

The Ground Source Heat Pump Association (GSHPA) was formed in June 2006 to serve as the focal point for organisations with business interests in Ground Source Energy.

AIMS

The GSHPA encourages the growth and development of the ground source heat pump industry by:

- promoting the efficient and sustainable use of ground source heat pumps
- raising awareness of the benefits of ground source heat pumps
- developing ground source installation [Standards](#)
- encouraging high standards of training for the industry
- providing a forum for information interchange
- liaising with related organisations to benefit the ground source industry
- [encouraging Ground Source Energy](#) in the local, national and international interest of members

All members undertake to abide by the Association's Code of Ethical Practice and GSHPA Standards.

WORK

A few years ago, ground source heat pumps played a small part in the UK's heating industry. As the climate change agenda became mainstream, significant growth occurred. The result is that this critically important technology is now recognised as a significant contributor to minimising global warming.

Among the Association's successes to date are:

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

- keeping the installation time from grant offer letter at six months, when most technologies were cut
- winning an extra £6 million for the programme in the March 2007 budget
- avoiding some of the negative publicity obtained by other Associations.

Microgeneration Certification Scheme

- influencing the MCS Working Group 6 (WG6), (see 'Sub Committees')
- at MCS Steering Group level gaining, with others, industry governance of the scheme. This should have significant long term benefits.

Sustainable Heat Alliance

- Cabinet level ministers and other mandarins now recognise the importance of heat as well as transport and electricity in national energy policy.

Renewable Heat Incentive

- GSHPA has lobbied DECC and Ofgem in relation to the RHI for ground source heat pumps which led to a 250% increase in non-domestic RHI tariffs from 28 May 2014 and higher levels for domestic RHI when they were introduced in April 2014 .

General Issues

- Raising the profile of GSHPs within the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target, CERT (previously called EEC2)
- Maintaining PPS22 (the Merton Rule) in the light of threats from parts of the construction industry
- Improving the Microgeneration Strategy in relation to '15% RE by 2020' target
- Helping to develop the Microgeneration Certification Scheme
- and, on the European level, coordinating actions with the European Heat Pump Association and the European Geothermal Energy Council to work on improving European Renewable Heat directives.

TRAINING AND STANDARDS

A key aim of the GSHPA is to ensure good installation standards throughout the industry which means ensuring the availability of good and appropriate training. The Training & Standards Sub Committee has already undertaken a great deal of very effective work and has, amongst other successes:

- published the GSHPA Vertical Borehole Standard
- published the GSHPA Thermal Pile Standard
- published the GSHPA Shallow Ground Source Standard
- realised changes to the MCS MIS 3005 on Heat Pump Systems
- developed a Basic Level Installer Competence Criteria
- worked with BPEC and Logic Certification on course development

The next few years offer very significant opportunities and challenges for the GSHP industry. As the technology moves from a niche market to a mainstream technology, there will be many vested interests that do not want to see the status quo disturbed. So the industry needs to remain united and work through the Association to realise very significant growth.

Our target is to see over 200,000 domestic GSHP systems installed per annum by 2020 and also at least a 50% penetration of ground source technologies in the commercial heating / cooling market by 2020.

To meet this challenge, the GSHPA has set up a series of Sub Committees, each working for the benefit of the Association and the wider GSHP industry. The current Sub Committees are as follows:

- Training & Standards Sub-Committee (T&SC)
- Policy Sub-Committee (PSC)
- Marketing Sub-Committee (MSC)

ASSISTING MEMBERS

The GSHPA works to assist its members in growing their businesses. The information shared on marketing, best practice design and installation, government policy initiatives etc means that members keep abreast of the changes in the industry and, by becoming actively involved, help to drive these changes.

There are on-going developments being driven by the Sub Committees including:

- Regular Newsletters
- Association's website
- Standards and building regulations
- Public awareness of ground source heating and cooling
- Installer training
- Consultancy and design information
- Certification schemes
- Ground Source events in England, Scotland, Wales & N Ireland

The GSHPA is the members' Association. To be really successful, we need to stay in touch and the GSHPA welcomes members' feedback and commitment in furthering mutual aims and objectives.

Ground Source Heat Pump Association

THE BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Increased Consumer Confidence resulting from

- membership of an Association with Standards
- a much publicised and respected Code of Ethical Practice

Promotion, Publicity & an opportunity for an increase in market share including:

- inclusion on the widely distributed List of Members
- inclusion on the Association's website with live links to each member's website

Opportunity to input to the drawing up of technical standards, publications

Opportunity to influence government policies through membership of a lobbying Association

Use of the Association's logo and Membership Services such as insurance schemes

Keeping up to date through:

- regular newsletters
- frequent mailings to include
 - market information
 - information from DECC and other relevant organisations
 - updates on technical standards, government initiatives and equipment providers

Networking with the industry in the UK, Europe and beyond

Invitation to trade events with discounted entry fees where applicable

Applicants for membership are expected to ensure high standards.