Defra: Consultation on the Waste Management Plan for England (closed Oct 2020).
6. SEPA: Revised guidance regarding provision and assessment of technically competent management at licensed waste management facilities (closed Nov 2020)
7. EA: Appropriate Measures for Permitted Facilities that take Non-Hazardous and Inert Waste (closed Nov 2020).
8. SEPA: Consultation on the revised guidance on the use of enforcement action (closed Dec 2020).
9. Defra: Review of Farming Rules for Water (closed Jan 2021).
10. Scottish Government: Introducing Market Restrictions on Single-Use Plastic Items in Scotland (closed Jan 2021).
11. Contribution to REA response to EFRA Select Committee Inquiry - Environmental Land Management and the agricultural transition (closed Feb 2021).
12. PAS 115:2021, Growing media and Soil Amendments - Recovery from Road Sweepings and Gully Waste (Non-Hazardous) (Feb 2021).
13. Scottish Government: Draft Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products and Oxo-degradable Plastic Products) (Scotland) Regulations 2021: discussion paper (closed Apr 2021).
14. Defra: Best Available Techniques - A future regime



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

We regularly meet with government, regulators and other industry stakeholders such as Defra (Resources, Waste & Plastics Strategy, Environmental Quality, Clean Air, Fertiliser, Water Quality and Agriculture teams), EA, WRAP, Scottish Government, SEPA, Zero Waste Scotland and REAL. We are also involved in other groups tackling industry issues including:

- WRAP Organics Roadmap - working to improve quality of inputs and outputs
- REAL's Market Development Working Group
- REAL's Research Hub panel
- CIWM's BioSIG
- EA's Biowaste Regulatory Forum
- EA's Regulated Business Forum
- European Biogas Association Working Groups
- UK Plastics Pact - where relevant to compostable packaging
- Biobased and Biodegradable Industries Association board of directors
- BSI committee biodegradable packaging
- CEN committee on degradability and organic recovery of packaging
- The Sancroft consultancy's BBIA commissioned project 'Evaluating the costs and benefits of using compostable bags' for collecting food waste
- Health and Safety Executive
- Group of International Composting Associations

within the UK (about translating EU BATs into UK law (closed Apr 2021).

15. Scottish Government: River Basin Management Plans - Silage, Slurry and Anaerobic Digestate - Improving Storage and Application (closed Apr 2021).
16. EA: Regulatory Position Statement on list of waste codes not otherwise specified (closed May 2021).
17. Defra: Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging (closed Jun 2021).
18. WRAP: EPR Modulated Fees for Packaging - Research and Development Project, Phase 2 Modulation Criteria On-line Survey (closed Jun 2021).
19. Defra: Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England (closed Jul 2021).
20. Environment Agency: Environmental permit competence requirements: changes to technically competent manager attendance (closed Aug 2021).
21. Competition and Markets Authority: consultation on draft consumer protection law guidance for all businesses making environmental claims (closed Jul 2021).



REA ORGANICS STEERING GROUP

The steering group drives the agenda of our work, and supports us to be able to understand the needs of our members. This year, the steering group elected Becky Wheeler as the new chair.

The steering group meets usually around four times a year and provide lots of other input via email and phone calls. We really appreciate their knowledge and support.

- o Becky Wheeler - Business Development Director, 4R Group
- o Andy Sibley - Managing Director, Envar
- o Ben Brown - Director, WRM Ltd
- o Charlie Trousdell - Charlie Trousdell Associates
- o Graeme Kennett - Senior Consultant, 360 Environmental Ltd
- o James Astor - Chairman, Regen Holdings Ltd
- o Justin Dampney - COO, Eco Sustainable Solutions
- o Ralph Lodge - Technical Director, Enva Resource Management
- o Robert Benford - Partner, G K Benford & Co
- o Robert Moody - Managing Director, Jack Moody Group
- o Stuart Hayward-Higham - Technical Development Director, SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK
- o Tony Breton - Market Specialist - UK and Ireland, Novamont

THE REA STRATEGY

Over the past year, the REA has developed and published a comprehensive Strategy document, detailing how to deliver the UK's Net Zero goal and interim targets to get us there. In the Strategy, we have crystallised our view of how the UK can reach the Net Zero target, and how the REA can play a leading role in helping UK industry take the steps to reach this target. Our Strategy is divided into four pillars: circular bioresources, heat, power & flexibility, and transport. Each pillar has its own impact target based on the REA's analysis of what is necessary and what is possible to reach Net Zero by 2050, and how each pillar's technologies play a role in decarbonising their respective industries. Each pillar also features interim targets, ensuring that momentum is kept up and we can track progress.

The Organics Forum is under the Circular Bioresources pillar. Over the coming months, REA's Strategy will play a greater role in our organisational structure as we implement it with support from the REA Board and Policy Board who, along with REA staff, were instrumental in developing our Strategy document.

WEBINAR

EVENTS, MEETINGS & TRAINING

We aim to hold a range of events every year to benefit our members. Whilst this year has been affected by COVID-19, so we've not been able to go out and get our boots dirty as much as we'd like, we've still managed to hold a large number of online webinars, training sessions, Forum meetings, and steering group meetings and delivered nine presentations at other organisations' events. As pandemic restrictions relaxed in the UK, we were pleased to meet with many of you in-person at Let's Recycle Live and RWM in September.

- **Webinars:**
 - o AD QP workshop, June 2021
 - o Compost QP workshop, June 2021
 - o Organics Forum Member webinar, with Defra guest speaker and Q&A on their consultation on consistency in household and business waste (waste collection), June 2021
 - o Plant Operator's Experiences in Removing Contamination, April 2021
 - o British Renewable Energy Awards (competition 2020, awards ceremony January 2021)
 - o REA Strategy Webinar, January 2021
 - o Compost and Digestate Quality Protocols Workshop, January 2021
 - o Digestate member working group meeting, January 2021
 - o Farming Rules of Water member meeting, December 2020
 - o Organics Forum member on-line meeting, December 2020
- **Training courses:**
 - o Online training: Understanding PAS110 in full, October 2020, March & November 2021
 - o Online training: Understanding PAS100 in full, October 2020, March & November 2021



REA ACTIVITY

We have developed, and in August 2021 published, REA's policy on liners and re-purposed bags suitable for separate collection of targeted food waste streams from households, businesses and non-domestic premises in England. We also have Organics Scotland committee focused on issues specific to Scotland.

REA Organics works very closely with other member forums of the REA, especially REA Green Gas. We collaborate to ensure that Organics members are represented, and views considered when informing policy and working on our consultation responses which is often cross-cutting.

REA has member Forums covering all things renewable energy and clean technology from Biomass, Green Gas, Energy from Waste, Finance, and Landfill Gas to Electric Vehicles, so if there is something else you are interested in, make sure you are signed up to the correct member forums. Our membership team can help you with this - membership@r-e-a.net.

WORKING GROUPS

We have two working groups for members: a Digestate Working Group and a Soil Carbon Working Group. If you'd like to get involved with either of these, contact jenny@r-e-a.net.



TALKING TO YOU

We communicate with members mostly through our website and direct email newsletters. We send regular Organics e-news and other direct mailings as required. The REA also has a weekly members' newsletter, a quarterly Organics and Biogas Magazine and produces its REVIEW publication annually. If you don't receive our communications and would like to, please let us know and we will sort it out for you. We are always happy to hear from our members, please email jenny@r-e-a.net.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all members of REA Organics. We are here to support you and without you we wouldn't exist. We are grateful for your support and look forward to hearing from you and hopefully seeing you at some of our upcoming events.

REA TEAM



Stan Fielding
Policy Officer



Emily Nichols
Technical Manager



Jenny Grant
Head of Organics &
Natural Capital

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