

EC turns spotlight on member states renewable energy plans

To meet its legally binding 2020 renewable energy targets¹, the UK must ramp up deployment more steeply than any almost any other European Member State². Hitting a 15% share of renewables in our total energy consumption (i.e. across electricity, heating and transport) from the current share of less than 2% is a massive task.

To focus their minds and help them see whether they are on track, the European Commission requires each member state to submit a National Renewable Energy Action Plan by 30th June this year. As well as seeing the official Governments' action plans, the Commission also wants to hear from industry. This will help it judge whether official national action plans pass muster.

The European Commission is funding a pan-European project to help industry and Governments work together to meet the overall European 20% target. The REA is leading for the UK in this important project. It has convened a Steering Group of key sector representatives³ to give the project the widest coverage.

Gaynor Hartnell, the REA's Director of Policy said:-

"We are delighted that the Commission is taking such care to ensure national renewables plans will deliver. The Government published a Renewable Energy Strategy⁴ in July last year, and expects that to form the basis of its Action Plan. We are concentrating on those areas where the strategy falls short and on barriers that must urgently be removed to ensure the rapid progress needed in the UK. Because we recognise the importance of this project we are urging everyone in the renewables industry to engage"

Over 100 recommendations have already been put to an open meeting of stakeholders, and broadly supported. These include the key issues of targets and trajectories for different technologies, and build on the views of industry, Government and academic partners assigned to the project.

The whole renewables industry across the UK is now being invited to have its say. Companies can vote on the REA's proposals via an online survey⁵ until Friday 5th February.

¹ Under the Renewable Energy Directive

² Only Malta and Luxembourg have a steeper hill to climb.

³ Members of the steering group are Action Renewables, British Wind Energy Association, Energy Networks Association, Energy Saving Trust, Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership, Micropower Council, REA, Scottish Renewables Forum, The Carbon Trust, UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy, Zero Carbon Hub. Corresponding members of the steering group include the National Country Land and Business Association and the National Farmers Union.

⁴ The UK Renewable Energy Strategy, Department of Energy and Climate Change, July 2009

⁵ To see the recommendations and have your say – view the survey on www.surveymonkey.com/s/YLCC25Q or look at the whole document in pdf form on www.re-a.net/info/projects/REPAP2020/repap-survey/IndustryNationalActionPlan

Sector-specific trade associations are being invited to forward this invitation to their members.

ENDS

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Notes:

1. 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.