

Welcome to the fourth issue of the Biomass Suppliers List Newsletter

Our aim is to provide regular updates of recent and upcoming BSL activities on policy changes, statistics, ongoing developments and improvements within the scheme.

The BSL scheme has played a central role in bridging the gap between RHI consumers and suppliers of biomass.

The BSL provides suppliers with a platform to demonstrate that the fuel being supplied is sustainable and legal. Consumers purchasing this accredited fuel, will be supported by the Renewable Heat Incentive.

To find BSL authorised suppliers and fuels, please [click here](#).

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BSL Reminders

Update to your BSL account and application

If there is a change to your account (e.g. an update to a user email address), you must inform the BSL Administrator immediately. We regularly contact our users regarding their BSL authorisation or account and for this reason it is imperative that contact details are kept up to date.

Some changes to your application can affect the validity of the fuels authorisation, for example a material change that might mean that the fuel no longer meets the RHI sustainability requirements. This may require you to submit a new application. If there is a change to your fuel authorisation, you must inform the BSL Administrator within one month of the change or at the time of quarterly reports, whichever occurs first.

Please see the [BSL Applications and Audit guidance](#) for the full list of what is considered a material change.

Completing your Quarterly Reports

Quarterly reporting is now due for Q3 2019 (relevant to Producer-Traders, Producers and Traders). Please note that this does not apply to Self-Supplier applications.

To continue to have your authorised fuels included on the BSL, you are required to submit your quarterly reporting data and pay your membership fees. This quarter, you are required to submit the total amount of woodfuel sold between 01/07/2019 and 30/09/2019 for each of your approved fuels on the BSL.

To submit your quarterly reports, please log in to your BSL account in the 'Registered Suppliers' section of the BSL website.

Please make sure that all quarterly reports and/or membership fees are paid during the time period provided. If unpaid, your fuel authorisation may be removed.

Kiwa Biomass Report: Biomass boilers: measurement of in-situ performance

On 16 September 2019 the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) formally the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC); published a report that summarises the findings of ‘Measurement of the in-situ performance of solid biomass boilers’.

Background

In 2014, DECC (now BEIS) began an evaluation of the RHI, focussing on the delivery of the scheme against its service. In 2015, after conducting a desk-based study, DECC commissioned a field trial to gather further data on the performance and emissions of a selection of boilers.

BEIS commissioned Kiwa Gastec to monitor the performance of biomass boilers supported through the Renewable Heat Incentive.

The aims were:

- To understand the in-use performance of these technologies in terms of efficiency (taking into account all energy inputs and outputs) and emissions (CO₂, PM, NO_x, SO_x and heavy metals)
- To understand the reasons for good or poor boiler performance

- To evaluate the associated air quality emissions.

The project monitored 67 boilers from February 2016 until July 2017, with a sub-sample monitored until June 2018.

Methodology

The project focussed on the energy efficiency, fuel quality, air quality and emissions using a mix of field trial measurements, laboratory trials and social research.

Summary of key findings

The full report and findings can found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biomass-boilers-measurement-of-in-situ-performance>.

Best Practice Guidance documents were also produced which detailed practical steps to improve biomass boiler performance.

Best practice guidance for biomass boiler operation: detailed guidance for operators, maintenance and service personnel

Best practice guidance for biomass boiler operation: simple guidance for owners and users

Meetings and Events

Meetings

BSL Advisory Panel Meeting

The Advisory Panel provides recommendations to BEIS to ensure value for money and continuous service improvement to better support BSL suppliers. It consists of elected supplier members, Government and relevant industry bodies.

Panel Meeting 12 Summary

The meeting discussed fuel quality and how this can be incorporated into the BSL, the future of the BSL scheme post-RHI closure, updates on waste wood, recent BSL activity, and Government updates. The meeting was held on 10 October 2019.

The Decisions and Actions reports for the October meeting, will be accessible via the BSL website two weeks after the meeting.

Fuel Quality Subgroup Meeting

A second Fuel Quality Subgroup Meeting was held on Tuesday 3rd September 2019.

The aim of the meeting was to undertake a more in depth review of how a fuel quality framework could be implemented into the BSL.

The Panel members discussed all possible risks or issues that may impact various group types (e.g. supplier types, fuel types, domestics and non-domestics RHI participants) if fuel quality is introduced.

Future BSL Structure Subgroup Meeting

The first Future BSL Structure Subgroup Meeting was held on Tuesday 3rd September 2019. BEIS and Advisory Panel members attended this meeting.

There were discussions around the future structure of the BSL scheme post RHI closure to new applicants (post 2021). The Panel made recommendations to BEIS on the potential remit of the BSL scope and possible self-sustaining structure options.

Meetings and Events

Events

BSL Future Strategy—January 2020

It was decided at the Future BSL Structure Subgroup Meeting that Gemserv (BSL Administrator) hosts a BSL Strategy Event with attendees from the biomass industry. The BSL Advisory Panel and BEIS will also be present. The meeting is intended to be held in January 2020.

The conference will invite forward-thinking ideas regarding the potential changes to the scheme.

We will be providing further information regarding the event in due course.

Statistics

Start of the scheme to September 2019

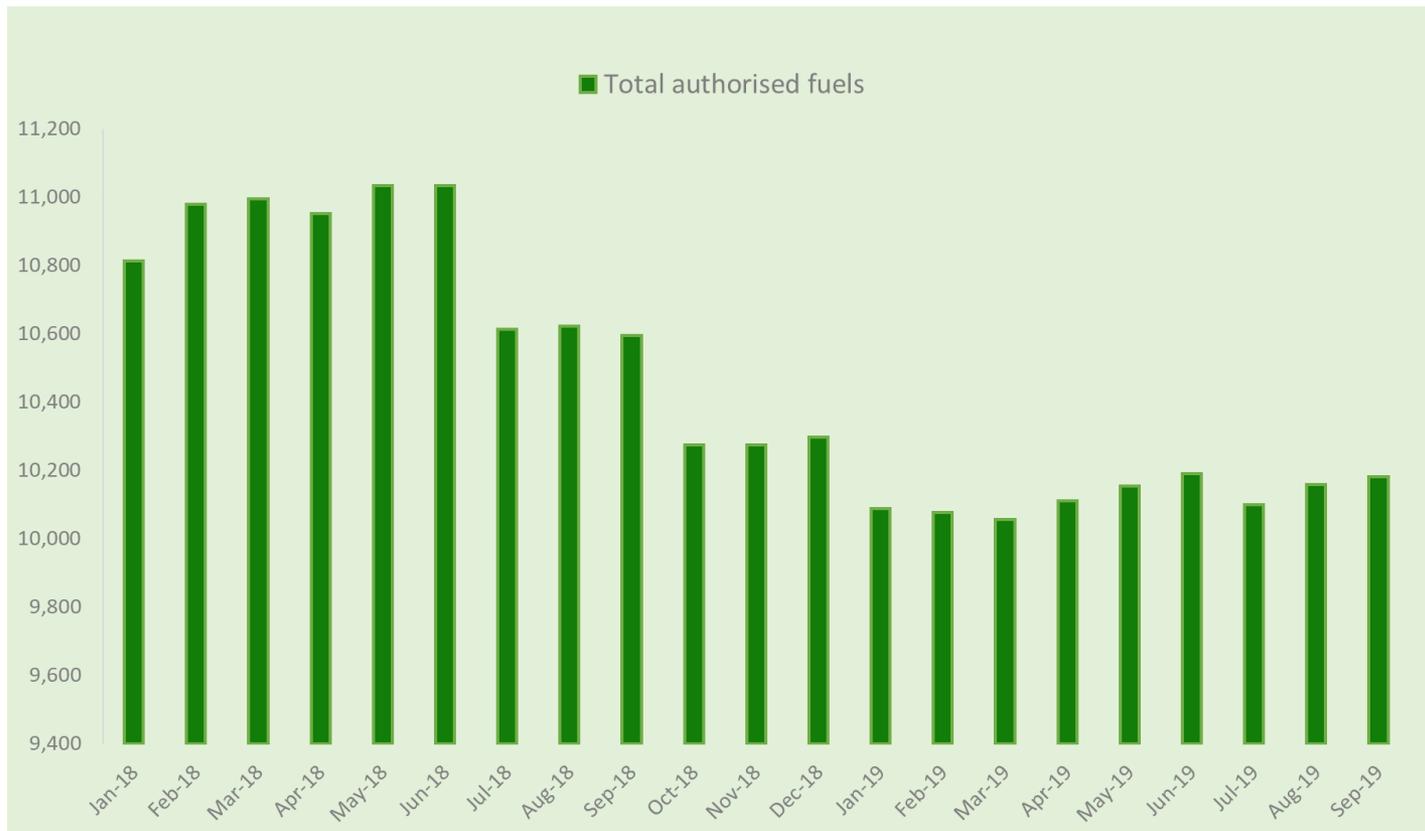
Total Authorised Fuels
10,181

Producer-Traders 3,137

Traders 3,519

Self-Suppliers 3,253

Producers 272



BSL Authorised fuels are a list of wood fuels that has met the sustainability and legality criteria.

This graph shows the total authorised fuels listed on the Scheme from 2018 to September 2019.

BSL audits

Number of desk based audits

July 2019
16

August 2019
16

September 2019
16

Number of site audits

July 2019
6

August 2019
7

September 2019
5

Fuel removals*

July 2019
11

August 2019
4

September 2019
8

The objective of an audit is to validate a supplier's ongoing eligibility to gain or retain its status as BSL authorised.

To ensure that you are following your ongoing BSL obligations, records must be kept, and comprehensive documentation must be made available during a BSL audit. The full list of required documents is available on your authorisation letter and within the [Applications and Audit Guidance](#).

**Due to major non-compliance from an audit*

BSL Useful Information

Guide to keeping fuel records:

For participants using 100 percent biomass fuel and installations under 1MWth

All RHI Non-Domestic participants have an obligation to keep records of the type of fuel used and fuel purchased for the duration of their participation in the scheme. When audited, participants are required to provide this information.

Ofgem have published a guidance for Non-Domestic RHI participants on how to correctly keep fuel records for biomass. The guide is for non-domestic users with boilers under 1MWth.

The guide covers the following:

- What records to keep and for how long
- What if contaminated or ancillary fuel is used
- How to meet your ongoing obligations

You can view the guide to keeping fuel record [here](#).

For specific requirements for biomass installations 1MWth, refer to [RHI guidance volume 2](#).

BSL Useful Information

Environment Agency Guidance

Classifying waste wood from mixed waste wood sources: RPS

The Environment Agency has updated the guidance for classifying waste wood from mixed sources in September 2019.

Users who handle waste wood can comply with the conditions in the Regulatory Position Statement (RPS) that is included in the guide. By following the RPS, waste operators do not need to apply a hazardous waste classification for waste wood that is categorised as treated or from mixed wood sources.

The Environment Agency is withdrawing this RPS on 31 July 2020, allowing industry to:

- Write a code of practice which meets the legal requirements for assessing and classifying waste wood
- Comply with the code of practice discussed in the Regulatory Position Statement

The first guidance was published on 28 November 2017. On 21 September 2018, the Environment Agency extended the RPS to 30 September 2019. This was later extended in this latest guidance document to 31 July 2020.

Please view the latest regulatory position statement (RPS) [here](#).

Newsletter Feedback?
Please send through to BSLhelpdesk@gemserv.com

Contact the Biomass Suppliers List for further information

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