



Dear Members and Supporters of the RHC-Platform

Europe's energy policy is still focused on the electricity sector rather than on reaching sustainability in the generation and distribution of heat, which accounts for nearly 50% of the total energy consumed in the EU every year. Nonetheless, it is a good sign that a new Directive on Energy Efficiency is currently being discussed by the European co-legislators. The full decarbonisation of the European heat sector by 2050 is an ambitious goal that can be only reached by the combination of energy efficiency and renewable heat, as underlined by the Common Vision of the RHC-Platform published in 2011.

To contribute significantly to the transformation of the energy system, we have to realize the full technological potential of biomass, solar thermal, geothermal and aerothermal sources, as well as cross cutting technologies.

The relevant research topics will be described in the Strategic Research Agenda by the RHC-platform, which is under development. District heating and cooling is one key technology to phase out the direct use of fossil fuels for heating purposes in urban areas, allowing the implementation of a holistic approach to various types of energy needs and sustainable heat sources.

The 2012 edition of our Annual Conference, which is less than two months away, will be a perfect opportunity to discuss these topics.

This year the RHC-Platform and Euroheat & Power, the international association representing the District Heating, are joining forces and organising a unique event: the 2012 Conference on Renewable Heating and Cooling.

The Conference is taking place in Copenhagen on 26-27 April 2012, under the auspices of the Danish Presidency of the EU and with the support of the European Commission.

We expect a very exciting conference with experts from all over Europe and would be very happy to meeting you in Copenhagen.

Gerhard Stryi-Hipp
President, RHC-Platform

Inside this issue

Editorial	1
2012 Conference on Renewable Heating and Cooling	2
News from Solar Thermal Technology Panel	3
News from Geothermal Technology Panel	3
News from Biomass Technology Panel	4
News from Cross-cutting Technology Panel	4
First ever Renewable Heating and Cooling Week in Brussels	5
Other forthcoming events	5

2012 Conference on Renewable Heating and Cooling Copenhagen, 26 and 27 April 2012

Programme Overview:

	Wednesday 25 April	Thursday 26 April	Friday 27 April
Morning	Preconference Tour ProjectZero	Opening Session Plenary Session Decarbonising the heating and cooling markets	Parallel Sessions Topics: Cooling, Thermal energy storage, raising awareness and acceptance, Hybrid Systems & Heatpumps Closing Session
Afternoon		Parallel Sessions - Renewable Energy Sources for Heating and Cooling - Integration of Sustainable District Heating and Cooling Panel debate Outcome of the day and reports of the six session chairs	Technical visit Copenhagen Energy
		Reception/dinner	

Top speakers include Mr. Martin Lidegaard, Danish Minister for Climate, Energy and Building; Mr. Frank Jensen, Lord Mayor of Copenhagen as well as senior representatives of the European Commission and International Energy Agency.

The **2012 Conference on Renewable Heating and Cooling** will provide the best opportunity to **plot the course toward widespread deployment of renewable heating and cooling technologies** and discuss the challenges to achieve this objective. You will participate in the **definition of the future EU research priorities** for biomass, solar thermal and geothermal technologies, hear the latest news about the European Initiative on Smart Cities and discuss the impact of cross-cutting technologies such as district heating and cooling, thermal energy storage and heat pumps.

Check the [Complete Preliminary Programme](#) and register until 7 March at early bird rate!

Be at the forefront of Renewable Heating and Cooling and participate in this exceptional event!

Hear: Latest policy news, best practices and industry plans for the future

Learn: About EU research and technological advancements, as well new projects and initiatives

Discuss: Your activities and solutions, and join the debate on meeting Europe's energy challenges

Meet: New contacts and network with the widest variety of stakeholders and experts in renewable energy sources and district heating and cooling

Discover the **full range of supporting opportunities** and guarantee high visibility for your company: take a look at the conference supporter book under <http://conference2012.eu>

This conference is supported by:





News from the Solar Thermal Technology Panel

The Steering Committee (SC) of the European Solar Thermal Technology Panel (ESTTP) decided in 2011 to launch the update of the Strategic Research Agenda for the Solar Thermal sector. This process is now ongoing and the ESTTP's main priority for the coming months. On 12 December 2011, a workshop gathering experts from the solar thermal sector was held in Brussels, to discuss the first draft of the updated SRA.

This discussion continued during the Steering Committee meeting of 23 January 2012. Different members of the Steering Committee are in charge of coordinating different sections of the SRA. This work is being carried out with the support of several experts from the Solar Thermal Panel. The final version of this document is expected for the end of March 2012. All the members of the Solar Thermal Panel are invited to contribute to this process, being developed with the support of Dutch consultancy EnerGo. More information is available on the RHC-Platform website: www.rhc-platform.org.

During the last Steering Committee meeting another very important topic was addressed: the European Commission proposals for the FP7 2013 call. The ESTTP Steering Committee found that the first indications about the draft proposals may be disappointing for solar thermal and has agreed to promote the original proposals from the ESTTP and the RHC-Platform as a whole to national representatives on the Energy Programme Committee. Further information shall be provided in the coming months.

The Steering Committee also discussed the next RHC-Platform Annual Conference, especially the solar thermal session. This event will be, once again, a unique opportunity to discuss the Research & Development needs of the Renewable Heating & Cooling sector and to engage in a strong dialogue within the sector and with European and national institutions. Members of the solar thermal panel are invited and strongly encouraged to attend this event, on the 26 & 27 April, in Copenhagen. The next meeting of ESTTP Steering Committee is scheduled for 31 May 2012, in Brussels.

For more information please contact: Pedro Dias, pedro.dias@estif.org.



News from the Geothermal Technology Panel

The 6th Meeting of the Geothermal Technology Panel of the RHC-Platform will take place on 1 March 2012, in Offenburg, Germany, during the GeoTHERM Expo & Congress. Participants of the Geothermal Panel meeting will have the opportunity to network with over 160 actors from the geothermal sector.

Snapshot of short term and longer term research priorities as agreed at the 5th Meeting of the Geothermal Panel:

Shallow Geothermal: Better installation efficiency for new and refurbished buildings; Integration of shallow geothermal systems in the framework of smart electricity grids and Smart thermal grids

The mid-term priorities focus on the reduction of Borehole Thermal Resistance by means not yet tried and on providing ground design data for closed and open systems (e.g. use ThermoMap results for representing such data).

Deep Geothermal: Reducing costs by mitigating drilling costs; Reducing risks and protecting the environment and Improve availability and efficiency of binary plants, pumps and instrumentation and high temperature-high pressure tools

The mid-term priorities should continue these three objectives through improvement of current drilling technologies and development of innovative technologies, risk reduction evaluation, modular concept, hybrid systems and supercritical systems.

Specifically, this 6th meeting will work on the future implementation roadmap, beginning with the presentation of the status of the geothermal SRA and the first efforts to have a Common SRA on Renewable Heating and Cooling, with solar thermal and biomass for heat, as well as cross cutting technologies.

The next step is the implementation phase where we identify key research priorities (work already done during the September 2011 meeting of the Geothermal Panel in Brussels). The work now concerns: *Quantifying the impact of our R&D activities in terms of % of costs reduction, % of increase of efficiency, % of increase of the potential etc.*; *Identifying the bodies financing R&D in this area: Public (European, National, Local) and Private;* *Proposing some research projects*
In addition, we will tackle one non-technical issue by presenting the needs in terms of education and training for actors, firstly, in shallow geothermal (Geotrained programme) and secondly, for deep geothermal such as, presentations of the GEOELC activities, PhD Day of EERA etc. Finally, there will be a presentation of current EERA activities and an indication on the first results to emerge: R&D priorities, a Call for a R&D department in the Industry, etc.



News from the Biomass Technology Panel

The new Steering Committee (SC) of the RHC-Platform Biomass Panel met in Brussels on 15 February 2012, its first meeting since its election during the annual Biomass Panel meeting in October last year.

On this occasion, SC members reviewed the latest draft of the report on “Strategic Research Priorities for Biomass Technology” to agree on final modifications. This report, which is expected to be finalized in the first quarter of 2012, identifies the sector’s R&D needs in renewable heating and cooling with biomass. The research priorities are structured around five topics (“*thematic priorities*”) which have been identified as key areas for technological development to ensure the successful development of biomass for RHC in the EU: Security of supply; Flexibility; Efficiency and emissions; Integrated concepts and predictive management and Sustainability

The draft version of the document is available in the “Members only” section of the website. Members can access this section with the personal Login and Password from the homepage www.rhc-platform.org

An update on the RHC-Platform Secretariat’s activities was also presented and discussed during the Biomass Panel SC meeting. The Biomass Panel SC reflected on future activities of the Biomass Panel, which will focus on the implementation of the “Strategic Research Priorities for Biomass Technology” and on the publication of a Biomass Technology Roadmap.

To involve other Platforms in the work of the RHC-Platform to discuss overlapping topics or themes, the Biomass Panel has initiated a collaboration with the European Biofuels Technology Platform. The aim is to define key requirements for sustainable biomass supply chains in terms of research, demonstration and pilot plants for all sectors (heat, electricity/ CHP and transport) accounting for synergies and competition across sectors. A first activity of this joint task force will be the organization of a Joint Workshop “Biomass Supply Challenges: How to meet biomass demand by 2020?” on 15 March 2012 in Rotterdam, in partnership with the World Biofuel Markets Conference. Registration for this event closed on 16 February 2012.



News from the Cross-cutting Technology Panel

In the first quarter of 2012 the Steering Committee of the Cross-cutting Technology Panel (CCP) is expected to finalise a new report on “Strategic Research Priorities for Cross-cutting Technology”. This new RHC-Platform study is the first of its kind for the renewable heating and cooling sector and represents a fundamental component of the Strategic Research Agenda for Renewable Heating and Cooling Technology (to be published in the 3rd quarter 2012). It provides stakeholders with a structured and comprehensive view of the potential and research needs of cross-cutting technology to enable an increasing share of heating and cooling to be supplied by RES.

The contribution of renewable heating and cooling to the EU energy targets by 2020 and beyond strongly depends on the availability of reliable, efficient and affordable cross-cutting technology. While some systems, components and infrastructure qualifying as cross-cutting technology have already reached technological maturity, additional efforts on the research, development and demonstration of these enabling technologies still represent a critical condition for the timely achievement of the RHC-Platform’s objectives. The report also sheds light on a number of non-technological priorities which are a prerequisite for the achievement of the key strategic objectives of the RHC-Platform.

The Steering Committee of the Cross-cutting Panel has shown a remarkable commitment in the production of the new publication (most SC Members are also co-authors of the new report) .

The final round of revision is taking place in March 2012. The draft version of the document is available in the “Members only” section of the website. Members can access this section with the personal Login and Password from the homepage www.rhc-platform.org. The RHC-Secretariat will be pleased to receive any additional comments and recommendations by 9 March 2012 (email: info@rhc-platform.org). Please integrate the revisions in the document as “track changes” and support your proposed changes / comments by always including references to the relevant literature / scientific studies.

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Teaming up for the...

EUROHEAT & POWER

RHC Renewable Heating & Cooling
European Technology Platform

RENEWABLE HEATING & COOLING
2012 Annual Conference
26-27 April 2012
Copenhagen, Denmark

Don't miss out - register today!
www.conference2012.eu/registration

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This conference is organised with the support of:

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DANISH MINISTRY OF CLIMATE, ENERGY AND BUILDING

14-16 May 2012, Brussels

Renewable Heating & Cooling Week in the European Parliament!

The Secretariat is planning an exhibition space in the European Parliament to showcase technologies (solar thermal, geothermal, biomass, heat pumps), alongside a policy event. Additional information will be available within the next few weeks on the RHC-Platform website or contact info@rhc-platform.org

Forthcoming events

- **15 March 2012**
RHC-Platform & EBTP Joint workshop
"Biomass Supply Challenges"
Rotterdam (NL)
- **26 - 27 April 2012**
Joint Annual Conference of the RHC-Platform and Euroheat & Power
Copenhagen (DK)
- **31 May 2012**
Meeting of the Solar Thermal Technology Panel Steering Committee
Brussels (BE)
- **18 - 22 June 2012**
EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW)
Brussels (BE)

Publisher

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