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Cross-sector Collaborative Launches to Tackle Energy, Emissions from Heating and Cooling
Renewable thermal technologies provide opportunity to offset large chunk of energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions from heating and cooling

Santa Clara, California — A new collaborative of manufacturers, state and local governments, and environmental organizations launched today at the Renewable Energy Buyers Alliance Summit to increase options for access to sustainable, cost-competitive renewable thermal energy. The Renewable Thermal Collaborative will address a significant challenge; energy used for heating and cooling comprises approximately 50 percent of total global final energy demand and 39 percent of energy-related carbon dioxide emissions. Despite the large energy and carbon footprint of heating and cooling and significant potential to reduce carbon emissions, the use of renewable energy for heating and cooling applications has received relatively little attention compared with renewable electricity.

“The world already has great renewable electricity solutions but if we are to keep the warming of the planet below 2 degrees then we also need great renewable thermal solutions.” – Barry Parkin, Chief Sustainability and Health & Wellbeing Officer, Mars

The Renewable Thermal Collaborative will serve as the leading coalition for organizations that are committed to scaling up renewable heating and cooling at their facilities and dramatically cutting carbon emissions. The Renewable Thermal Collaborative is led by its founding Steering Committee members comprised of manufacturing companies, state and local governments, and environmental organizations. Founding members are Mars, P&G, Cargill, General Motors, Kimberly Clark and the City of Philadelphia. The Renewable Thermal Collaborative is facilitated by World Wildlife Fund, the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, and David Gardiner and Associates.

“P&G has committed to delivering 30% of our energy from renewable sources by 2020. Organizations like the Renewable Thermal Collaborative will help create renewable sources that are sustainable, scalable and cost-competitive. Collaboration within the industry is critical to ensuring there are solutions available to meet this growing demand for renewable energy sources.” – Jack McAneny, Director of Sustainability, P&G

In the United States, heating and cooling account for more than 25 percent of total energy use across residential, commercial, and industrial sectors at a cost of \$270 billion annually. Renewable thermal technologies, including biomass, biogas, geothermal, landfill gas, and solar thermal, have significant potential to reduce carbon emissions in industry and buildings. The Renewable Thermal Collaborative offers a venue for partners to come together collectively to understand the problems in the market, learn from each other, and overcome these barriers to renewable heating and cooling.



“The City of Philadelphia is proud to have committed to a transition towards 100% renewable energy. Given that heating and cooling make up such a large percentage of the energy consumption and carbon emissions for our city and many other cities, we see the Renewable Thermal Collaborative as an important piece of the puzzle to reach our ambitious climate and renewable energy goals.” – Christine Knapp, Director of the Office of Sustainability, City of Philadelphia

The Renewable Thermal Collaborative will offer an implementation-focused platform operating under the umbrella of the Renewable Energy Buyers Alliance (REBA) to advance the needs of manufacturers, cities, and environmental organizations to tackle barriers to renewable thermal energy. REBA has become the central platform coordinating efforts to expand large buyers’ access to renewable energy options.

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Additional Quotes from Founding Steering Committee Members and Partner Organizations

“Renewable energy is critical to Cargill’s commitment to climate action across our global footprint. Over the last 10 years, we have doubled our use of renewables, reaching more than 100 locations around the world. We are eager to work with the Renewable Thermal Collaborative and our partners to advance dialogue, spark innovation, and drive scalable, market-based solutions.” – Ruth Kimmelshue, Corporate Senior Vice President, Business Operations & Supply Chain, Cargill

“Landfill gas has been part of GM’s renewable energy mix since 1993,” said Rob Threlkeld, Global Manager of Renewable Energy, General Motors. **“As a founding member of the Steering Committee of the Renewable Thermal Collaborative, we’re helping further scale these clean heating and cooling solutions for our own operations and other large companies.”**

“The enormous task of tackling global climate change requires robust cross-sector collaboration. The Renewable Thermal Collaborative is an example of industry and local governments working together to address sustainable, efficient and renewable solutions to a large slice of emissions from heating and cooling that remain largely unaddressed.” – Lou Leonard, Senior Vice President, Climate Change and Energy, World Wildlife Fund

“Given that heat is responsible for 39% of energy-related global carbon dioxide emissions and that much of that results from heating and cooling buildings and factories using fossil-fuel-generated power, we at C2ES are very excited about the Renewable Thermal Collaborative and look forward to helping expand the conversation on low-carbon solutions.” – Janet Peace, Senior Vice President, Policy and Business Strategy, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions

“Thermal demand in factories and buildings comprise such a large percentage of energy and fossil fuel use, and as a result it will be impossible to achieve long-term climate and energy goals without dramatically increasing the use of renewable heating and cooling. We are proud to support the founding members of the Renewable Thermal Collaborative to create a platform to convene manufacturing companies, state and local governments, and environmental organizations to address the significant role that thermal energy plays in energy and carbon footprints.” – David Gardiner, President, David Gardiner and Associates

“Kimberly-Clark’s Sustainability 2022 strategy is a global effort focused on energy conservation and alternative energy programs. Because thermal energy is a significant portion of what’s required to manufacture our products, we view the Renewable Thermal Collaborative (RTC) as an important and strategic way to work together to help identify technology which delivers cost effective and environmentally responsible solutions for a low carbon future.” – Stewart Van Horn, Director of Global Sustainability – Energy Solutions, Kimberly-Clark Corporation