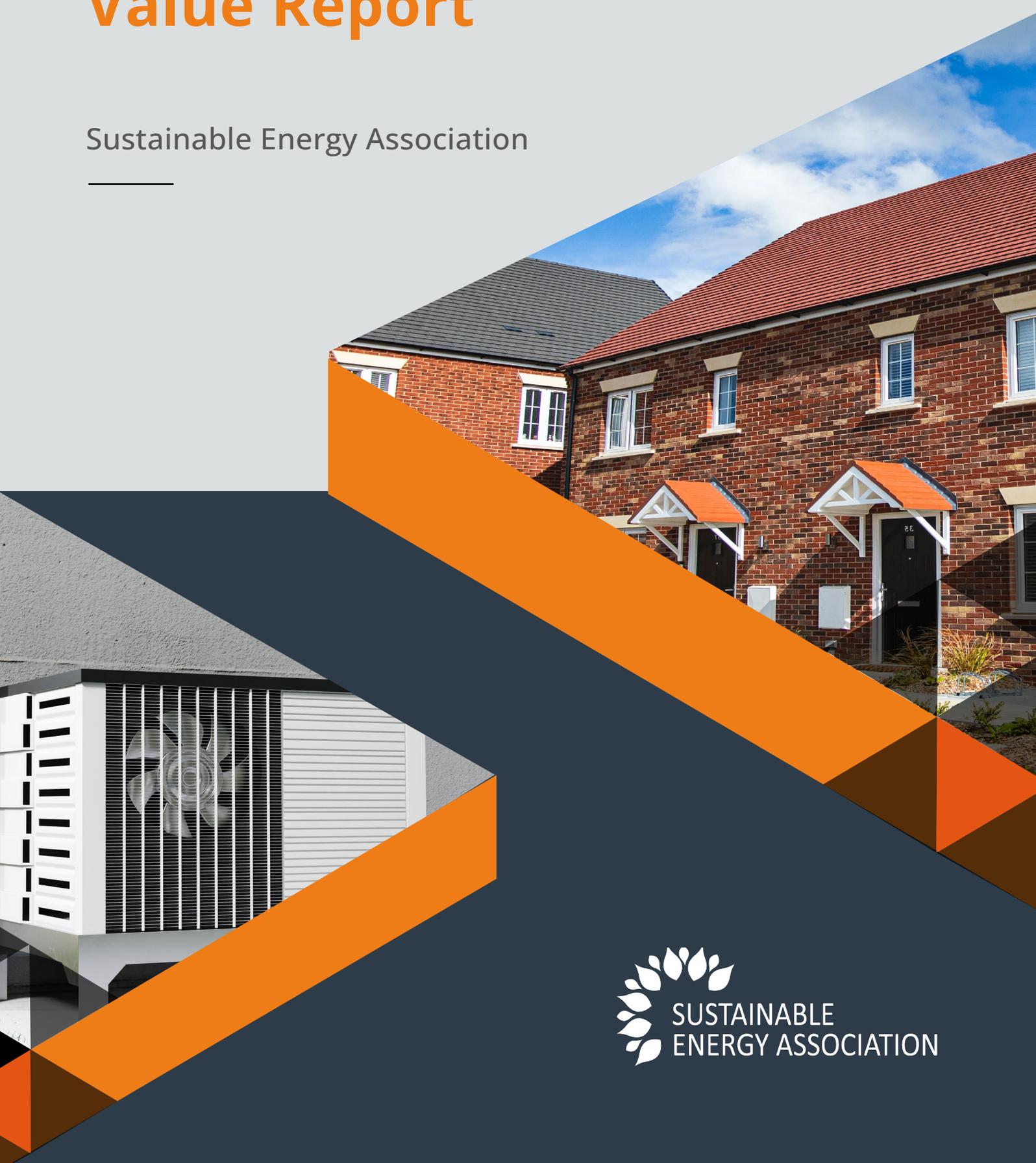


# 2021 Impact and Value Report

Sustainable Energy Association

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SUSTAINABLE  
ENERGY ASSOCIATION

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# Introduction

by Jade Lewis, Chief Executive



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**At the Sustainable Energy Association, we have made it our mission to work side by side with our members to ensure that buildings are energy efficient, net zero carbon, warm and healthy.**

Brought about by the urgent need for action on climate change, Net Zero is now one of the most talked about topics, with last year's COP26 summit in Glasgow shining a spotlight on the UK.

As a result, we have been inundated with myriad new government policies, not least the long-awaited Heat and Buildings strategy, and endless consultations on energy and buildings. By keeping abreast of the changes, we have continued to support our members throughout the year by providing you with regular updates and summaries of the hundreds of pages of published documentation, responding to the many consultations on your behalf and bringing the key stakeholders who are creating the policies into our working group meetings to enable your views to be heard directly.

We remain at the forefront of government policy development and are regularly approached by officials for our opinions and collective expertise from across the membership. This year we worked in collaboration with the Government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in the development of the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) scheme and published our latest thought leadership paper on designing an effective scheme for tackling fuel poverty and decarbonising homes.

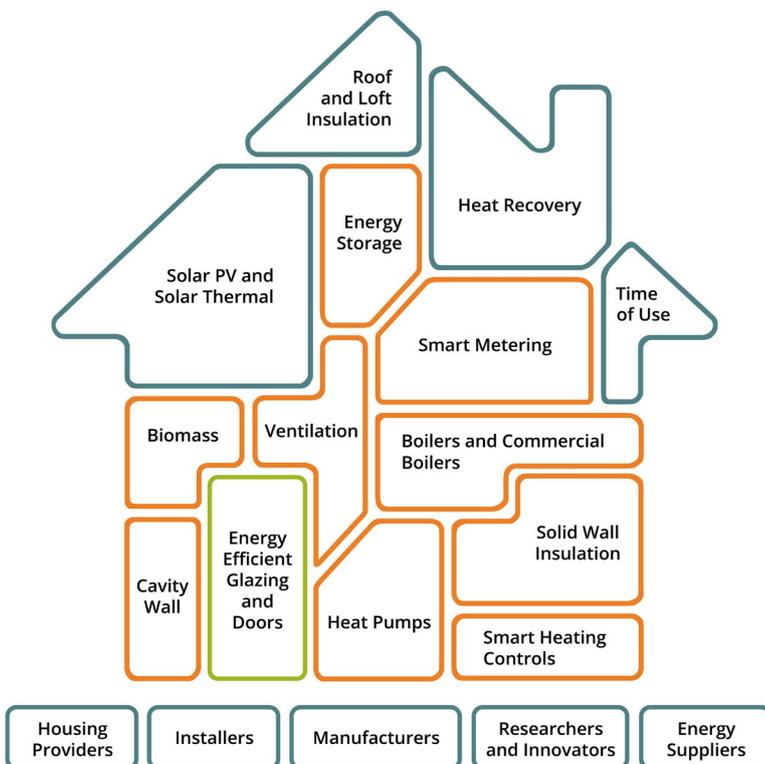
It has been yet another difficult year for everyone. The continued disruption brought about by Covid-19 has meant we have continued to work mainly virtually and have had to postpone our annual parliamentary reception. Despite the challenges, I am really pleased to see the progress we have made against delivering our vision and increasing our level of influence.

This report seeks to demonstrate the impact the SEA has had throughout 2021, outline some of the highlights and demonstrate the value brought to members as a result.”

## Section 1 Achieving our Mission

Last year we made a few minor changes to the SEA's vision and mission statement to acknowledge the bigger picture and to be consistent with currently used terminology.

As highlighted below, we added 'supporting improvements in public health, increasing national employment and generating sustainable economic growth' and changed 'low carbon' to 'net zero carbon' in recognition of the importance of this topic on the road to 2050. We also added 'healthy'. It is vitally important that we don't cause unintended consequences by focusing solely on carbon reduction in buildings and that we also take the opportunity to improve the wellbeing of the occupants.



*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.*

## Progress Against the SEA's 2021 Priorities

Our vision will be achieved when all buildings are energy efficient, net-zero carbon, warm and healthy and there is a robust market for sustainable energy and energy efficiency products.

We have identified 6 key deliverables that will help us achieve this.

- Firstly, long-term, joined up and effective policy and regulation exist to drive energy efficiency and sustainable energy in buildings.
- Good quality and high performance are the norm in the sustainable energy and energy efficiency sector.
- The knowledge and skills exist in the industry, to deliver a holistic approach to energy efficiency and sustainable energy in buildings.
- Strong consumer and client demand for energy efficiency and sustainable energy.
- Rapid adoption of innovation of new and existing technologies, to advance the delivery of energy efficient and low carbon buildings.
- And finally, the SEA being the go-to organisation for policymakers and the membership organisation of choice by industry, and hence able to influence positive change.



Our activity during 2021 has been focused on delivering action against these key deliverables. Most of our work is aimed at policy and regulation, given this is central to the role of the SEA. However, we are also collaborating with others across the sector to ensure the other deliverables are met.

## Effective Policy and Regulation

One of the main issues raised by our executive members during 2021 was that, despite all the noise around zero carbon, there is still a lack of joined-up, long-term policy to deliver zero carbon buildings. The SEA has therefore focused on proactively influencing up-and-coming policy - there has certainly been lots of it this year - and advocating for more long-term and joined-up government policy.

Policies we have directly influenced include, the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF), ECO4, the Green Homes Grant, the Home Upgrade Grant, the Decent Homes standard, Heating Homes off the Gas Grid, Part L England and Wales, the Heat & Buildings Strategy and many more.

Here are a few highlights...

### Influencing the Government's Home Upgrade Grant Scheme

The Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) team attended our working group meeting, so members could input directly into the design of the Sustainable Warmth Funding Competition. They then approached us to run a series of workshops to help them develop the scheme, which will provide funding for retrofitting fuel poor properties. One of the workshops was attended in person by the Government's Energy Minister, Lord Callanan.

### Heat and Buildings Strategy Briefing

A number of representatives from the Heat and Buildings policy team in BEIS joined us to give an update on the recently published strategy. Not many organisations had the opportunity to hear directly from the team at a private event.

### Influencing Changes to the Energy Company Obligation

The SEA was invited to participate in a series of 'Beyond ECO' workshops, run by BEIS, where we used our expertise to advise upon required changes to the Energy Company Obligation scheme.

### Liaison with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Speakers from the Government's Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, DLUHC (formerly the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, MHCLG), attended our working group meeting on the review of Building Regulations in March, to hear directly from our members.

### 10-Point Plan for Energy Efficiency

The SEA co-wrote a 10-point plan for energy efficiency for BEIS, with the British Energy Efficiency Federation (BEEF), and a collaboration of trade associations in this space. The chair of BEEF, Andrew Warren, summarises the key asks in his blog [here](#).

### Advocating for a National Retrofit Strategy

The SEA supported a joint industry letter to the Minister, collaborating the Construction Leadership Council and others to request support for a [national retrofit strategy](#), which we also helped to inform. A coordinated strategy, set out by Government, to improve the energy efficiency of the current housing stock, would create much needed certainty for the sector.

### Letter to Treasury

The SEA co-wrote and helped coordinate an industry letter with E3G to the Treasury, ahead of the net-zero review on a fair and affordable future for electrified heating.

## Quality and Performance

Most of our work on quality and high performance has been simply advocating for this requirement via our messaging and activity. In particular, to deliver in-use performance via Government schemes, like ECO4, HUG and the SHDF.

### PAS 2030 Review

We were on the review panel for PAS 2030, a British Standards Institute (BSI) standard, which sets out the requirements for installing, commissioning and handover of energy efficiency measures in domestic retrofit projects.

### Energy-Related Products Policy Framework

BEIS have consulted with us on the development of their energy-related products policy framework and continue to liaise with us as it progresses.

### Working with Academia to Inform Government

The SEA received an invitation to take part in an expert workshop on thermal performance measurements with BEIS, UCL, Leeds Beckett University and Loughborough University exploring aspects of how to design and deliver an effective in-use thermal performance metrics system.



During 2022, we will continue to advocate the need for Building Passports and work with others in industry to progress action on their development.

## Knowledge and Skills

### Informing Industry Research

The SEA input directly into the Construction Industry Training Board's (CITB) review of zero carbon skills required for the construction sector. We also fed into the Greater London Authority's research work on skills and supply chain development for zero carbon.

### Position on Key Industry Groups

We helped gain a position for Mark Wilkins, from Vaillant, on the Construction Leadership Council's skills workstream and MCS's Green Jobs Action Group (GJAG), where he is representing the SEA in helping develop the skills and knowledge required to deliver our vision.

### Responded to Scottish Government Consultation

We also responded to the Scottish skills requirements for energy efficiency, zero emissions and low carbon heating systems, microgeneration and heat networks for homes consultations.



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Vaillant's membership of the SEA brings together a broad range of views from the industry on the issues impacting the decarbonisation of heat in buildings. This is particularly important when we consider the knowledge and skills required to meet net zero, which are very complex and cover all aspects of a building and its use, so advocacy based on a joined up, holistic view is absolutely essential. //

*Mark Wilkins  
Technologies & Training Director, Vaillant Group*

## Consumer and Client Demand

### Working with the Cabinet Office

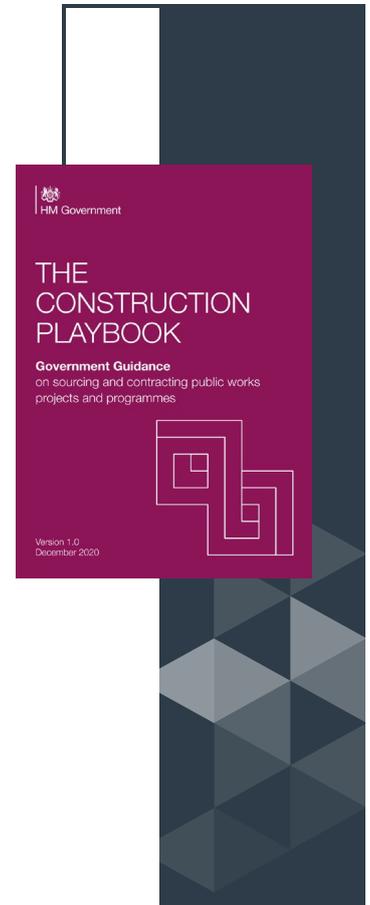
To help achieve strong consumer and client demand, the SEA has been attending workshops and influencing public sector procurement, via the Cabinet Office's Construction Playbook. The playbook will be reviewed during 2022 and is now specifically focusing on net zero carbon, offering the opportunity for the SEA to help influence the Government's approach to procurement and drive decarbonisation in the construction sector.

### Working with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

The SEA has also been represented in BEIS workshops, on driving energy performance improvements in owner occupier homes, where we have helped shape this area of policy.

We held a brainstorming session in conjunction with BEIS, to determine how the consumer voice could be captured in policymaking - via some form of Citizen's Assembly. The cost issue for the consumer is one of the major blockers to the Heat and Buildings Strategy, so a consumer determined solution to the problem could help unlock this key policy for the industry.

The SEA also responded to the '*Improving home energy performance through lenders'* [consultation](#).

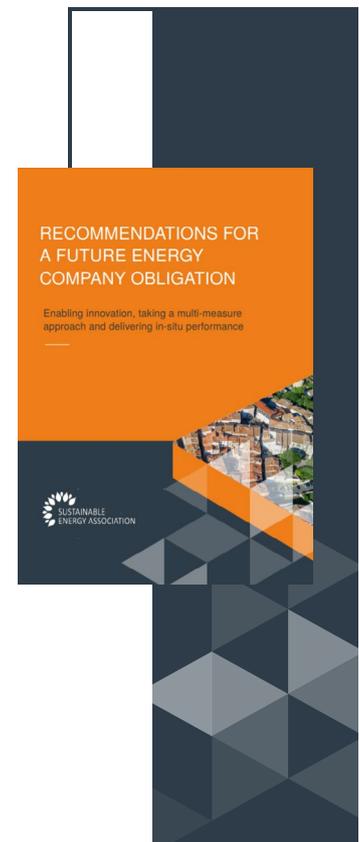


## Rapid Adoption of Innovation

To assist with the rapid adoption of innovation, we have continued to influence innovation via the ECO4 policy, following the publication of our 'Recommendations for a Future Energy Company Obligation thought leadership' [report](#).

### Innovation Workshops with TrustMark

The SEA led two industry innovation workshops with TrustMark, aimed at supporting manufacturers and innovators of energy efficiency and low carbon heating products in moving towards a whole house approach; providing them with options for engagement and support for gaining entry into Government funded carbon reduction schemes; covering guidance through PAS 2030; TrustMark accreditation; etc. The first workshop identified the barriers and issues from an industry perspective and provided some helpful tips on how to get through the process. We heard from SEA members, Joe McMullen from AirEx, and Christian Engelke from Viessmann, who presented their own experiences and advice. In the second workshop, we heard from relevant government organisations and industry bodies, like BEIS, BRE, BSI and Innovate UK, on what guidance is already available and how to overcome some of the problems faced. The information gained will be published during 2022, to aid other companies struggling to get their innovative solutions into the market.



### Working with Homes England

We fed into Homes England's increasing productivity survey and were invited for an interview to provide further detail, where we advocated for 'Smart Construction', a focus on energy efficiency and broader sustainability, as well as Modern Methods of Construction.

### Providing Industry Expertise

Jade Lewis was a judge for Housing Digital's innovation awards and asked to present her views as a sustainability expert to the BIM4housing group.



## Increasing our Influence

To deliver all of this, it is vital that the SEA is highly influential, and we have continued to strengthen our level of influence and evolve our areas of advocacy through the year as a result of our growth strategy. See section 2.



## Section 2 The SEA's Growth Strategy

### Improving our Performance and Impact

The SEA has built good relations with the Minister (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy), Lord Callanan, who attended a private meeting with the SEA Executive Committee and will be speaking at our Parliamentary Reception later this year.

We have a position on the Government Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy's Electrification of Heat Task Group and are directly influencing the development of policy in this area, as well as helping the industry to remove the barriers to delivering the Government's targets.



## The SEA 2021 Annual General Meeting

Lord Best was once again re-elected as president at our AGM in September 2021, where we got to hear his views on the work of the SEA and his insights into sustainable energy in the parliamentary world.

We also heard from our Vice Presidents, Russell Dean from Mitsubishi Electric and Graham Wright from Daikin.



*Lord Best*

"I'm absolutely exhausted just listening to all the things that the SEA has been doing, it's really fantastic, I'm so impressed and I think it is now true to say that the SEA is really becoming the go to organisation for parliamentarians and policymakers at central government level."



*Russell Dean*

"My experience of being on the SEA is just how incredibly impressed I am by working with the Executive Committee. There's some real impressive industry knowledge there. To sit in the meetings is a real pleasure and I've definitely learned a lot. It's always very respectful, very ethical, and we're always looking to do the right thing by the industry and by our members.

One thing that is important to me personally, and my company, about being part of the SEA is that by having that credible voice and being technology agnostic, we have a credible voice in the marketplace. We are looking to do the right thing. We are not anti any other technology. We're supportive of all credible technologies and that gives us that credible voice with ministers and civil servants and others are coming to us for our knowledge and our guidance."



*Graham Wright*

"I also acknowledge the energy and the effort that the SEA team puts in and the results that we get through the SEA, and also the recognition that we get within government for the work that we've done. I've worked with the SEA for a fair amount of time and I've seen the changes that have been taking place over the past 18 months with quite some glee.

To be honest with you, there's been lots of changes that really make it certain that renewable technologies will become part of everyone's future. There are obviously some concerns to address such as how to install renewable technologies and the cost compared to a traditional boiler. I'm really looking forward to working with SEA over the next few years to try and make this happen as best we can."

## The SEA's Minimum Energy Performance in Domestic Buildings Campaign

As a result of the campaign we started back in 2016, and the hard work of Ron Bailey, we have been successful in achieving legally binding targets in the rented sector and have evolved our campaign work into other sectors during 2021. We successfully managed to get the Minimum Energy Performance of Buildings Bill in both houses on the same day. This has never happened before. We have also been in direct liaison with BEIS officials around future legislation, measures for the owner occupier sector and the up-and-coming Energy Bill. It is clear that where Treasury is awarding funding, it is in order to achieve these targets, and this really demonstrates the value of our work.



## Growth of the SEA Team

Whilst Scott Blance unfortunately left the SEA team for pastures new in July, we have since welcomed three new Policy Advisors, Hannah Schmidt, Girvin Gill and Ben Copson who work hard to keep you informed of policy updates, compile consultation responses on behalf of the SEA members and produce thought leadership papers. They are also there to help advise you should you have any enquiries on recent or future policies.



*Hannah Schmidt*

Hannah joined the SEA team with prior experience working on energy efficiency, delivering key research for government, providing thought leadership, and presenting key findings on analysis for government departments including the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Hannah also has experience of managing the Biomass Suppliers List (BSL), helping to accredit biomass suppliers to be eligible for Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) payments.

Hannah attended the University of Manchester where she studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics, then worked as a Technology Consultant for a recruitment firm in Manchester, before moving to London for a role with Genserv as an Energy Analyst in the Low Carbon Team.



*Girvin Gill*

Girvin Gill has experience working in the charity, building materials and wider construction sectors. He previously worked at Saint-Gobain UK & Ireland for three years where he held two roles. Firstly, as an Advocacy Coordinator, where he helped build relationships with key stakeholders, enhance business reputation and influence, while minimising risks from policy and regulation. Secondly, as a Partnership Support Executive, working predominately in sales, where he assisted in the management of customer accounts and providing industry and government intelligence to the wider business.

Girvin studied History and Politics at Coventry University and is an Alumni of the UN Award Winning ParliaMentor Leadership Development Programme where he received mentorship from elected MPs and leaders in the charity sector.



*Ben Copson*

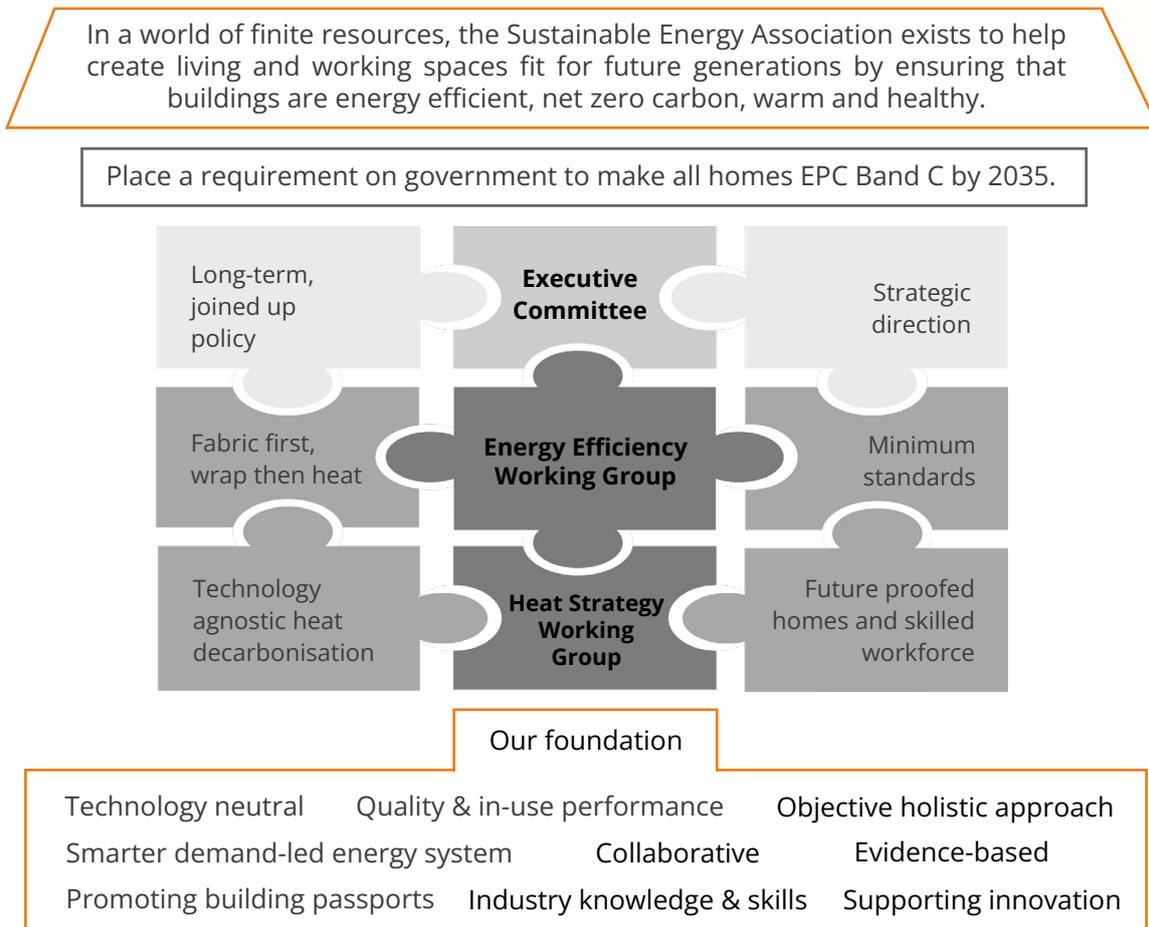
Ben's previous experience includes work in the charity sector, where as an intern at Thames Estuary Partnership he collated research, collaborated with stakeholders and upheld the protection of the River Thames. He has also worked as a Student Ambassador for Cardiff University where he studied and has worked in a range of part-time roles.

Ben graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Geography from Cardiff University, where he studied the mechanisms of climate change, the physics and evolution of the natural world and environmental policy.

## New Policy Position Paper

The SEA has produced a new policy position paper to help members understand our current thinking on key policy topics and ensure our team is better able to represent member views.

We also included a revised message house to more clearly show our top-level messages:



### Member Survey

We measure the effectiveness of the SEA via our annual member satisfaction survey and aim to continually improve our performance.

During 2021, we scored an average member satisfaction of 4.4 out of a possible 5, where 5 is totally satisfied.

We were pleased to see that members feel the SEA is good at providing a platform to speak to government, effective lobbying, creating strong policy positions, providing good updates and engagement, holding timely interesting webinars, rapidly responding to member enquiries, providing a personal touch and has good Policy Advisors.

One area we are looking to improve during 2022 is our member interaction, and we will soon be launching a new Microsoft Teams channel.



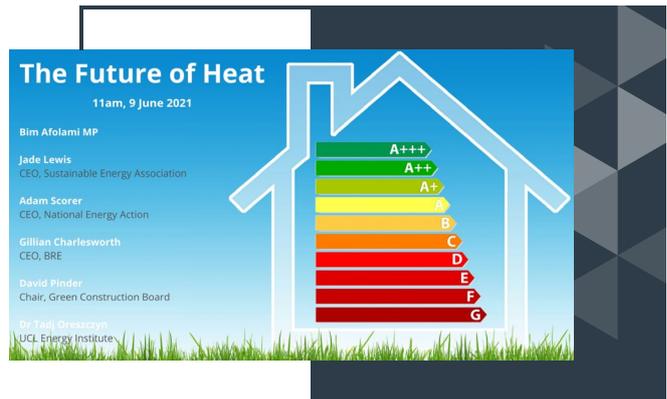
## Raising the Profile of the SEA

We have also continued to increase our presence at high profile parliamentary and industry events, and have raised our profile as a result.

Here are some highlights...

### PRASEG's 'Future of Heat' Webinar

The SEA was an official partner and planner of the Parliamentary Renewable & Sustainable Energy Group, PRASEG's 'Future of Heat' webinar. Jade Lewis presented at their event, which was the most highly attended session of the year. You can see a recording of the session [here](#).



### Keynote Speaker at Westminster Forum Project Debate

Jade was a keynote speaker at the Westminster Forum Project debate on 'Next steps for improving domestic energy efficiency and tackling fuel poverty in England', and a judge for the BMA sustainability awards.



### UK Construction Week Online

As chair of the opening session at UK Construction Week Online, Jade spoke on behalf of the SEA about "Achieving Net Zero in the Built Environment: The Retrofit challenge".



## Developing the Government’s Home Upgrade Grant

The SEA was approached by the Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), to help them develop key areas of the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) scheme.

We organised three workshops with members, Local Authorities and the wider industry, to understand the issues faced, inform the scheme and help develop solutions. These focussed on ancillary measures, area-based eligibility and the consumer journey. One of the workshops was attended in person by the Government’s Energy Minister, Lord Callanan.

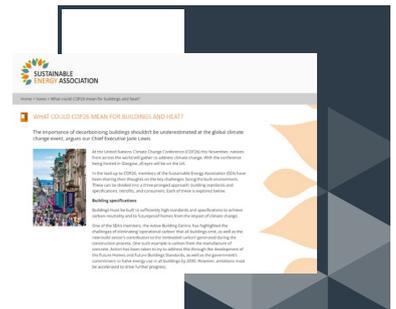
Hannah Schmidt led the publication of our report, **‘Designing an Effective Home Upgrade Grant Scheme: Tackling fuel poverty and decarbonising homes’**, which sets out the findings along with a foreword from our president, Lord Best.

The report was promoted in industry press, including Heat Pumps Today, HVP (Heating, Ventilating and Plumbing), Renewable Energy Installer and Specifier, Showhome magazine and Specification Online.



## COP Blog Series

2021 was a significant year for climate change talks, especially in the UK, due to the COP26 summit being held in Glasgow in November. SEA members set out their key asks of Government in [our blog series](#).



## H&V News Columns

The SEA has a regular column in H&V news, the leading resource for the latest news and insights in the heating, ventilating and air conditioning industry.



## Providing Value for Members

During 2020, we reviewed the SEA member benefits, which remain unchanged this year:

Corporate Member Benefits	Executive Member Benefits
<p>The SEA:</p> <p>Gives you a voice into government.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Provides thought leadership and evidence-based reasoning, positioning it as a credible organisation to be associated with, enhancing your Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) credentials.</p> <p>Provides access and insight into the market, other members and potential customers, creating opportunities for your business.</p> <p>Helps you to advance your own strategic priorities – providing sustainable market growth for your products and solutions via an improved policy environment.</p>	<p>The SEA also:</p> <p>Offers priority access to SEA roundtables and events.</p> <p>Offers you access to VIPs in government – Ministers, Lords, and MPs.</p> <p>Opens doors for you with policymakers.</p> <p>Provides some personal advice from the Chief Executive to help progress your own business advocacy. Jade Lewis has over 10 years 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.</p> <p>Provides support from the SEA team who will deliver bespoke information and advice on policy and regulation when called upon.</p> <p>Allows you the opportunity to steer the SEA's thought leadership and priorities via membership of the Executive Committee and the opportunity to vote on strategic decisions.</p> <p>Offers the opportunity (every two years) for a member to act as Vice-President of the SEA and to chair the SEA working groups.</p> <p>Provides a platform for promotion of your organisation via sponsorship/speaking opportunities at events.</p>

## Member Meetings

Sandra Morris helps to ensure that all members are invited to attend regular member meetings throughout the year.

Government officials regularly attend SEA working group meetings, providing an opportunity for you to meet with them and pass on your views. During 2021, we had attendees from BEIS, DLUHC, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government departments.



## Social Housing Membership

During 2021, we focused more closely on the benefit we provide our social housing members, which include:

- Policy and political representation on issues pertaining to energy in buildings.
- Opportunity to shape and develop policy and regulation.
- Opportunity to collaborate with innovative product providers.
- Expert advice on government policy and regulation.
- Opportunity to participate in SEA Working Group Meetings.
- Access to all SEA briefings.

We are also increasing our level of influence within the social housing sector. Jade Lewis has a position on the Government Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy's consultative panel for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and is directly influencing the development of policy in this area. Jade is also on the net-zero steering group for PlaceShapers and Tpas, helping to work with residents to improve energy performance in the social housing sector.

Each year the SEA produces a timeline, providing members with an overview of up-and-coming policy and regulation for the following year's and helping them develop their own business plans.

The Policy Advisors present regular updates at the member meetings and are available to answer member enquiries helping you to stay abreast of public affairs around sustainable energy.



Last year, we were also approached by Turner and Townsend (working on behalf of BEIS and the Greater London Authority), to run formal events with our members and the wider social housing sector to help promote involvement in the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund scheme.

We held a roundtable with Lord Best and social housing organisations, to start a conversation with the social housing sector around sustainability.

We worked with the National Housing Federation (NHF) to help shape their virtual Climate Change and Sustainability conference, and Jade Lewis chaired the debate on Zero Carbon Homes and joined a panel discussion on Climate Change.



Jade was also a judge for Digital Housing's top 30 sustainable housing providers awards and speaker at the awards ceremony.



We introduced new virtual coffee morning meetings. The first one was extremely well attended by members and gave Jim Dyer from Sovereign Housing the opportunity to present their new Homes and Places Standard, gain feedback from a wide variety of experts across the membership and engage directly with the supply chain.

During 2022 we aim to introduce new Social Housing working group meetings with our members.

## Supporting Our Members

The SEA also supported one of our members, NBS, with their event series. Jade Lewis joined the Rt. Hon. Claire O'Neill, on a panel discussion on sustainability at their Construction Leaders' summit – Building Better in September. The five key takeaways, including Jade's views, can be found [here](#).

Scott Blance also spoke about retrofitting at their April summit, Building for the Future. Details can be found [here](#).

Please reach out to a member of the SEA team if you have your own events that you would like us to support and/or promote.



## 21 Consultation Responses During 2021

Representing your collective views and giving you a voice, the SEA responded to 21 government and industry consultations during 2021, including ECO4, MEES, RHI, Scotland Heat in Buildings Strategy, Part L and Future Homes Standard, CLC National Retrofit Strategy and Wales Part L and F of Building Regulations.

Consultations	Organisation
Scottish Building Regulations: proposed changes to energy standards and associated topics	Scottish Government
Meeting the UK's housing demand	House of Lords Built Environment Committee
Creating Healthy Cities	Commission on Creating Healthy Cities
Net Zero Whole Life Carbon Roadmap	UKGBC
Home Upgrade Grant - Evidence Gathering Questionnaire	BEIS
CO2nstructZero performance metrics	BEIS
Recommendations to establish UK Building Renovation Passports	Green Finance Institute's Coalition for the Energy Efficiency of Buildings (CEEB)
Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive: ensuring a stable scheme	BEIS
Heat in Buildings Strategy - achieving net zero emissions	Scottish Government
Scottish skills requirements for energy efficiency, zero emissions and low carbon heating systems, microgeneration and heat networks for homes	Scottish Government
Part L England - Future Homes Standard	DLUHC
The Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS)	DLUHC
Clean Heat Grant: further policy design proposals	BEIS
Home Upgrade Grant - Evidence Gathering Questionnaire	BEIS
New Build Heat Standard: Scoping Consultation	Scottish Government
National Retrofit Strategy	Construction Leadership Council
Building Regulations Part L and F Review – Stage 2A	BEIS
Improving home energy performance through lenders	BEIS
Green Heat Network Fund: proposals for the scheme design	BEIS

## Growing our Membership

We have continued to grow in the breadth of our membership during 2021, and are pleased to have welcomed five new members:



Active Building Centre

The Active Building Centre's vision is to transform the UK construction and energy sectors through the deployment of Active Buildings contributing to more efficient energy use and decarbonisation. Active Buildings can produce and store enough renewable energy to meet their own needs or more.



Cara EPS

With extensive experience within the industry, Cara EPS are one of the UK's most trusted installers of home efficiency improvements offering honest and tailored advice on the best energy-saving measures for households. They provide all types of home insulation, including external solid wall, cavity and underfloor insulation along with various low carbon heating solutions.



Clade

Clade are innovators in heating and cooling, and they use their considerable engineering skill to support the transition to the use of natural refrigeration solutions for the users of refrigeration equipment. In parallel they use these same skills to deliver natural refrigerant heat pumps.



Groupe Atlantic

A multi-energy offering for the residential and tertiary markets in all countries of the world: heating (connected radiators, heat pumps, boilers etc.), domestic hot water, air conditioning and ventilation.



IRT Surveys

IRT's unique quantified images of energy, DREAM software and HEERO app lead the way when it comes to optimising domestic retrofits. IRT are uniquely placed to help clients identify simple leaks, evaluate a commercial property portfolio for refurbishment, or assess a housing portfolio for energy performance for a social landlord.



Our membership now has a combined UK turnover in excess of £13 billion and holds the solutions to decarbonising the built environment, making it more energy efficient, comfortable and healthier for occupants.

#### **Tim Rook, Chief Markets Officer at Clade**



*This is a time of immense change as the entire world transitions to a sustainable model. There are tremendous business opportunities opening up and Clade are leading the way in commercial heat pumps. As a UK manufacturer we recognise the importance of working with partners in the sector and with the Government to achieve a successful decarbonisation of heat. We are really excited to be joining the SEA who are a vital link between business, the broader sector and the policy makers.*



#### **Elaine Lancaster, Chief Technical Officer at Groupe Atlantic**



Groupe Atlantic UK, ROI, & NA Divisions has joined the Sustainable Energy Association to engage further on many topics addressing the challenge of decarbonising heat in buildings. We welcome the SEA's holistic and technology encompassing approach to the challenge as well as their strong focus on the customer, with the additional health and wellbeing benefits that can also be gained from a transition to a cleaner low carbon economy. We are looking forward to participating as an active Executive member of the SEA as we approach COP26 and the publication of the Government's Net Zero strategy.



### Stewart Little, IRT Surveys Ltd



We're really excited to be a part of the highly regarded Sustainable Energy Association and a group of likeminded companies. The SEA's vision and path to net zero very much align with our own. The interaction with other members from diverse sectors and the knowledge we will no doubt share, will play a significant role in ensuring we develop valuable customer-led technologies that will accelerate the retrofit of domestic properties, in turn improving energy efficiencies and reducing fuel poverty.



### Mark Beirne, Cara EPS Ltd



Cara EPS Ltd joined the SEA as it recognises the important work the organisation is doing, including helping set policy agendas at government level and leading on best practice in sustainability in low carbon energy.

If you accept climate change will be dominating the agenda over the next 30 years, then it's crucial we offer solutions and pathways to policy makers. The SEA is one of the leading organisations in the UK doing this. I feel by working with the SEA it gives my SME a voice, in both policy and best practice.



### Lee Chambers, Active Building Centre



At ABC, our mission is to promote an improved understanding and commercialisation of low carbon construction, renewable energy generation and storage & distribution solutions. We are passionate about proving the economic viability and practicality of Net-Zero carbon buildings. Now more than ever is the time for action, and in working with SEA we look forward to being part of the debate as well as helping to provide the solutions.



## Evolving our Advocacy

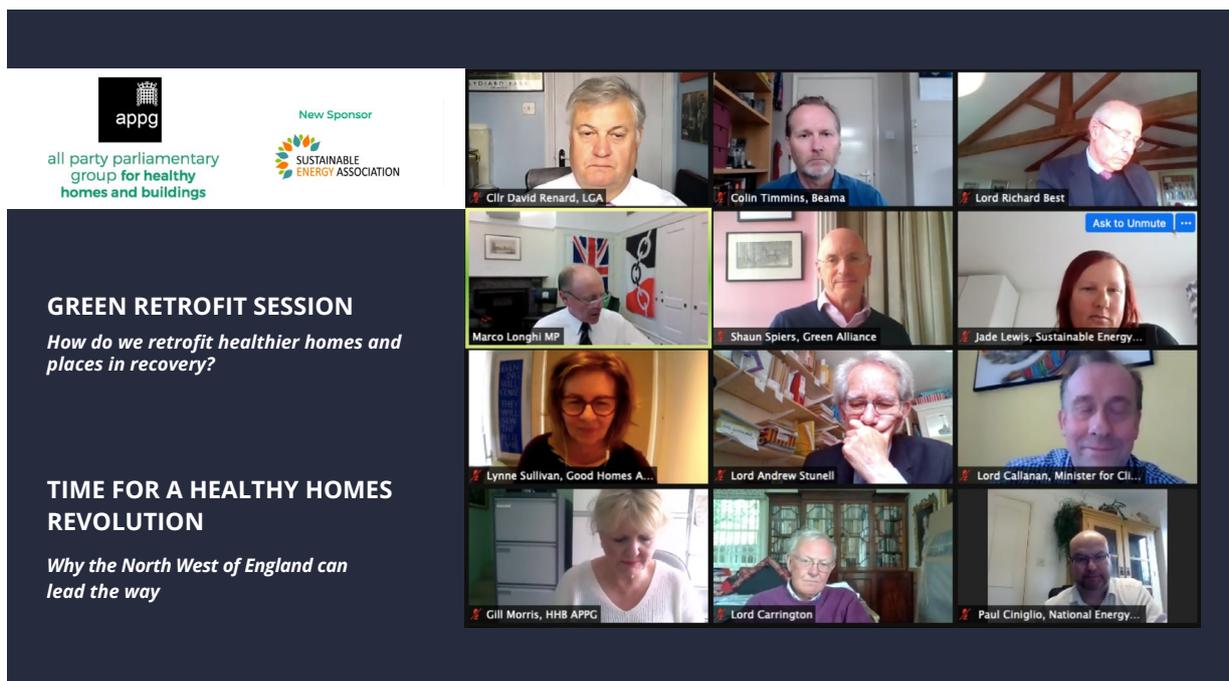


We continue to adapt how we influence and increase the contacts we have across other areas of government to help us evolve our advocacy; in particular, we are advocating the need for health and wellbeing, a key benefit from energy efficiency improvements to buildings, and influencing construction policy and industry activity to increase demand and improve delivery.

## Health and Wellbeing

The SEA is an official sponsor of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Healthy Homes and Buildings, and plays a steering role for the group and regularly speaks at their events. This is an important group, helping to raise the impact of poor housing on health and lobby the Government to take action to improve health and wellbeing via the indoor built environment. Jade Lewis was a speaker at their *'Time for a Healthy Home Revolution: How the Northwest of England can lead the way'* in February, and *'Green Retrofit Session: How do we retrofit healthier homes and places in recovery?'* in May 2021.

The SEA input directly into the review of the Housing Health and Safety Rating System and Decent Homes standard with the Government Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), and is now on their consultative panel for the future development of the standard.



## Construction

Helping to bring together the construction and sustainable energy sectors and aligning policy across the two areas will better help us deliver upon our vision and the UK's journey to net zero.

Therefore, we have continued to improve our standing within the Construction Leadership Council (CLC), now holding positions on the Green Construction Board, their new CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero programme board, the Senior Advisor Group, the skills, renovation and new build housing workstreams.

The SEA is an official partner for the CLC's CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero programme, and has been developing industry metrics and showcasing Business Champions, who are helping decarbonise the sector. Jade Lewis is a judge for the CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero Business Champions and attends regular meetings with the Construction Minister, currently Lee Rowley.

You can find out more about the programme [here](#).



Jade was also asked to be interviewed as part of a film series showing inspirational stories from women working in construction to support International Women's Day. You can view the film [here](#).

## Local Influencing

We have continued to influence the devolved nations. Representatives of the Scottish and Welsh government departments have attended our working group meetings, allowing you the opportunity to influence policies in these countries, such as the Heat in Buildings Strategy and review of the Welsh Building Regulations. We also contributed to a Northern Ireland Energy Strategy Roundtable (Driving Energy Efficiency in Buildings, see the recording [here](#)), and have since established connection with the civil servants developing the policy.

At a more local level, the Greater London Authority asked the SEA for input into their sustainable housing strategy.

Jade Lewis also sits on the West Midlands Combined Authority's Energy Capital Board, helping to influence their local energy strategy.



During 2022, we will be working more closely with a few local areas to trial our approach to advocacy and assess the value it brings the SEA's members.

# Next Steps

Following liaison with the executive members, we are now in the process of creating our 2022 action plan which will set out our priority actions for the year ahead. This will include measures to address existing policy gaps, move towards a more holistic approach to retrofit, ensure new builds are built to required standards, tackle the able-to-pay market, address the skills gap and remove barriers to innovative solutions. We will also take steps to improve our value for members and hope to improve member interaction this year.

## The SEA's Parliamentary Reception

We are very much hoping to see you in person at the Parliamentary reception on the 23rd May. The theme this year will be 'Heat and Buildings Policy - What's Next?'. We will hear the views of the Minister, Lord Callanan; our President, Lord Best; and the Chairman of the Climate Change Committee, Lord Deben.

The event has kindly been sponsored by:



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