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**WOOD HEAT FORUM  
MEMBER COMPANIES**



**REA** WOOD HEAT

# WOOD HEAT FORUM

## Annual Summary | Sept 2020 - Aug 2021

We exist for the benefit of our members - you.

Our last annual summary highlighted the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic on our work and the Wood Heat Industry. This year we have been pleased to help the industry adapt and change to the pandemic. Whether that's through lobbying for an extension to commissioning times on the RHI or making sure biomass heat is included in upcoming grants we have been working hard to ensure business continuity for our members. We have seen an absolute deluge of consultations and new policy over the last year - this has led to a great deal of member meetings and engagement to ensure we are working for you.

### COVID-19 - BUSINESS CONTINUITY - RECOVERY AND THE NEW NORMAL

During the pandemic, we prioritised business continuity support for our members in the wake of the closure of the non-domestic RHI. We put together a log of issues raised by members and had regular calls with BEIS, Ofgem, Parliamentarians and other senior stakeholders. We strove to develop good relationships with Ofgem to act as an effective bridge between our members and RHI decision makers. We also campaigned heavily for any new policies to fill the gap left by the ND RHI, and ensured biomass would be within the scope of any new clean heat funding.

As pandemic restrictions have relaxed over the summer, the REA team has begun to return to the office in a flexible-working format.

14

Consultations responded  
to on your behalf

15

Stakeholders regularly  
engaged with

14

Events, meetings and  
training workshops run  
for members only

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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 Wood Heat Forum members:

1. DEFRA: National Tree Strategy for England
2. BEIS: Designing the Green Heat Network Fund: call for evidence
3. BEIS Select Committee: Heat Inquiry
4. BEIS: Green Heat Network Funds scheme design
5. HoC: DEFRA Committee Inquiry on Environmental Land Management Schemes
6. BEIS: Combined Heat and Power Quality Assurance Covid-19 licence changes
7. BEIS: Clean Heat Grants
8. BEIS: Greenhouse Gas Removals Consultation
9. BEIS: Future Buildings Standard
10. BEIS: Domestic RHI closure procedures
11. BEIS: Biomass Strategy Call for Evidence
12. Ofgem: Guidance on interactions between Non Domestic RHI and Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation
13. HMT: Business Rates Review
14. BEIS: Carbon Capture Readiness Call for Evidence

## 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 Wood Heat Forum is under the Heat 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.



## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

We regularly meet with government, regulators and other industry stakeholders such as BEIS (Clean Heat, Biomass Innovation, Clean Air, Heat in Buildings and Agriculture teams), Ofgem, Environment Agency, HETAS, MCS, Bioenergy UK, UK Pellet Council and REAL. We are also involved in other groups tackling industry issues including:

- MCS biomass boiler working group
- ADE cross-trade association working group on energy costs
- Biomass UK work on biomass strategy
- Biomass Suppliers List Advisory Panel
- HETAS advisory group
- Supergen Bioenergy Hub
- Biomass Maintenance Standard Working Group
- Wood Heat Forum Messaging Sub-Group
- Joint campaign on renewables VAT exemption
- Coalition for the Energy Efficiency of Buildings
- CBI Trade Association Updates
- ECITB renewable focus group
- REAL's Market Development Working Group



## WOOD HEAT FORUM STEERING GROUP

The Wood Heat Forum Steering Group helps support the development of the REAs policy positions and directs our advocacy activities around wood heat. Members of the Steering group are elected from the membership and meet once a month to discuss activities. We appreciate their support.

The Steering Group consists of:

- o Terence McCracken - Innasol Ltd (Chair)
- o Alasdair Peppe - Dunster Biomass Heating (Scotland) Ltd
- o Amy Fielding - Environmental Compliance Solutions Limited
- o Julian Morgan-Jones - South East Wood Fuels Ltd
- o Leah Radford - Myriad Heat & Power Products Ltd
- o Mark Lebus - LC Energy
- o Michael Johnson - Talbotts Biomass Energy System
- o Michael Ingoldby - Bowland Bioenergy Ltd
- o Thomas Wilkins - NFU Energy

## IN THE LAST YEAR WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY:

- Campaigned for extension applications and extended commission times within the Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive
- Ensured the Inclusion of biomass within the Boiler Upgrade Scheme
- Ensured the inclusion of biomass within the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and Green Heat Network Fund
- Challenged HMRC on their interpretation of Input VAT relating to ND RHI projects
- Ensured Government are considering the role of biomass heat in the development of the Biomass Strategy to be published in 2022
- Helped inform the development of the maintenance and fuel standards within the RHI to address air quality concerns.

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 host our face-to-face member meetings as we would have liked, we've still managed to hold a large number of online webinars, training sessions, forum meetings, and steering group meetings and deliver nine presentations at other organisations' events.

We have listed the key ones below.

- Twelve Steering Group Meetings
- Five member meetings
  - o Member Roundtable - Jonathan Brearley, CEO, Ofgem
  - o Biomass Strategy Members Meeting on Key Wood Heat Messaging
  - o Member meeting with Woodsure, discussing biomass boiler maintenance standards
  - o Member meeting on messaging future of wood heat strategy
  - o Member meeting to discuss the role of Biomass with CHP
  - o Members Meeting to Discuss Heat and Building Strategy and consultation responses
- Wood Heat 2020 Conference, with various sub events and mini-seminars:
  - o Biomass Heat Policy - What now?, with BEIS guest speaker
  - o Growing UK Biomass Supply, with Forestry Commission guest speaker
  - o Ensuring Quality - Improving Standards in Biomass Heat, with RECC guest speaker
  - o Next Steps for the Biomass Heat Industry with Bioenergy Europe guest speaker
- British Renewable Energy Awards (competition 2020, awards ceremony January 2021),
- REA Strategy Webinar, January 2021

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## OTHER REA ACTIVITY

REA Wood Heat coordinates with other pillars and forums of the REA, especially Biomass UK and REA Power and Flexibility, where we work alongside biomass power colleagues on issues impacting biomass as a resource. We collaborate to ensure that biomass 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 with this - [membership@r-e-a.net](mailto:membership@r-e-a.net).

## THANK YOU

Thank you to all members of the Wood Heat Forum, 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 events next year.



## TALKING TO YOU

We communicate with members mostly through our website and direct email newsletters. We send regular Wood Heat Forum newsletters and other direct mailings as required. The REA also has a weekly members' newsletter 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 [pjohn@r-e-a.net](mailto:pjohn@r-e-a.net).

## REA TEAM



REA WOOD HEAT



Kiara Zennaro  
Head of Heat &  
Green Gas Lead



Pablo John  
Policy Analyst



Mark Sommerfeld  
Head of Power &  
Flexibility



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