The REA Decentralised Energy Forum Working Groups

Introduction

At the REA we use working groups within our member forums to bring relevant members and experts together to focus on specific issues and deliver realistic recommendations to government. Below are the working groups within the decentralised energy forum, aimed at addressing specific issues which are current barriers to space-based energy system adoption.

We look to appoint a Chair for each working group. The Chair of the Working Group works closely with the Policy Lead and Chair of the Decentralised Energy Forum to help advance the working group and ensure it is aligned with the overarching mission of the forum.

We would also like to produce a position paper for each work group within the first 6 months of the work group being set up, this paper would aim to:
- Clearly explain the issue being focused on
- Deliver evidence and case studies describing how the issue is a barrier to development
- Deliver a set of clear recommendations on how to overcome these issues,
- Provide an evidence base for ongoing REA advocacy for the relevant reforms to be put in place.

The REA Decentralised Energy Forum Problem Statement

There needs to be more comprehensive and holistic policy design for enabling the connection of clean energy systems to facilitate the effective delivery of place-based energy solutions that match both localised generation and demand.

This is important for reducing the cost of reinforcing our transmission power infrastructure; increasing the scope of flexibility for consumers; make energy more affordable; deliver green jobs and achieve our Net Zero targets.

This can be expected to provide routes to market for all clean technologies and stakeholders in the clean energy sector.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CLEAN TECHNOLOGY
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The Working Groups

We are keen to hear members views on these working groups, as well what should be the key policy or regulatory issue that the groups should focus on.

Table of the details of the Working Groups

Working group/stream	Problem statement of the working group	Why that working group?	Topics that could be covered in the working group
Smart Systems in the Distribution Grids Working Group	The evolution of DNOs to DSOs will determine how smart systems are connected and how they will evolve. This could include considering: - Distribution grid constraints - Metering requirements - MHHS - Smart and Secure Electricity Requirements - Network charging - Commercial three-phase connections	The REA Decentralised Energy Forum looks to work on the link between renewable place-based generation and the clean energy infrastructure that supports it. The Distribution grid will have a key role to play in linking these systems and determining how they connect. This working group will build on the existing work of the grid reform work of the REA.	- Smart meters - Network charges and tariffs - MHHS - Smart grids - Microgrids - Smart battery management systems - DSOs - Flexibility market - Three phase connections for businesses - Virtual Power Plants - Bidirectional charging - Utilisation of new assets - Cybersecurity
Commercial Onsite Solar Working Group (joint with the Solar and Storage Forum)	Commercial rooftops represent a significant opportunity for new solar developments. Yet the specific barriers to deployment remain largely unaddressed when compared to other solar sectors. For example, landlords and tenants of commercial properties have issues deciding arrangements for rooftop solar on buildings, such as who is responsible for the solar panels e.g. who pays the insurance and who benefits from the excess power exported.	The REA Decentralised Energy Forum will look to support this working group which is envisaged to sit within the REA Solar and Storage forum, this working group has come about following feedback from a number of members about the difficulties of fitting solar on rooftops of commercial buildings despite the massive	- Commercial rooftop solar - Solar canopy car parks - Addressing grid connection issues

		potential commercial rooftop solar presents.	
<u>Connecting Distributed Heat Working Group</u>	Heat networks have the potential to play a critical role in the decarbonisation of heat, including supporting local authority decarbonisation plans as well as meeting commercial heat needs. Heat network policy in the UK is advancing slowly, but recent developments in Heat Network Zoning and industrial decarbonisation is moving the sector forward. This group could look to help drive the policy agenda on heat networks from the perspective of heat powering technologies represented by the REA and ensuring joined up thinking between heat technology policy and wider decentralised energy systems.	The REA recognises the challenge the UK faces in trying to decarbonise heat and recognise heat networks as key to overcoming that challenge, and removing our reliance on natural gas. The REA also represents a wide selection of heat network powering technologies, including geothermal, biomass heat, energy from waste and AD.	- Heat Network support mechanisms - Heat network zoning. - Waste heat recycling - Heat pump adoption - Thermal energy storage
<u>Addressing consumer needs with place-based energy systems Working Group</u>	As the decentralised heat market matures, greater focus on standards and protections for consumers will be required, to ensure a sustainable sector. Installations of clean technologies will also increase rapidly as we race to reach Net Zero targets. Additionally, consumers need to be more incentivised and rewarded for the adoption of clean technologies and more support mechanisms to help reduce the payback period of installing these clean technologies need to be explored.	As the deployment of clean technologies and decentralised energy systems evolve, consumer needs need to be considered. This work group will also allow the REA to engage in more work with its subsidiaries Renewable Energy Assurance Ltd (REAL) and Renewable Energy Consumer Code (RECC) to drive change in the renewable energy sector to make consumers are appropriately supported.	- Industry standards in renewable energy - Consumer codes and rights - Standardisation of industry standards and consumer codes - Salary Sacrifice Scheme and other policies to incentivise clean technology adoption. - Cross sector collaboration to support customer demand

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			- Rural based place-based energy systems - Addressing greenwashing