

Time for change-Creating a stronger and more influential trade association

At a time of uncertainty and increased regulation, it has never been more important for the biodegradable resource sector to have a strong, unified and influential trade association working on behalf of industry, ensuring that a sense of proportionality is maintained by the regulators and influence can be exerted within Government at the highest level.

A criticism levelled at our sector in the past has been that there is too much fragmentation. This can at best confuse the listener and at worst dilute the strength of the message which is being conveyed. In order for a trade association to work effectively on behalf of its members, it must be unified if it is to convince Government of the case for change.

Time for change

For these reasons, the AfOR Board has decided that it would be in the interests of all the members of AfOR to merge with another trade association, with whom we share a number of synergies. The objective is to increase the strength and influence of our members. This trade association is the Renewable Energy Association (REA).

The REA has been in existence for ten years, and has been influential in directing renewable energy policy. It has around 960 corporate members, active in all fields of renewable energy, power generation, heat production, transport fuels and biomethane. In addition it has a wholly-owned subsidiary (Renewable Energy Assurance Limited) which manages the Biofertiliser Certification Scheme (BCS) and Green Gas Certification Schemes. The BCS certifies AD plants against the PAS 110 standard. It is for these reasons that REA complements the technical skills within AfOR, creating a balanced match.

The AfOR board had considered a merger with ADBA, but decided that the REA was a better match. It is anticipated that the merger with REA will result in greater membership benefits than those available under ADBA, which would only benefit our members with AD interests.

AfOR has long embraced the concept that a blend of technologies is best placed to serve the UK's organics recycling requirements. It is AfOR's strong belief that the REA's complimentary skills will support the needs of all our members, not just those in the AD sector. Many of our members involved in composting also have agricultural interests. We believe that membership of the REA will help these members to continue to diversify their agricultural activities by offering support in complementary activities such as biomass, PV and wind projects all of which are fast becoming economically viable both at a micro and medium scale.

Certification of both PAS100 and PAS110 would be simplified and strengthened with such a merger with the skills and certification bodies coming together to more accurately reflect our members' needs and more forcefully present these to the Government.

Support the change

We urge you to support this change as it will provide greater long term security for you and the organics sector as a whole and enhance and broaden the range of advice and services we can offer you.

Attached you will find answers to some of your anticipated concerns.

Thank You



Jeremy Jacobs