



## **EMA Corporate Partner Spotlight Featuring: Renewable Energy Group, Inc. and National Biodiesel Board Top 3 Takeaways from the 2021 National Biodiesel Conference**

"Carbon conversations have caused a shift in how we view efforts outside of our industry to increase biomass-based diesel fuel [production and consumption]. We will rise to the challenge and find ways to align with petroleum companies to meet the growing needs of the population," said REG Senior Vice President, Commercial Performance [Chad Stone](#), now serving his second term as chairman of the National Biodiesel Board.

Six weeks ago, Renewable Energy Group (REG) was proud to sponsor and participate in the first ever virtual National Biodiesel Conference & Expo. REG has been involved in the National Biodiesel Board's annual event since it was first held in Palm Springs, California in 2004, so it was somewhat surreal to "attend" the conference without leaving our home-offices. However, we were excited to see it all come together virtually, and we look forward to being able to participate in-person once again in 2022.

We understand that some fuel dealers may not have been able to take time away from the busy heating season to attend the virtual National Biodiesel Conference & Expo. Likewise, some may have only attended a few of the many sessions held online January 18-21. With this in mind, we have compiled an event recap featuring what we see as our top takeaways for Bioheat® fuel dealers and REG blending partners.

Before we begin, though, please join us in congratulating REG Vice President, Special Projects Gary Haer on receiving the industry's Eye on Biodiesel Inspiration Award. Some of you may be familiar with Gary, as he led our Sales & Marketing department from its very beginning and is a former chairman the National Biodiesel Board (NBB). We know him as a great friend and family man, a tireless advocate for biodiesel, and one of the people who helped build our company and industry from the ground up. Listen to NBB CEO Donnell Rehagen present the award to Gary [here](#).

Now, without further ado, here are REG's top three takeaways on Bioheat from the 2021 National Biodiesel Conference & Expo.

### **3) Bioheat fuel continues to make major inroads in the Northeast**

If these inroads had street signs, they might read "Economic," "Political" and "Technical," but all would point in the same direction: moving fuel forward. Economically speaking, the Northeast heating fuel sector has become a recognized partner of the biodiesel industry, such that Bioheat fuel is now considered one of biodiesel's major product applications. On the legislative side, efforts to put new biodiesel policies in place in New York State and Rhode Island may help the heating fuel industry achieve B50 by 2030. Also advancing toward this goal, the National Oilheat Research Alliance and NBB are working closely with burner and tank manufacturers, as well as the ASTM, to develop widely accepted technical specifications for B50 and higher blends.

## **2) Feedstock flexibility is key to Bioheat fuel's continued growth**

This was a point echoed by many speakers throughout the four-day event. The Northeast heating oil industry will need about 800,000 gallons of biodiesel per year to achieve region-wide B20. To help meet the increasing demand for low-carbon heating, transportation and power generation, the biodiesel industry's vision calls for more than 6 billion gallons by 2030. Heating fuel and biofuel stakeholders agree that a feedstock-agnostic approach is needed to reach the industries' goals. REG was one of the pioneers of [feedstock flexibility](#), the ability to produce high-quality biodiesel from many different feedstock sources. Our experience working with heating fuel partners in the Northeast shows that the right combination of feedstocks can yield Bioheat blends that have both better cold-flow properties and lower carbon intensity.

## **1) Decarbonization and environmental justice are right here, right now**

Decarbonization is driving climate legislation virtually everywhere across the Northeast, as each state in the region (with the exception of New Hampshire) now has policy in place to significantly reduce emissions in the years ahead. As lawmakers and activists work on legislation to implement these policies, more emphasis is being placed on the importance of environmental justice, which demands that emission reductions benefit the disadvantaged communities that have been most adversely impacted by pollution. Heating fuel dealers — who employ members of these communities, and who enjoy close longtime relationships with customers from these communities — are uniquely well positioned to showcase the environmental justice contributions of Bioheat, an affordable alternative fuel that is available right here, right now.

For additional information about Renewable Energy Group, Inc., please [visit](#) or contact [Scott Nemeč](#). **Renewable Energy Group is a EMA Corporate Platinum Partner.** For additional information about National Biodiesel Board, please [visit](#). **National Biodiesel Board is a EMA Corporate Gold Partner.**

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