

Renewable Energy Association

Press Release

Embargoed:

Thursday 8th October 2009



REAA in European Commission project to assist & critique UK renewables plan

The Renewable Energy Association is partner in a European Commission-funded project whose objective is to assist and critique Member States in meeting the 2020 renewable energy targets. The project is entitled REPAP 2020 [1].

The UK must ensure that at least 15% of its energy comes from renewable sources by 2020, the most challenging target in Europe. All Member States must submit National Renewable Energy Action Plans to the Commission by 30 June 2010.

Speaking at the REAA's Bioenergy Conference on Thursday, Gaynor Hartnell, the REAA's Chief Policy Officer, said:

“REAA is delighted to be leading this important European project for the UK. Working with the UK steering group, the project will ensure that both national and international experience is brought to bear on the UK Renewable Action Plan and its delivery. It will also help the European Commission monitor national progress.”

The REAA has established an expert steering group [2] to inform the production of a “shadow” action plan, which will be put to a broad meeting of industry stakeholders on 3rd December – for comment and hopefully endorsement. It will then be offered to the Department of Energy and Climate Change where it will hopefully influence the UK's official submission to the Commission.

The second stage of the project begins after the official action plans have all been submitted. Groups in each EU member state will critique them to the European Commission – which has to sign each plan off.

Other work streams in the REPAP project aim to assess the most cost effective means of delivering the target, to build knowledge of Renewables among European Parliamentarians and policy makers and to share experiences and develop best practice among European renewable energy trade associations.

Gaynor Hartnell said

“Bioenergy has an exceptional contribution to make to our 15% energy target. Its unique versatility means it can be used to produce heat, bio-gas that can be fed into the natural gas network, transport fuel and, of course, electricity. The Renewable Energy Strategy envisages half of our overall energy needs to come from bioenergy in one form or another”.

ENDS

Learn more about REPAP at the REAA Bioenergy conference on Thursday 8 October at 9.30am

For further information or to request an interview:

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Notes:

1. The project is entitled Renewable Energy Policy Action paving the way towards 2020 - "REPAP".
2. The following organisations have been invited to participate in the steering group: -
 - Action Renewables
 - British Wind Energy Association
 - DECC
 - Energy Saving Trust
 - Low Carbon Futures / Renewable Advisory Board
 - Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership
 - Micropower Council
 - National Grid
 - Ofgem
 - Scottish Renewables Forum
 - The Carbon Trust
 - UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy
 - Zero Carbon Hub
3. The Renewable Energy Association (REA) is the industrial body for the UK's renewables industry. Its 600 members cover all renewable energy types and all scales from the energy majors to emerging companies in new energy technologies.