

2022-23 Impact and Value Report

Sustainable Energy Association



Introduction

By Jade Lewis - Chief Executive, Sustainable Energy Association



Since our last Impact and Value Report, and dual publication of the Heat and Buildings and Net Zero Strategies, countless new Government policies have been published and enacted. The Sustainable Energy Association (SEA) has continued to inform and influence these myriad policies, providing a voice for our members and helping to progress action towards delivering buildings that are fit for the future, energy efficient, net-zero carbon, warm and healthy. In particular, we have been instrumental in bringing about the Government's plan to implement a new Energy Company Obligation (ECO+), now named 'The Great British Insulation Scheme', to deliver energy efficiency measures and smart controls in homes across Great Britain from 2023 to 2026.

The highly inflated cost of energy, and the need to provide energy security in the UK, has seen energy efficiency and sustainable energy rising to the top of the Government's agenda. The vast expertise and breadth of solutions that the SEA provides will be instrumental in tackling the current energy crisis whilst contributing to a more sustainable future. Our diverse and innovative member base thus cements us as a valuable go-to organisation for decisionmakers in central and local governments, and many stakeholders with an interest in our agenda.



A real highlight for me was being personally invited to No. 10 Downing Street to provide expertise on energy efficiency, kicking off a new reducing energy demand from buildings.

A lot has happened since our last Impact Report. We also saw the country come out of (hopefully our last) lockdown after a battle with COVID-19, finally enabling us to meet in person at our annual parliamentary reception. The Energy Minister, Lord Callanan, attended in person, and we were joined by many key parliamentarians, civil servants, and high-profile industry influencers to discuss the gaps in heat and buildings policy.

Despite another very challenging year, we have made huge progress as an organisation, and thank you to all our amazing members for their continued support and engagement.

Our 2022 Action Plan was, yet again, focused on our key deliverables:

- **Long-term, joined up and effective policy and regulation exists to drive energy efficiency and sustainable energy in buildings.**
- **Good quality and high performance are the norm in the sustainable energy and energy efficiency sectors.**
- **The knowledge and skills exist in the industry to deliver a holistic approach to decarbonising buildings, while enhancing health and wellbeing.**
- **There is strong consumer and client demand for energy efficiency and sustainable energy.**
- **Innovation, of new and existing technologies, is rapidly adopted to advance the delivery of energy efficient and low carbon buildings.**

We also aim to continue to make the SEA highly influential to deliver value for our members and deliver effective policy change.

Here are a few highlights...



In a world of finite resources, the Sustainable Energy Association exists to help create living and working spaces fit for future generations.

Our work seeks to align the interests of business, politicians and consumers to make this a reality, supporting improvements in public health, increasing national employment and generating sustainable economic growth.

We are industry leaders in energy in buildings. We are technology agnostic and provide objective, evidence-based policy positions which help shape how we think about, generate and use energy. We are constructive, collaborative and committed to achieving our vision, by ensuring that buildings are energy efficient, net zero-carbon, warm and healthy.

Effective Policy

The Gaps in Heat and Buildings Policy

Given the large array of new and updated policies that have been introduced during the previous couple of years, a major piece of work last year was to take stock of where we were and highlight the remaining gaps in policy around heat and buildings. We arranged a series of events to determine the gaps in different areas: a joint event with the Parliamentary Renewable & Sustainable Energy Group (PRASEG), to determine the gaps in energy policy, and an event on the health policy gaps with the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Healthy Homes and Buildings. We also set up a main-stage event at UK Construction Week, covering the relevant policy gaps in construction, alongside senior civil servants from the Cabinet Office and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Our Policy Advisor, Girvin Gill produced an excellent report on the findings, which was published in June, entitled, [‘What Next for Heat and Buildings Policy?’](#)

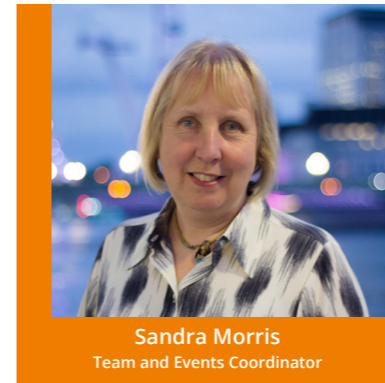


Girvin Gill
Policy Advisor

The report was widely circulated and promoted by the Construction Leadership Council, and we even received a personal thank you from the Energy Minister and his team for sharing the report with them. We are continuing to advocate for the remaining gaps in policy to be addressed.

The SEA Annual Parliamentary Reception

We had a fantastic parliamentary reception on the topic of heat and buildings policy. The Energy Minister, Lord Callanan, recognised the importance of our work, spoke at the event, answered questions and stayed a long-while afterwards to liaise with members. There was a great selection of attendees from across government departments and agencies, alongside lead parliamentary and industry figures. This provided our members with the valuable opportunity to network with each other and key decisionmakers and stakeholders in the energy and construction sectors.



Our Team and Events Coordinator, Sandra Morris, did an amazing job arranging the event and is already planning this year's reception on 'Skills Fit for the Future.'



Thank you again to Daikin, Mitsubishi Electric and Vaillant for kindly sponsoring the event.



A Technology-Agnostic Approach to Heat and Buildings Policy

Current policy on low carbon heating has been, in large part, directed towards one particular technology, the heat pump. While the SEA is very supportive of moves by the Government to decarbonise the sector and increase up-take of low-carbon heating technologies like heat pumps, we have always advocated a fabric-first, holistic and technology-agnostic approach to heat in buildings. Recognising that there are many other electrified technologies, low carbon-fuel driven solutions, innovations, and complementary and ancillary measures that have a role to play is of upmost importance. This view is shared by a number of other trade associations in the sector. Therefore, we formed a partnership with the Electrical Contractors' Association (ECA), National Energy Foundation (NEF), Association for Renewable Energy & Clean Technology (REA), Oil Firing Technical Association (OFTEC), Solar Energy UK (SEUK), and Thermal Storage UK (TSUK). Following a number of virtual roundtable events, we decided to write a report detailing the benefits and economic case for the Government to take a technology-agnostic approach to their heat and buildings policy. The report also provided case studies and examples where such an approach is already being taken and used in practice.

We also held a joint industry and SEA member networking event in October 2022 to inform the report, hosted at the Active Building Centre in Gloucestershire. There, we heard more about the benefits of a technology-agnostic approach from our members, partners and the low-carbon heating industry, as well as hearing from the Welsh and UK Governments on why outcomes-based policymaking is so important.

We launched the immense report, '[A Technology-Agnostic Approach to Heat and Buildings Policy](#)', at a joint launch event with PRASEG in February this year. The launch event was very well attended by over 100 representatives from across government departments and industry. We heard amazing speeches from those by the likes of Bim Afolami MP, Ben Copson, our Policy Advisor and author of the report, and report partners.



The Technology Agnostic Approach to Heat & Buildings Policy Report received extensive coverage and positive reception across a number of key trade and local media outlets, including Bim Afolami MP's own Conservative Party website. Since release, the report has attracted an estimated 22,000 views, with publication-wide audiences of over 141,000. Engagements in the report are also typically higher than average, with likes, comments and shares on various media outlets showcasing interest in the report and thus higher retention rates.

Many outlets provided positive feedback to the technology agnostic approach, highlighting the reports focus on steering clear from a one-size-fits-all approach to heat and buildings policy and embracing an unbiased attitude that addresses the UK's diverse building stock.

Of particular note was the Building Research Establishment's (BRE) press note welcoming the report specifically, adding that the document spotlights the overarching need to deploy an evidence-led, data-driven, bottom-up and technology-agnostic route to net zero, establishing the best technologies in the right circumstances.

Commentators, stakeholders, and organisations largely agreed with our suggestions for an unbiased approach, with an overwhelmingly positive response from many stating that the report was "detailed", "exciting" and contained messages that will aid the path to net zero.

Following the launch, we were invited to present the findings to an audience of over 100 policy advisors and analysts from across the Government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. Further, the Greater London Authority, His Majesty's Treasury, the Department for Business and Trade, and others, have requested more detail on the report and are keen to work with us moving forward. Ben has been invited to speak at a number of industry events, including the main stage at UK Construction Week. Officials have been impressed at how we have been able to bring about collaboration with other associations and create a strong voice for the sector.

We are now considering what phase 2 of the project should entail and are continuing to advocate for a technology-agnostic approach.



National Retrofit Strategy

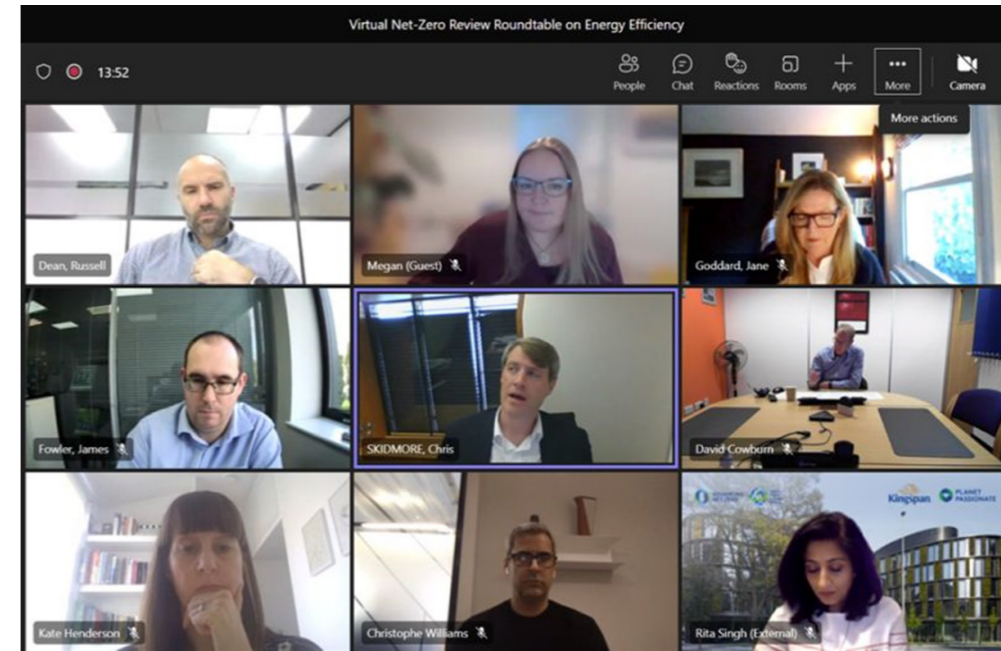
We have also been advocating for a [National Retrofit Strategy](#) to help provide longer-term certainty to the sector, helping companies to invest in the necessary innovation, capacity building, knowledge and skills to deliver our vision.

Our Chief Executive was personally selected to attend a workshop at the BEIS, now Department for Energy and Net Zero, Conference Centre to begin developing a delivery mechanism for the National Retrofit Strategy with the Construction Leadership Council, Green Construction Board and key figures from across the sector. The SEA was an official sponsor of the event and is now a formal partner of the new [National Retrofit Hub](#), working with others in the industry to make the National Retrofit Strategy a reality, share expertise and catalyse progress.



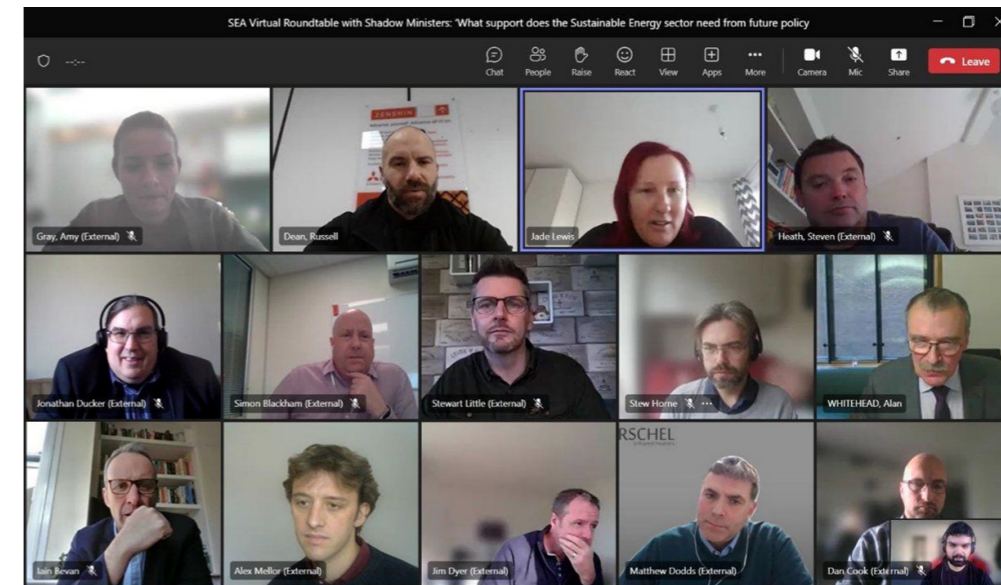
Net-Zero Review

The SEA was the only association approached by the Government's independent Net-Zero Review team to run a virtual roundtable with Chris Skidmore MP on energy efficiency. We had the opportunity to feed our views directly into the review and have clearly had an influence on the findings and recommendations made in the final [report](#).



Influencing Labour Party Policy

We are already thinking about a possible election in 2024 and had a meeting with the Shadow Energy Minister, Dr Alan Whitehead MP, to provide input into the Labour Party's energy policy. The meeting was a huge success and we have been invited to host other roundtable events with Alan and members later in the year.



Consumer and Client Demand

ECO+

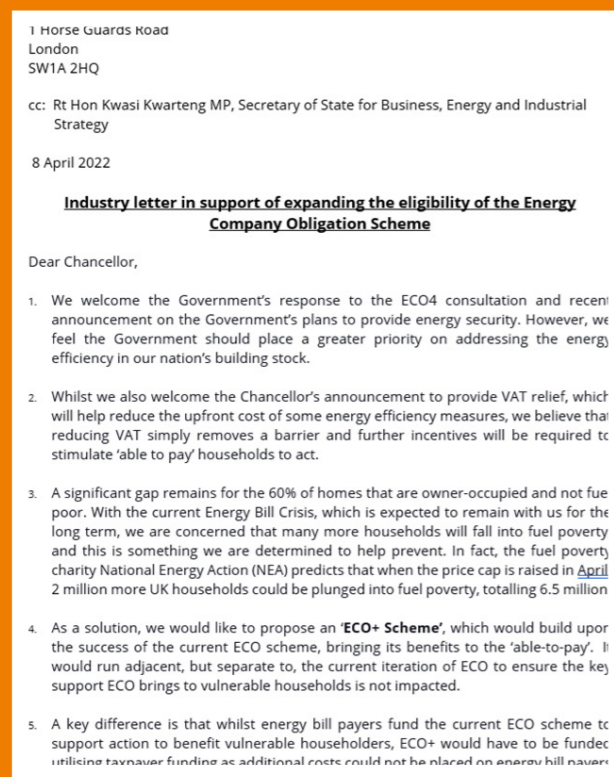
The SEA was instrumental in getting ECO+, now called the ‘Great British Insulation Scheme’, from a concept into government policy. We sent and published an [industry letter](#) to the Chancellor, in support of an idea that was had by one of our members, EDF, for which we canvassed support from many other key industry organisations.

We had a very positive response back from the Treasury and via liaison with relevant civil servants and the provision of supporting data, we were able to gain the necessary support from officials. The idea was progressed into a public consultation proposing an early delivery phase from April 2023 and full scheme launch later this year.

The additional funding will enable energy companies to offer energy efficiency and smart control measures to a greater number of consumers, helping to make their homes warmer and comfortable and reduce energy bills. This will also help to increase demand for insulation and other energy saving products which will need to be dramatically scaled to reach 2030 energy reduction targets and beyond.

‘Being a member of the SEA brings great value to our organisation, whether that be from the wealth of knowledge and experience shared across the SEA membership or their support in proactively advocating for policy changes that support consumers and help Britain achieve net zero, such as ECO+.’

Keith Watson - Senior Manager Customers Policy and Regulation, EDF



Building Passports

The SEA advocates the need for 'Building Renovation Passports', whole-building plans that set out the measures required to decarbonise a property, reduce energy demands, and deliver wider improvements.

Having defined what we mean by a building passport and gaining industry insight into the development of building passports across the UK and overseas, we have now positioned ourselves as a 'critical friend' to the Welsh Government in their development work on a building passport.

We also continue to work with key industry bodies, like the CLC, to deliver a building passport. As a partner of the National Retrofit Hub, we will be championing the use of these tools to deliver buildings fit for the future.

The Construction Playbook

The SEA has been providing input into the Cabinet Office's review of the [Construction Playbook](#) and sector guidance, which will influence the procurement rules of central and local governments to drive a more value-based approach to government-funded construction work and drive decarbonisation in the sector.

[New Net Zero guidance](#) was published last year alongside the revised playbook.

Raising Consumer Awareness

We have been working with Placeshapers and TPAS to determine what action is needed to support social housing tenants in the move to adopting low-carbon heating systems—starting by gauging their views on heat pumps.

Together, we published a joint paper, '[Net Zero, Technology and Tenants](#)', highlighting the challenges faced by tenants and including recommendations for the Government, social housing sector and industry.



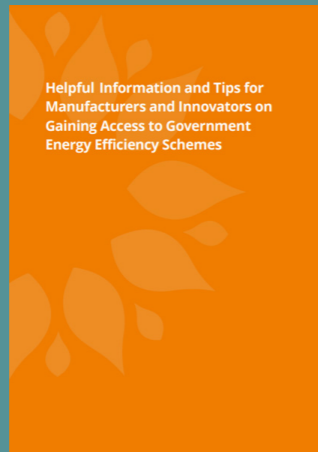
The Vaillant Heat Pump Challenge

Our Chief Executive was asked to be a judge for member Vaillant's Heat Pump Challenge, alongside celebrity designer and TV presenter, Kevin McCloud. The competition aims to showcase projects where heat pumps have been installed where not thought possible, and in situations that dispel myths and preconceptions, e.g., that heat pumps can't be installed in older buildings.



Adoption of Innovation

A number of our members have developed new and innovative energy saving products. They are struggling to get them installed under government funding schemes due to the many challenges and barriers faced. In order to understand the problems in more detail and overcome these challenges, the SEA ran a series of workshops in partnership with TrustMark, the Government endorsed quality scheme for home improvements. We then published a paper '[Helpful Information and Tips for Manufacturers and Innovators on Gaining Access to Government Energy Efficiency Schemes](#)' to provide help for those going through the process, which was jointly branded with TrustMark, British Standards Institute (BSI) and Building Research Establishment (BRE).



Jade Lewis
Chief Executive, SEA,
chairing innovation workshop

Recognising that the available support and advice was limited, and that there is a lack of a process and ownership for innovation, we are now working with TrustMark, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Innovate UK (the UK's national innovation agency, supporting business-led innovation), Ofgem, Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS), BSI and their Retrofit Standards Task Group, Energy Systems Catapult, UKAS and others, to address the barriers and develop a new process to enable the rapid adoption of innovation within future energy efficiency schemes. This will be addressed all the while maintaining the importance of necessary quality controls and the need to mitigate risk.

After presenting the findings from our work at one of Innovate UK's networking events, the SEA is now a formal partner of their Net Zero Heat cohort. This is a peer group cohort of leading innovative companies that will be key players in a future net zero heat economy.

Our Chief Executive was also a judge for Digital Housing's Innovation Awards for work on innovation in the social housing sector.



Knowledge and Skills

The SEA would like there to be a competent workforce, where skills and knowledge are continuously assessed and verified. This should be with the aim to deliver a holistic approach to energy efficiency and sustainable energy in buildings to both high standards and at scale—both in new build and retrofit.

Mark Wilkins, from Vaillant, has continued to represent the SEA on key skills working groups led by the Construction Leadership Council and MCS, to help deliver the necessary knowledge and skills for the sector.

Mark also chairs our quarterly skills working group meetings, hosting guest speakers, including representatives from the Building Safety Executive, the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education and the Department for Business and Trade.



Mark Wilkins
Technologies & Training Director, Vaillant Group

'There is a massive skills and labour shortage in the green skills arena, and this is arguably the biggest challenge that we currently face. The Sustainable Energy Association is a cross-industry representative body and has a vital role to play in bringing together its members with their varied interests to build an advocacy plan across numerous sectors bringing skills to the top of the agenda. The SEA's role is not to develop training and education programmes themselves, but they are brilliantly placed to bring together those that can.'

Our Chief Executive has continued to represent the SEA on the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's Electrification of Heat Task Group to help deliver the skills required for the scale up of heat pump installations.

We have continued to strengthen our relations with the Department for Education and Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education and are liaising directly with them to ensure we have the skills required to deliver buildings fit for the future.

Quality and Performance

The SEA is a sponsor of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Healthy Homes and Buildings, which has been liaising with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Department for Health & Social Care, as well as other key stakeholders, in order to get health and wellbeing onto the Government's agenda.

The group has recently started a campaign, 'Healthy Homes, Healthy Britain' to advocate the urgent need for more government action on this vitally important topic.

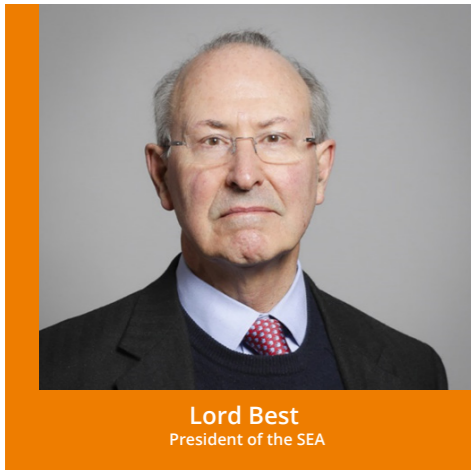
Our Chief Executive is a regular speaker at their events and co-authored the group's [white paper](#).



Influential SEA

The SEA 2022 Annual General Meeting

Lord Best was once again re-elected as president at our AGM in September 2022, where we got to hear his views on the work of the SEA and his insights into sustainable energy in the parliamentary world.



Lord Best
President of the SEA

'It's incredible what the SEA has been up to, the number of contacts that they've made and the ways in which they have spread their influence is extraordinary! Many congratulations to Jade, the team and colleagues.'

I personally benefit from the incredibly good advice that they provide. The SEA get down to the real technical details which is absolutely central to the Parliamentary debates.'

We also heard from our Vice President, Russell Dean from Mitsubishi Electric.



Russell Dean
Vice President, SEA, and Residential Product
Group Director, Mitsubishi Electric

'Net Zero offers a fantastic opportunity for all technologies and being members of the SEA, with our technologically agnostic approach, gives us such a credible voice in the industry and for government ministers and civil servants that are looking for advice on policies. The way that we've been called in to comment on up-and-coming policy is really aligned to the credibility we have. The SEA has been transformed into an organisation that's making some real changes.'

Improving our Impact

We have continued to directly inform and shape policy throughout the year. 2023 was no exception, starting with an invite to Number 10 to attend an energy efficiency workshop due to our expertise on the subject matter.

We were invited to join a new Cross-Scheme Industry Panel, which was set up by the BEIS Homes Decarbonisation Supply Chain Team, to input our views on the many current funding schemes.

We continue to support low carbon heating policy, via a position on the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's Electrification of Heat Task Group, which has also enabled SEA members to get involved directly in the working groups and take steps to increase installations of heat pumps.

Our Chief Executive was asked to feed into the Infrastructure and Projects Authority's review of the Home Upgrade Grant scheme and personally interviewed by Treasury.



Selvin Brown, deputy director at the formerly named Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), approached us to support him in working with the Government as a key industry stakeholder on the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF)—the government scheme to improve the energy performance of social housing through targeted investment and collaborative engagement with social housing landlords. We were also approached to run a workshop with members due to our technical knowledge and input into the development of the scheme. We have since been invited to join a new select panel of expert advisors to scrutinise an independent evaluation of the SHDF.

We have had many government officials attend our working group meetings, including representatives from the Welsh Government on their Warm Homes Discount Scheme, and DLUHC on elements of the Future Homes and Future Buildings Standards, prior to consultation with the wider industry.

We were also invited to feed into BEIS research by DG Cities and UCL that aims to develop knowledge and evidence of approaches to upgrade underperforming and technically difficult to treat housing.

Most of our focus has been on building relations with officials across government. However, we have continued with our parliamentary campaigning, playing a leading role in All Party Parliamentary Groups like the Parliamentary Renewable & Sustainable Energy Group (PRASEG), meeting Lords and MPs, and liaising with a few key organisations like Peers for the Planet, and the House of Lords Climate and Biodiversity Action Group.

'The SEA helps us get direct access to the right officials while their policy documents are consistently well-thought through. From a personal perspective, the team shows a great willingness to understand our issues and balance them against that of the wider membership.'

Steven Heath, Technical Director, Knauf Insulation Northern Europe

Raising our Profile

We have also continued to be influential across industry.

The SEA is an official partner of the Construction Leadership Council's (CLC) CO2nstruct Zero campaign, and our Chief Executive continues to be a judge on applications as potential 'Net Zero Business Champions', as well as the new CO2nstruct Zero Awards.

Jade was also a judge for the H&V News Energy Awards.

We have had the opportunity to speak at many industry events and aim to be selective to ensure we are most efficiently representing our members. This year they have included: the Building and Construction Summit; Futurebuild; National House Building Council (NHBC) conference; H&V news virtual conference; UK Construction Week; Glass and Glazing Federation's Members Day; our own members events; the National Building Specification's (NBS) Sustainability Report Launch Webinar; and the Active Building Centre's Supply Chain Event and Blueprint Launch Event, where the SEA was the headline sponsor.



The SEA hosted an extremely well-attended panel session of members at Futurebuild on 'How do we ensure buildings are fit for the future?'. The panel included Ren Baletti from EDF, Jim Dyer from Sovereign Housing, Dan Cook from the Active Building Centre, Russell Dean from Mitsubishi Electric and Simon Blackham from Recticel Insulation.



Our Chief Executive was also invited to speak at a Westminster forum debate on energy security.



Our Chief Executive was also invited to speak as an expert on Net Zero on a podcast and film for the Electrical Contractors' Association's (ECA) [Leading the Charge](#) digital series. Jade is also a regular column writer for H&V News, providing news and insights for the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning industry. The columns act as an additional opportunity to advocate our key messages and often relate to our latest publications.

Member Benefits

There are 3 different membership packages to choose from, covering most types of organisations, but we are always happy to discuss options.

Corporate Membership

- Corporate membership is ideal for small and medium sized companies and will allow you to have detailed policy input into the areas which affect you most.
- Gives you a voice into government.
- Provides access to government contacts. The SEA is viewed as an expert in sustainable energy and energy efficiency in the built environment and as a result, government officials approach us for advice and our views.
- Provides the opportunity to feed into the early stages of policy development and collective consultation responses, to influence favourable outcomes for your organisation by minimising business risk and maximising market opportunities.
- Provides the latest information on government policy and regulation via SEA briefings – often information which hasn't yet been made public, enabling early insight – providing expert advice on how to prepare your organisation and helping you see the bigger picture.
- Provides thought leadership and evidence-based reasoning, positioning it as a credible organisation to be associated with, enhancing your Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) credentials.
- Provides access and insight into the market, to other members and potential customers, creating opportunities for your business.
- Helps you to advance your own strategic priorities – providing sustainable market growth for your products and solutions via an improved policy environment.



Housing Provider Membership

This membership level is ideal for housing providers who want to understand policy and regulation, influence policy development and lead the way on decarbonising their housing stock.

- **Policy and political representation on issues pertaining to energy in buildings.**
- **Opportunity to shape and develop policy and regulation.**
- **Expert advice on government policy and regulation.**
- **Opportunity to participate in SEA working group meetings.**
- **Opportunity to collaborate with innovative product providers and gain valuable information on delivering sustainable energy solutions within your housing stock.**
- **Access to all SEA briefings and other corporate membership benefits.**

Executive Membership

As a top table Executive Member, you will be a key driver of the organisation's activity and will influence campaigns and policy at the highest level.

- **Priority attendance of SEA roundtables and events.**
- **Access to policymakers from across government, including Ministers, Lords, and MPs.**
- **Personal advice from the Chief Executive to help progress your own business advocacy. Jade Lewis has over a decade of experience in establishing, growing, and leading a highly successful UK public affairs function for a major multinational corporation and an extensive network of highly influential contacts.**
- **Support from the SEA team who will provide bespoke information and advice on policy and regulation.**
- **Opportunity to steer the SEA's thought leadership and priorities via membership of the Executive Committee and the opportunity to vote on strategic decisions.**
- **Opportunity to act as Vice-President of the SEA and to chair the SEA working groups.**
- **Provides a platform for promotion of your organisation via sponsorship and speaking opportunities at events.**
- **All corporate membership benefits.**

New Social Housing Working Group Meetings

We introduced a new series of social housing working group meetings this year, chaired by Jim Dyer from Sovereign Housing. The first one was attended by a member of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund team from BEIS, enabling our members to hear their plans from the source and directly feedback their thoughts and concerns. We also met with Peers for the Planet and informed their guidance being provided to the Peers, which, in turn, influences their work on the social housing, energy and PRS Bills.

'Set against the backdrop of Covid, a Climate Emergency, Energy and Cost of Living Crisis it is evident now more than ever that the most vulnerable in society are in need of homes that are warm, healthy, energy efficient, affordable to run and minimise their impact on the planet.'

As a social-purpose organisation with a drive to create thriving sustainable communities, Sovereign Housing Association take a holistic view on a sustainability that places our customers at the heart of all our decision making and prioritising health, wellbeing, affordability and mapping a simple pathway to net zero.

In this rapidly evolving policy and regulatory landscape Sovereign take strength from the shared-vision, urgency, and thought-leadership of the Sustainable Energy Association as we collaborate on our way towards net zero.'

Jim Dyer - Director Built Environment, Sovereign Housing Association



Picture of new build social housing heat pump installation supplied by Mitsubishi Electric

Virtual Coffee Mornings

We continued to run virtual coffee morning meetings with guest speakers, such as TrustMark, on their License Plus scheme, Innovate UK on available funding for decarbonisation, the Future Homes Hub, BSI on their building performance standard, UKGBC on their Net Zero Roadmap and the BRE on their new BREEAM platform.

We also held some themed sessions on skills with the CITB and Institute for Apprenticeships, and consumers with organisations like Energy Saving Trust (EST), Citizens Advice, MCS, Placeshapers, Which?, etc.

Responding to Consultations

Representing our collective member views and giving them a voice, the SEA responded to 14 government and industry consultations across 2022/23, including: Improving Boiler Standards and Efficiency; ECO+; Review of Net Zero; Scottish New Build Heat Standard Part II; Welsh Housing Quality Standard; and others. The SEA has also kept track of and notified members of almost 60 consultations over the same period.



Growing our Membership

We have continued to grow in membership and added eight new members since the last impact report. A big welcome to the Airtight Champions, ASTECtherm, Corksol, Herschel (our first infrared heating member), Jigsaw, Mould Growth Consultants, Settle Housing and SuSy.house.

Matthew Carder, Airtight Champions



With a wealth of knowledge and a burning passion for MMC, retrofit and future build, I'm very proud to be applying my knowledge of modern construction methods to my business. We will help drive new and improved Passivhaus standards within the construction industry. As we push forward towards greater energy efficiency across the world, we hope to play a vital role in transforming buildings and are honoured to enrol with the SEA.



Galvin Broughton, ASTECtherm



As a company we are always looking to partner with like-minded organisations, with that in mind we would like to announce that we are now proud members of the SEA. We will be working together with the SEA to accelerate the transition of sustainable technology in the construction world to assist in reducing our carbon footprint with the end goal of net zero in the UK.



Bryan Charter, SuSyhouse



We see the SEA as being a core organisation helping to advocate for effective policy around the decarbonisation of buildings in the UK, bringing together decision makers and experts to give us the best chance of coming up with practical solutions to tackling this problem. As a business working towards solving exactly this, it is the ideal place for us to be to learn, make connections and have our voice heard.



Jesse Meek, Settle Group



At Settle, creating sustainable homes, neighbourhoods and a sustainable business is fundamental to delivering our purpose. We continue to play our part in the national programme to decarbonise our economy, support residents in fuel poverty and invest in green spaces within our neighbourhoods. We are delighted to work in collaboration with partners like the Sustainable Energy Association to continue the momentum needed to ensure continuous progress and a sustainable future.



Matthew Billington, Jigsaw



There is an urgent need to transition to sustainable heating in our built environment. As we move towards Net Zero, it will be necessary to change the way we heat our homes and buildings to help eradicate fuel poverty and to improve our environment. Jigsaw are proud to be working in partnership with the SEA to help support and evidence the energy efficiency savings that infrared heating has to offer, whilst helping to make homes low carbon, comfortable and healthy.



Matt Dodds, Herschel Infrared Heaters



We are excited to be a part of the SEA membership, working together to accelerate the transition to net zero in the UK by showcasing the sustainable technologies that are available to the built environment. Herschel Infrared delivers an energy efficient, highly controllable and quick to install electric heating solution that has a significant role to play in the fight against climate change.



Joff Ward, CorkSol



As a small company we wish to align ourselves with effective organisations such as the SEA, who can give a voice to the concerns and issues but also, importantly, the progress we aim to make, and successfully communicate those to the right people. I look forward to involving CorkSol wherever and however we can to promote sustainability in the UK construction market.



Steven Leach, Mould Growth Consultants



Mould Growth Consultants Ltd was established over 56 years ago and for the past 23 years we have been actively promoting the issues of energy efficiency and the particular need to insulate solid wall homes. MGC are delighted to be part of SEA who understand and appreciate that due to the eclectic range of housing construction in the UK, along with householders' confusion and resistance, there is no single "magic bullet" for property types and occupier's requirements. We, therefore, welcome the opportunity to be a part of the discussion on the important and challenging area of how the need to insulate properties can be addressed.



Influencing Local Governments

The SEA's focus is on influencing the UK Government's policy and regulation. However, as the Government devolves more powers to local areas, there is an increasing need to inform local policymaking to ensure it is in line with our vision, and to use these local opportunities to develop best practice to influence national policy.

We continue to work directly with the Scottish and Welsh Governments to gather these local examples for influencing national policymaking.

'Optimised RetroFit (ORP) is a whole house, pragmatic, approach to decarbonising existing homes. It is far more sophisticated and bespoke than previous schemes. It takes into account the fabric or materials homes are made from and the way we heat and store energy. It also takes into account how energy reaches our homes.

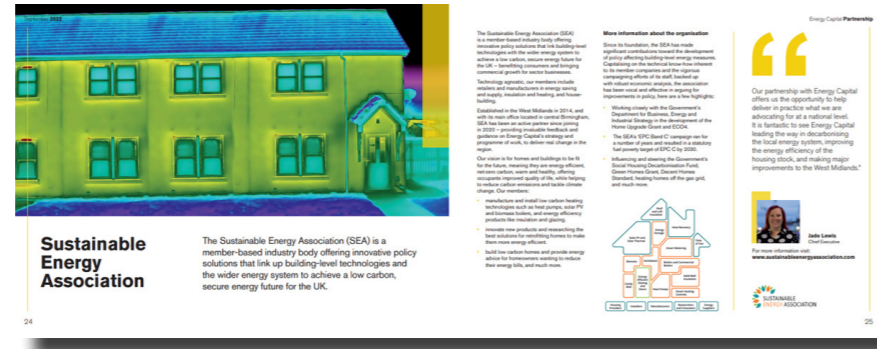
The programme takes an agonistic approach to the retrofit measure utilised as it's about what is right for the building (insulation, ventilation, cooling, energy storage and a blend of fossil free energy systems) and not forgetting it is someone's home.

The work of the Sustainable Energy Association (SEA) is complementary to the principles of ORP and we look forward to working further with SEA in the decarbonisation of Wales housing stock and the development of the supply chain required of products and services.'

Malcolm Davies - Senior Programme Manager, Housing Decarbonisation, Welsh Government



We also work directly with some of the larger local and combined authorities, like the Greater London Authority, and with Energy Capital, part of the West Midlands Combined Authority. The SEA featured in their relaunch brochure.



This year we have developed a new SEA Local Advocate role, where influential volunteers from local areas can work with the SEA to help influence local policy in line with our positioning. This is currently being trialled by David Levene, Director of the NP11, a partnership between the public and private sectors and with Government, which aims to drive prosperity and improve lives in the North.

'As the Director of the NP11 group of Northern Local Enterprise Partnerships, I've seen first-hand the work the SEA is doing on behalf of its members across the country. They are at the forefront of driving growth that is low-carbon, energy secure, and benefits all our communities.'

The NP11 and the SEA are both clear that we will not realise our collective ambitions without policy and leadership that harnesses our world class businesses and takes a holistic, joined up view of our offer, ask, and priorities. I'm looking forward to continuing and deepening our collaboration to that end.'

David Levene - Director, the NP11 and SEA Local Advocate

The Year Ahead

We appear to be faced with another very challenging year ahead, with a new government wary about the following year's elections, the energy bill crisis and a recession on the cards. However, we like a challenge and already have lots planned for the year ahead.

- We will be continuing to advocate for a technology-agnostic approach.
- We are planning to develop a heat and buildings roadmap.
- We hope to get a National Retrofit Strategy off the ground along with the Construction Leadership Council.
- We will continue to help the industry develop Building Renovation Passports.
- We will carry on working with Government and industry to improve the innovation process.
- And we are preparing for the 2023 Parliamentary reception, focusing on the knowledge and skills required to deliver buildings fit for the future.

Finally, thank you to all our amazing members and partners for your support in what has been another superb year with the Sustainable Energy Association.



Picture of innovative 'halo' infrared heaters supplied by Herschel

