



Questions and Answers

We have produced this Question & Answers page to address anticipated members queries about the WHA changing to become the Wood Heat Forum within the REA.

If you have any further questions you want to raise, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Sommerfeld at msommerfeld@r-e-a.net.

Why is WHA becoming a Members Forum of the REA?

At a time of significant change within the biomass heat sector, we must be able to present a strong and unified voice to external stakeholders, working to ensure that influence can be exerted at the highest levels. It is also recognised that this has to be done with tightening resources due to the constraints being felt by the biomass heat industry and, in turn, the association.

Becoming the Wood Heat Forum will provide:

- Greater strength through unity, providing a single voice when lobbying Government and the regulator by fully leveraging the REA brand
- Better focus the activities of the WHA Board and REA Staff on advocacy and lobbying activities to better secure favourable policy outcomes for our members.
- The provision of a wider breadth of services for members

What will the new member forum be called?

The WHA board members have voted and the forum will be known as the 'REA Wood Heat Forum.'

The name 'Wood Heat Forum' has been chosen to maintain continuity between the Association, as it is today, and what it is to become.

We understand that there may be concern about losing the name (and associated branding) of the 'Wood Heat Association'. With this mind, the transition shall be phased so that market participants continue to see the WHA operating within the sector as part of the REA, maintaining the logo and name for a short time. Over time the name will change from Wood Heat Association to Wood Heat Forum, however, the intention is to keep the livery and style of logo, changing the 'A' to an 'F', in order to avoid any loss of identify or voice within the sector.

As part of the transition process, the REA will also write to all relevant stakeholders to explain the change as well as increasing biomass heat advocacy activities to build strength in the new name.

If I have a query who do I contact?

Your day-to-day contact with our REA policy analysts and the services they provide **will not change**. The same members of staff will be dealing with your enquiries, and provide the same high level of service.

Communication plans are in place to ensure that nothing impedes on providing an efficient and responsive service to members which we recognise as being of the utmost importance.

As such, day to day queries should be sent to the following:

- Mark Sommerfeld, Policy Manager msommerfeld@r-e-a.net
- Sam Tickle, Policy Analyst stickle@r-e-a.net

Telephone: 020 7925 3570

Who will lead the REA Wood Heat Forum, who will Chair the group and how will this align with the REA's policy activities?

The majority of the REA's Members Forums have a steering group leading them. It is the current intention that WHA board members, who wish to continue to represent Wood Heat within the REA, will transfer to sitting on the new steering group for the Wood Heat Members Forum. The responsibilities of the steering group are to set the direction for the REA's industry activities in that sector, directly setting the workstream and policy messaging. In this regards, the role of the Steering Group will be same as the old WHA Board, although steering group members will no longer be registered as Directors with Companies House or have any of the financial responsibilities a directorship carries.

The steering group will be chaired by WHA's current Chair, Neil Harrison of re:heat. There will also be an election to fill any remaining open positions on the Steering Group once the transition is complete.

Each of the REA's member forums also has a seat on the REA policy board. This is most often fulfilled by the Chair of the specific forum, but it can be another individual nominated by the corporate members. All voting within REA is carried out on a democratic, one company, one vote basis regardless of company size. As the REA is an industry body, it is only corporate members that are entitled to vote. Associates, reciprocals etc. are not eligible. Members elect the Chair of their Forum, a Vice-Chair if desired, and decide who the board representative should be.

My company is not involved in any renewable energy projects. How will this impact us?

If your interests only lie in biomass heat then we fully understand that you may not require any additional services/newsletters/briefings which result when this change takes place. We fully respect this and in essence, nothing will change for you other than any invoices you receive will come directly from the REA and not branded WHA as this will no longer be the body invoicing you. Any technical enquiries you may have will continue to be dealt with by the same members of staff as before.

Will we have to pay more?

The membership fee for companies is determined according to either number of employees or total turnover. You will join the REA fee structure and pay the same as you would for REA membership as you would have done for WHA membership.

When will we get this year's invoice for membership?

If you have not already renewed with the REA for 2020, you will shortly receive an invoice from the REA in March 2020 for your 2020 membership fee.

The REA's annual membership runs on a rolling calendar basis, and members will receive an invoice on the anniversary of the date they joined. If you are currently a WHA only member, your membership was due for renewal in December 2019, however we delayed issuing it in order to provide a seamless handover from the WHA to the REA.

We are already members of the REA. What will it mean for us?

These companies will continue to receive information, but from the REA Wood Heat Forum rather than the WHA.

Will the WHA continue to run meetings, events and webinars?

The provision of events to our members is an integral and essential element of the service which we offer and as a working Forum within REA, the Wood Heat Forum will continue to offer members' meetings, and arrange webinars and events so that we maintain this valuable service to members.

Where are the REA staff based?

The REA team, who are already supporting the WHA with its work, will continue working out of REA's offices in London to ensure that nothing impedes them in providing an efficient and responsive service to members which we recognise as being of the utmost importance.

This all seems quite straightforward, what should I do now?

The REA will send you a renewal notice and invoice in March 2020 and we strongly encourage you to join us at the [Wood Heat 2020](#) conference at the end of March in Birmingham, to hear about our plans around decarbonising heat.

I have further questions, what next? Contact:

Mark Sommerfeld at the REA - msommerfeld@r-e-a.net

Neil Harrison (Chair of the WHA) - neil@reheat.uk.com

Julian Morgan Jones (Vice Chair of the WHA) - julian@sewf.co.uk

Thank you.