



The industry body for all those involved in biomass heating



The WHA and the REA

The Renewable Energy Association has been representing the biomass sector since 2001. From autumn 2014 the REA's new wholly owned subsidiary, the Wood Heat Association, has lead on all issues relating to the biomass heating industry.



Benefits of WHA Membership

- Working with UK Government to ensure a strong policy framework
- We work to improve the quality of our supply chain, improve standards, training and competence of design, installation, support and fuel supply
- Supporting our members across the UK, providing newsletters, website, technical advice, updates on policy and tackle their concerns, through national and local conferences and forums
- Collective voice in promoting a high quality wood heating sector, addressing concerns and growing membership so that we can fund more member services

WHA are Unique

The Wood Heat Association (WHA) is THE UK trade association for the modern wood heating and biomass heat industry. Now a subsidiary of the REA, the WHA is the largest wood and biomass heating trade association with over 220 member companies.

The WHA brings together wood and other biomass fuel suppliers, biomass boiler and stove installers, manufacturers and distributors, energy companies and developers and a variety of service providers. Members of all sizes – sole traders to multinationals, with a democratic 'one member one vote' structure.

The WHA undertake lobbying, policy development, information dissemination and promote the installation of high quality wood and biomass heating systems.

What the WHA do

- Following the RHI consultation, we need a new tariff structures that can support all sized of biomass heating and improve cost effectiveness and stability
- Large, cost effective projects are not happening due to lack of tariff confirmation, which needs to be addressed
- The RHI has now been funded until 2020/21, but we need confirmation of how the government intends to support the industry past this to realise their 2050 decarbonisation targets
- We support sustainability rules and the Biomass Suppliers List, but the BSL needs to improve, as the scheme becomes industry funded
- In line with feedback to a WHA survey in December 2013 and a DECC survey in August 2014, we work to improve installation quality across the industry



About Biomass Heat

Biomass heat (or wood heat) is one of the most cost-effective forms of low carbon energy. The modern wood and biomass heating industry mainly uses processed fuel (such as chips or pellets) in highly efficient stoves and boilers, that typically deliver heat via a water-based central heating or district heating system to a building or collection of buildings. Biomass can provide space heating, hot water and high grade heat for industrial processes.

Biomass is a renewable resource, which simply means that as long as we use it responsibly, it will never run out, because it grows back. Moreover, energy from biomass (bioenergy) is an important tool in efforts to limit global climate change, because it can displace fossil fuels. Fossil fuels add carbon into the live carbon cycle, whereas biomass is already a part of the live carbon cycle. So as long as forests are managed sustainably, biomass can deliver significant greenhouse gas savings.

**To join the Wood Heat Association,
contact Mark Sommerfeld on 0207 925 3570
or email msommerfeld@r-e-a.net**

About the REA

The REA has around 550 member companies that are active across the entire range of renewable energy technologies and applications. This provides WHA corporate members with the additional benefit of being part of a larger organisation, with more political clout and more expertise across the renewables industry as a whole. Members views are fed into Government via responses to numerous consultation documents, the provision of written and oral evidence to select committees, proactive lobbying of ministers and officials, and regular meetings with Government's statutory consultees, consenting bodies and think tanks.

REA responds to consultations on renewables policy and many others which closely impact on renewables deployment, e.g. planning, electricity and gas network regulation, waste management etc..

Meet the Experts

Mark Sommerfeld is a Policy Manager for the REA and leads on sustainable policy for the RHI and RO. Mark is the WHA's main point of contact. msommerfeld@r-e-a.net



Neil Harrison is Chair of the WHA. He is also Director of biomass specialists re:heat.



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