

All Members Newsletter

15th July 2021



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Defra meeting with clearSkies

clearSkies is scheduled to meet with Defra on 17th September.

The meeting has been requested by the policy team of the Air Quality and Industrial Emissions, Environmental Quality Directorate within Defra and is the first time that they have actively sought a meeting with clearSkies.



clearSkies has been asked to provide an update on the clearSkies scheme at the meeting.

This is a clear indication that Defra is looking to see if the industry has bought into the scheme, how the scheme is able to provide evidence of the steps the industry is taking to go beyond Ecodesign requirements and whether Defra will be able to reference the clearSkies scheme in the future.

Now that fuel legislation has been passed, it is likely that Defra will be once again looking closely at wood burning appliances. Evidence of this can also be seen at local authority level and the SIA is actively working on informing senior policy makers at local council level on the benefits of wood burning stoves.

This meeting will be a one-off opportunity to show Defra that the industry is taking action to self-regulate on appliances and to educate the public, while at the same time creating an environment and a demand for manufacturers to innovate, and create continuous improvement in domestic wood burning appliances.

We are therefore in the process of contacting all manufacturers with applications in draft to see if we can be of any help in progressing their applications, and would urge any members that are considering applying for clearSkies certification on their products to do so as soon as possible.

[Click here to access the clearSkies application portal.](#)

Northern Ireland consultations

The SIA has submitted a response to the [Northern Ireland Assembly Call for Evidence on the Climate Change Bill](#).

The Bill proposes a number of actions to help achieve its aims including the establishment of Climate Action Plans across various sectors and regular reporting to monitor progress in terms of delivering the net-zero target.

The SIA's full response can be viewed using the link above and is also available in the members' area of the SIA website.

Belfast City Council is also consulting on air quality and the SIA will be submitting a response in due course.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Latest media coverage

The SIA continues its programme of external communications and has received coverage in recent weeks from a range of different outlets. Click on the links below to see the various articles.



[SIA comment on fuel legislation](#)

[SIA authored article](#) - Wood burning stoves in a low carbon future



[SIA authored article - The Original Form of Low Carbon Heating, An Expert Guide](#)



This article was aimed at architects and builders & has been published in the magazine's online edition. A PDF will be available in the members' area of the website in due course.



Information piece for members of the Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps on the various work the SIA is doing to promote benefits of wood burning stoves. [Read here.](#)



A shortened version of the article on the Guild website appeared in latest NACS member newsletter.

HETAS update

As members will be aware, the SIA has endeavoured to continue a productive working relationship with HETAS. The SIA has extended an invitation for a representative from HETAS to attend the SIA Technical Committee Meetings and HETAS was invited to renew its Stakeholder Membership of the SIA but this was unfortunately declined.

It has recently been made clear to us that it is HETAS' intention not to currently work or co-operate with the SIA. We very much regret this position and have once again reiterated to HETAS that we would like to work with them and believe that the industry is best served by collaboration between our two organisations. Accordingly, the SIA will continue to correspond with HETAS on industry matters.

Membership renewals

We wish to remind all members of the upcoming membership renewal dates.

SIA Members are now being contacted for their 2021/22 renewals.

SIA Associate Members (Retail Group) will receive renewal notifications in time for the 1st September renewal date.



Meeting dates

The next round of SIA meetings will commence in September as follows:

1st Sept - SIA Executive Meeting

8th Sept - SIA Retail Group Executive Meeting

15th Sept - SIA General Meeting

22nd Sept - SIA Retail Group General Meeting

We hope to be able to hold the SIA General Meeting on 15th September in person. Final venue arrangements are being made and the details will be shared with members in due course.



Call for evidence

The SIA operations team is interested in gathering evidence of the environmental credentials of the stove industry within the circular economy. This will be of benefit in our engagement with key stakeholders, particularly within national and local government, and will help us make the case for an industry committed to continuous improvement.

To this end we invite members with any evidence of the environmental initiatives being implemented by steel and iron suppliers to share this information with us. We would be interested to know what percentage of steel and iron supplies are recycled.

Please contact Erica or James with any insights you may have.

SIA website

The SIA website is regularly refreshed with the latest news articles.

We have also recently added a new page [How to become an SIA member](#). This page contains links to member application forms and fee information, making it easier than ever for companies interested in SIA membership to sign up.

We have also added a [Meet the Team](#) page.

