

All Members Newsletter

19th March 2021



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SIA Research Projects

Further to the recent General Meetings, we have been progressing the proposed research projects and are pleased to bring you the following updates:

Indoor Air Quality

Dr Amanda Lea-Langton and her team have been commissioned to conduct a literature review into internal air quality pollution sources. This research will seek to establish referenceable measurements of PM and other pollutant sources affecting internal air quality. This will then guide further research and determine whether any independent testing is required to fill knowledge gaps.

The cost for this came in under budget at £5,600.

Outdoor Air Quality

Clean Stove Consultants (CSC) have been contacted to quote for a literature Review with the aim of quantifying and comparing outdoor sources of biogenic combustion related PM emissions.



Dr Edward Mitchell's Team will build on the work they did in their last report for the SIA and they have now provided a **[proposal for this work which can be seen here.](#)**

While we will continue to search for external funding partners, we believe that having this information in a timely fashion is important. The proposal has come in under budget, and while we seek to obtain best value, we would like to proceed with this work quickly.

Please let James Verlaque (see contact details left) know if you have any objections to this - if none are received by the 25th March we will proceed to engage CSC.

SIA Research Projects

Both research projects should produce reports around the end of May.

A key output of the indoor air quality research will be the development of a clear and easy to understand infographic to put into context the use of a wood burning stove alongside other activities in the home that produce emissions, for example using the toaster, burning candles, hoovering, cleaning or cooking a roast dinner.

This infographic will be used as part of an SIA social media and PR campaign and will be made available to all members to use in their own activities.



Stakeholder Engagement

It has been a busy period in terms of stakeholder engagement for the SIA and we continue to work hard to ensure that the important relationships that have been developed with government and industry bodies are being maintained and built upon. Please read on for some key updates:

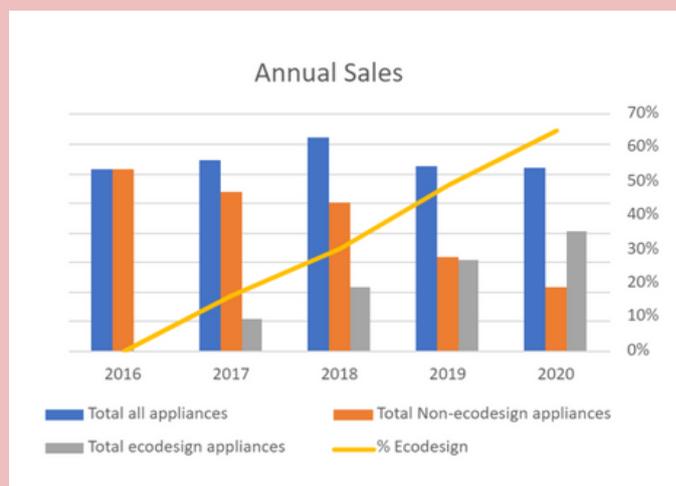
Defra

Emissions statistics

Following the [publication of the annual Emissions statistics on UK air pollution](#), where again wood burning stoves were incorrectly accused of contributing 38% of the UK's PM2.5 emissions, the SIA wrote to Defra expressing its disappointment and requesting a change of wording. The letter can be seen in the Members' area of the SIA website. We received a response from the Ministerial Response unit acknowledging that work was ongoing to ensure accuracy, and we have written again to the Ministerial Response Team to suggest a more formal and equitable use of words during this research phase. We await a response.

Stove sales

The SIA has responded to a request from Defra's research team to assist with its understanding of stove sales and stock. Defra wanted to track the proportion of sales that are Ecodesign which is the key information that we have supplied (see graphic to the right). This engagement is ongoing.



Wood Plc & Imperial College

Defra has engaged Wood plc and Imperial College to identify and model the impact of interventions to improve air quality. The SIA submitted a formal response to Wood Plc and subsequently expanded the input to the consultation via its ideas mural. Subsequent interactions have confirmed that the SIA's information has been taken into account and communication lines remain open. As previously reported contact has been established with Prof ApSimon and her modelling team at Imperial College and subsequently the SIA has been invited to participate in some post-Covid Air Quality working groups in collaboration with the Greater London Authority. Participation in these workshops allows us to refute some of the wilder assertions that are made about wood burning and builds our network.

Scottish Government

As previously reported, the Clean Air for Scotland consultation closed in February. We wrote a letter (available in the Members' Area of the SIA website) to Andrew Taylor re-iterating the points that the SIA has contributed throughout various workshops. Mr Taylor responded and confirmed that our contribution will be considered when policies come to be set.



Welsh Government



The Clean Air for Wales consultation is ongoing and the SIA is drafting its response. A Welsh Government Q+A webinar on the consultation has been attended which has identified some useful leverage points for our submission. The health issues relating to pollutants were highlighted and PMs seemed to be the focus; the air quality expert presenting did say that it was possible to reduce emissions locally but that transboundary pollution was very real and made PMs a difficult pollutant to regulate.

BioEnergy Europe

The SIA attended the Bioenergy Domestic Heating Working Group meeting. It became very clear that the implications of the new EU Green Deal, Zero Pollution Action Plan and move to a Circular Economy is going to result in a swathe of legislation which will affect our, and other's, industry. As a result the SIA is developing a legislation tracker which will be shared with members soon and reported upon regularly. One presentation addressed a forthcoming (June 2021) amendment to the EU Persistent Organic Pollutants Regulation - the threshold where a waste requires hazardous classification will be tightened, with domestic combustion ash an item being considered.



The European Environment Agency presented on PM emissions and their impact on air quality. The standout figures of its report was that whilst only 4-8% of the EU population are exposed to concentrations of PM greater than EU guideline, this figure rises to 75% when considering WHO limits. The SIA will monitor the publication of the *Eionet Report on Renewable Energies and Air Quality* due for publication later this year.

Bioenergy Europe will be promoting a replacement of old wood burning equipment stock with Ecodesign compliant appliances which ties in with the EU's Renovation wave and also greater research and consistencies in the Member States National Emissions Inventories. The Switch4Air Campaign has been heavily promoted across EU social media channels such as Euractiv - there are some useful links and items on the [Switch4Air website](#) which can be used on SIA social media channels and by members.

CEFACD

The SIA attended the recent Commission Regulations Group meeting at which the breadth of legislation in the pipeline was discussed.

TC295 has made a standardisation request to look to combine the requirements of the CPR, Ecodesign and Energy labelling into one so that only one set of documentation is required. The general consensus was that as an industry we should be focussing on replacement and "riding the Renovation Wave" but this could be difficult if early adoption of WHO guidance on air quality is implemented.



BSI



The SIA has attended recent BSI webinars on UKCA and UKNI. It is clear that the fine detail continues to evolve and guidances will be produced for SIA members in due course.

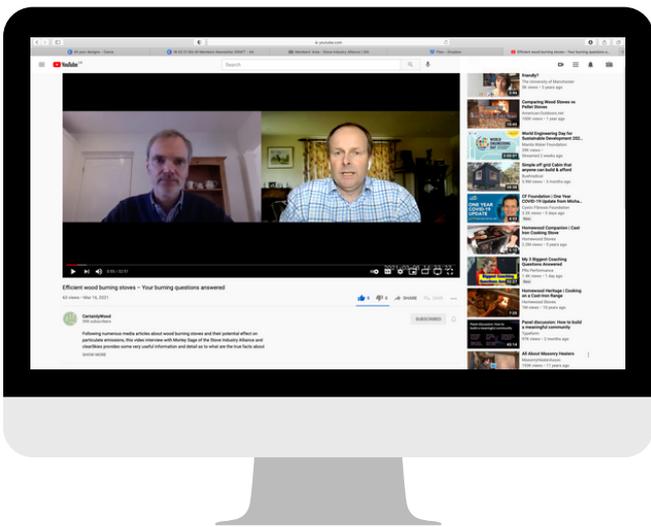
James Verlaque, Technical Manager, has joined the BSI RHE/28 committee on behalf of the SIA.

Burning Questions!

Morley Sage, Chair of the SIA, was recently invited by Nic Snell of Certainly Wood to take part in a Q&A style interview for its YouTube channel.

Morley and Nic discuss a wide range of topics during the 30 minute video including the recent headlines on wood burning stoves, what the industry is doing to improve efficiency and emissions and why it is vital for consumers to get the bigger picture and look beyond the headlines.

You can watch the video by clicking on the image to the left and this has also been shared across the SIA's social media channels.



Kickstart Support - Retail & Installer Jobs

Kickstart is a government scheme designed to give 16-24-year olds employment opportunities by creating high-quality, government-subsidised jobs. The government will fully fund each **Kickstart placement** - paying 100% of the age-relevant National Minimum Wage, National Insurance and pension contributions for 25 hours a week. Employers will be able to top up this wage, while the government will also pay employers £1,500 to set up support and training for people on a Kickstart placement.

Applications can be made directly or through a Kickstart Gateway company. One such company is SuttonCroft which has partnered with SIA member, Poujoulat UK to develop two types of placements for young people in our industry's retail and installer sectors which includes HETAS training with Poujoulat. You can learn more about this scheme and, if interested, complete the application form by **[clicking on this link](#)**.

