



PRASEG NEWS



The weekly newsletter from the *associate*
Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group



This newsletter is produced by PRASEG for distribution to members once a week. PRASEG seeks to provide readers with news and parliamentary information related to renewable and sustainable energy issues.

PRASEG is a cross-party parliamentary group with 126 parliamentary and 250 industry members. If you would like to become a member, please contact Rose Dickinson, the PRASEG Coordinator, at info@praseg.org.uk. For further information on the group, visit the PRASEG website at www.praseg.org.uk.

28th May 2010: This Week's Headlines...

Queen's Speech sets out energy security and green economy bill

[BusinessGreen](#) - [Guardian](#) - [Bloomberg](#)

Government confirms DECC ministerial briefs

[BusinessGreen](#) - [NewEnergyFocus](#)

UK set to "fall well short" of 2020 renewables targets

[NewEnergyFocus](#) - [Guardian](#)

Contents...

- 1 Upcoming events ([page 2](#))
- 2 Recent news articles and press releases ([page 2](#))
- 3 Recent reports and parliamentary activity ([page 8](#))
- 4 External events of interest ([page 9](#))



2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES

Headline news:

Queen's Speech sets out energy security and green economy bill - Tues, 25th May 2010
Legislation to enable green home loans, but uncertainty still surrounds plans for low-carbon bank, power station emissions standard and new renewable energy incentives, [BusinessGreen](#) - [Guardian](#) - [Bloomberg](#)

Government confirms DECC ministerial briefs – Tues, 25th May 2010

Greg Barker tasked with delivering flagship "Green Deal" and green investment bank policies, [BusinessGreen](#) - [NewEnergyFocus](#)

UK set to "fall well short" of 2020 renewables targets - Mon, 24th May 2010

Renewables are only set to account for 15% of electricity generation by 2020 if current policies are continued by the new coalition government, according to a Cambridge Econometrics report published today (May 24), [NewEnergyFocus](#) - [Guardian](#)

Other news

UK offshore wind strengthened at its weakest link - Thurs, 27th May 2010

North East manufacturers JDR Cables and Heereema Hartlepool plan new ventures to bolster offshore wind supply chain, [BusinessGreen](#)

North East supply chain calls time on Round 3 developers - Thurs, 27th May 2010

Offshore wind supply chain companies in the North East are gearing up to support the nascent sector, but some are worried the industry will miss its stringent 2020 targets if investments are not made soon, [BusinessGreen](#)

EDF to press ahead with nuclear plans after assurances from Chris Huhne - Thurs, 27th May 2010

Energy and climate change secretary "will take pragmatic approach" to new power stations, says EDF's Vincent de Rivaz, [Guardian](#)

OPINION: Renewable industry employers must look further afield - Thurs, 27th May 2010

Tom Hopkinson, managing director of Glasgow-based recruitment company Taylor Hopkinson, says that a surge in demand for skilled and management roles across the green sector has resulted in skills shortages in particular areas, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

"World's first commercial tidal array" planned in Skye waters - Thurs, 27th May 2010

Sheffield-based Pulse Tidal has announced plans for what it believes will be the "world's first" commercially-viable tidal energy array at Kyle Rhea, in the waters between the Isle of Skye and the Scottish mainland, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Clare rock unsuitable for carbon storage - Thurs, 27th May 2010

Rocks around one of Ireland's biggest polluters of CO2 are not suitable for long-term storage of emissions a new study has found, [Ede](#)

Bureaucracy hampering solar PV installation - Thurs, 27th May 2010

The PV Legal consortium has launched a comprehensive online database with data on project development



PRASEG NEWS



The weekly newsletter from the *associate*
Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group

processes and bureaucratic barriers hampering solar photovoltaic (PV) systems in 12 EU countries, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

Carbon Trust flags up energy savings made by public sector - Thurs, 27th May 2010

In a week where Government cut backs have dominated the headlines, the Carbon Trust has pointed to different kinds of cuts being made by publicly-funded organisations, [Edie](#)

Global renewable electricity to grow 3.2% per year - Thurs, 27th May 2010

The world will install 107 GW of green power by 2035, up from 44 GW in 2007, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

Sun still rising on China's solar makers - Thurs, 27th May 2010

Shipments and profits beat analysts' expectations to return to pre-recession levels, [BusinessGreen](#)

EU carbon trading scheme failing to cut pollution, campaigners warn - Weds, 26th May 2010

Campaign group Sandbag says the European emissions trading scheme is failing to reduce enough CO2 emissions, [Guardian](#)

European climate commissioner quizzed over carbon fraud - Weds, 26th May 2010

Failed to act quickly to crack down on dodgy Danish registry, say critics, [BusinessGreen](#)

Transferable skills key to matching Green sector job demand - Weds, 26th May 2010

Through increased investment and tough carbon emission targets, the green energy sector in the UK continues to prosper. The Climate Change Act has committed the country to ambitious green house gas reductions on 1990 levels of 42 per cent by 2020 and 80 per cent by 2050 and this has brought a sense of urgency to a sector with huge potential, [Click Green](#)

Democrats and environmentalists push to kill Shell's Arctic drilling project - Weds, 26th May 2010

Interior secretary due to give final approvals to Alaska exploration despite intense pressure from Congress and environmental groups, [Guardian](#)

EU climate target analysis bears scars of industry lobbying - Weds, 26th May 2010

Industries that stand to benefit from the European emissions trading scheme must counter arguments that higher targets mean greater cost, [Guardian](#)

Narec plans national centre to train offshore wind technicians - Weds, 26th May 2010

Newcastle's renewable energy test and training centre announces plans to fill the skills gap in the nascent industry, [BusinessGreen](#)

EU stops short of recommending 30% cut in emissions by 2020- Weds, 26th May 2010

Climate commissioner Connie Hedegaard claims that economic crisis has made it cheaper to move to higher target, [Guardian](#)

Global carbon emissions to rise 43 per cent by 2035, says US report - Weds, 26th May 2010

Washington statisticians warn of huge increases from emerging economies, [BusinessGreen](#)

EU to unveil most ambitious emissions cuts yet - Weds, 26th May 2010

The European Union intends to introduce the most ambitious targets yet to combat global warming, [Telegraph](#)

EU crisis may hit carbon targets - Weds, 26th May 2010

The European Commission is under pressure to shelve plans to raise its target for greenhouse gas emission cuts from 20% to 30% amid fears that further uncertainty would be too damaging to fragile world markets,



PRASEG NEWS



The weekly newsletter from the *associate*
Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group

Times

Reva finds friends electric - Weds, 26th May 2010

Mahindra buys out venture firms to form electric vehicle giant, [BusinessGreen](#)

De Boer confirms plan to integrate Copenhagen Accord in UN climate text - Weds, 26th May 2010

Outgoing head of UN's climate secretariat outlines agenda for crucial Bonn climate meeting, [BusinessGreen](#)

DEFRA and DECC to make £247M of savings - Tues, 25th May 2010

The Government's energy and environment departments will have their budgets slashed by almost £250M as part of wide-ranging-cuts to the public sector, [Edie](#)

Report: Osborne's axe could target electric car grants - Tues, 25th May 2010

The Guardian reports that the Department for Business is reviewing plans for a £5,000 electric vehicle incentive, [BusinessGreen](#)

Nearly three-quarters of firms plan to boost their climate investments - Tues, 25th May 2010

Seven out of 10 C-level execs at billion dollar firms plan to increase climate-related investments over the next two years, despite uncertain regulatory environment, [BusinessGreen](#)

Tony Blair joins leading Silicon Valley clean tech investor - Tues, 25th May 2010

Former prime minister appointed as senior adviser to venture capital firm Khosla Ventures, [BusinessGreen](#)

Concerns over sudden closure of buildings programme - Tues, 25th May 2010

One of the first cuts to be made by the Department for Energy and Climate Change as part of the £6.24 billion government spending cuts announced yesterday has seen the immediate closure of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Energy Bill outlined in Queen's Speech - Tues, 25th May 2010

Legislation is to be introduced to improve energy efficiency in British homes and businesses, to promote low carbon energy and to secure the UK's energy supplies, it was announced today (May 25) as part of the Queen's Speech, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Uncertainty surrounds contents of Energy Security and Green Economy bill - Tues, 25th May 2010

Only the planned "Green Deal" scheme is a dead cert for inclusion in new bill, after DECC reveals it is yet to decide which other policies require primary legislation, [BusinessGreen](#)

Queen's Speech poses more green questions than answers - Tues, 25th May 2010

The government urgently needs to clarify what will be included in its Energy Security and Green Economy bill, argues James Murray, [BusinessGreen](#)

India proposes renewable energy certificate scheme - Tues, 25th May 2010

Regulator announces plan to provide incentives for renewable energy generators through REC scheme, [BusinessGreen](#)

Draka Offshore subsea cables for Walney 2 offshore wind farm - Tues, 25th May 2010

Draka Offshore will supply the array cabling for the 183.6 MW Walney 2 offshore wind farm off the coast of Cumbria, UK, for Dong Energy, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

Shale Gas Costing 2/3 Less Than OPEC Oil Incites Water Concern - Tues, 25th May 2010

Gas is about two-thirds cheaper than oil and greener too. It produces 117 pounds (53 kilograms) of carbon dioxide per million British thermal units (MMBtu) of energy equivalent compared with 156 MMBtu for



PRASEG NEWS



The weekly newsletter from the *associate*
Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group

gasoline and 205 MMBtu for coal, [Bloomberg](#)

Report blames poor take-up of solar PV on lack of support - Tues, 25th May 2010

Insufficiently funded support schemes, rather than legal and administrative barriers, are responsible for poor take-up of solar photovoltaic (PV) technology in the UK, according to new research, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Energy Secretary Huhne Backs Aberdeen As A Key Part Of UK's Energy Future - Tues, 25th May 2010

Aberdeen today received a vote of confidence from new UK Energy and Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne. Visiting only a week after taking up office, Mr Huhne toured stands at the All Energy renewables exhibition, visited oil firm Apache and met industry leaders at Oil and Gas UK, [eGov](#)

Report: UK on course to miss 2020 renewables and carbon targets - Mon, 24th May 2010

Study warns increased focus on renewable heat and transport required if the UK is to meet high profile green targets, [BusinessGreen](#)

Ireland pledges support for electric car - Mon, 24th May 2010

The Irish Government has pledged to support the electric car industry after signing a deal with vehicle manufactures and power firms, [Edie](#)

New Zealand stands by carbon trading plans - Mon, 24th May 2010

Australia may have ditched its planned emissions trading scheme, but New Zealand prime minister John Key today confirmed the country will launch its scheme in July, [BusinessGreen](#)

Recession helps meet carbon targets - Mon, 24th May 2010

Britain's carbon emissions are set to fall again slightly this year after the recession drove dramatic declines of around 10 per cent last year, analysts say, [Independent](#)

Details of £35m London waste fund unveiled - Mon, 24th May 2010

The bodies behind a new fund that is set to provide £35 million of public sector investment for new waste management infrastructure in London last week (May 20) outlined exactly how they plan to get the initiative formally up and running, [LetsRecycle](#)

DP CleanTech and Chant Group bring biomass CHP to China - Mon, 24th May 2010

DP CleanTech has signed a contract with the Chant Group for the delivery of a co-generation biomass combined heat and power (CHP) plant to Heilongjiang province, China, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

Green services in firing line as Osborne launches first wave of cuts - Mon, 24th May 2010

Budget cuts confirmed at DECC, Defra, Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust, [BusinessGreen](#)

Scottish Government awards £1.1m to boost biomass heating - Mon, 24th May 2010

Grants totalling £1.1 million from the third round of the Scottish Biomass Heat Scheme have been awarded to 16 projects across Scotland, with the aim of reducing energy costs, securing jobs in forestry and delivering annual savings of over 7,000 tonnes of carbon, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Opinion: How FiTs could "democratise" renewable generation - Mon, 24th May 2010

The rewards for generating electricity from low carbon sources are within the reach of far more people than ever before, says Haydn Scholes, director of independent engineering consultancy Wardell Armstrong's renewable energy group, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

SSE sells Scottish Ardrossan Windfarm - Mon, 24th May 2010

Scottish and Southern Energy Plc (SSE) has sold Ardrossan Windfarm Ltd, which owns and operates a 30 MW wind farm in Ayrshire, Scotland, to Infinis, a Terra Firma company, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)



PRASEG NEWS



The weekly newsletter from the *associate*
Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group

Poll reveals weakening public opposition to nuclear power - Mon, 24th May 2010

But concern over climate change is also slipping, even as global average temperatures hit record levels, [BusinessGreen](#)

DECC to cut spending by £85 million - Mon, 24th May 2010

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has today (May 24) been charged with cutting spending by £85 million for the period 2010-11, representing a 7.5% decrease on its 2008-09 budget, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Obama accelerates vehicle efficiency drive - Mon, 24th May 2010

White House outlines plans for post-2017 fuel efficiency standards and new carbon rules for heavy trucks, [BusinessGreen](#)

Renewables set to benefit from plans for £3.2 billion grid upgrade - Mon, 24th May 2010

National Grid has announced plans to raise around £3.2 billion through a Rights Issue in order to improve the electricity and gas transmission networks, which should enable around 20GW of renewable projects to connect to the "ageing" infrastructure, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Scottish Renewables calls for early action on renewables - Mon, 24th May 2010

The chief executive of trade association Scottish Renewables has written to the new energy secretary, Chris Huhne, calling for early action to unlock Scotland's renewables potential, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

It could have been worse, but Osborne's green cuts still raise alarm bells - Mon, 24th May 2010

Every department will be pleading it is a special case, but if Cameron is serious about leading the "greenest government" ever, then spending on environmental programmes must be protected, [BusinessGreen](#)

Climate change concern declines in poll - Sun, 23rd May 2010

Only 62% of Britons interested in subject, down from 80% in 2006, according to YouGov survey, [Guardian](#)

Chris Huhne's plans for energy prices and generation have been welcomed by the industry - Sun, 23rd May 2010

As David Cameron settled into Downing Street and prepared to announce his first ministerial team, energy industry leaders were on tenterhooks over who would get the vital job of ensuring the country's lights would stay on, [Scotsman](#)

EU crisis may hit carbon targets - Sun, 23rd May 2010

The European Commission is under pressure to shelve plans to raise its target for greenhouse gas emission cuts from 20% to 30% amid fears that further uncertainty would be too damaging to fragile world markets, [Times](#)

Biogas to power Chesterfield vehicles - Sat, 22nd May 2010

Sheffield City Council, UK, is to conduct a demonstration running light vans and other council vehicles on biomethane with infrastructure supplied by Chesterfield BioGas, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

Coalition plan to raise wind power target is a joke - Fri, 21st May 2010

National Grid's vision of the next five years came on the day the Coalition published its programme for government which includes a crucial section on energy and the environment, [Telegraph](#)

United Utilities hits leaks targets but refuses to rule out further cut in jobs - Fri, 21st May 2010

United Utilities said that it may need to make further job cuts to cope with tough price controls introduced this year, [Times](#)



PRASEG NEWS



The weekly newsletter from the *associate*
Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group

EU 'southern gas corridor' getting crowded - Fri, 21st May 2010

A new gas pipeline project - the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) linking Greece to Italy - came to light yesterday (20 May), fuelling competition in a key section of the EU's so-called 'southern gas corridor', where two more planned pipelines are bidding for the same markets, [EurActiv](#)

National Grid seeks £3.2bn to upgrade Britain's ageing network - Fri, 21st May 2010

Grid operator launches surprise rights issue in attempt to raise billions for new green infrastructure projects, [BusinessGreen](#)

Solar PV could overshoot Mediterranean Solar Plan 20 GW target - Fri, 21st May 2010

That is the conclusion following a two-day conference on the Mediterranean Solar Plan (MSP) where representatives from 43 Mediterranean countries discussed the potential for solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity in the region, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

London backs plan for UK's first building waste recycling hub - Fri, 21st May 2010

Reuse model aims to address the 25 million tonnes of construction waste that is sent to landfill each year, [BusinessGreen](#)

Mitsubishi escalates legal battle with GE over wind turbine patents - Fri, 21st May 2010

Japanese engineering giant files antitrust suit in response to GE allegations it infringed on wind turbine patents, [BusinessGreen](#)

Huhne pledges to support renewables... and North Sea oil and gas - Fri, 21st May 2010

The renewables industry will come of age under this government, [BusinessGreen](#)

Coalition may be a lighter shade of green- Fri, 21st May 2010

It's just a week since David Cameron said he was "absolutely committed" to running "the greenest government ever". But in one respect at least, the coalition seems to be aiming lower than its predecessor, [Telegraph](#)

All-Energy: Chris Huhne vague on renewable energy details - Fri, 21st May 2010

The new UK Energy Secretary told press at All-Energy that the government is very much committed to renewable energy, but also that it remains committed to oil and gas, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

Abolition of IPC leaves renewables industry in the dark - Fri, 21st May 2010

Renewable energy developers are still unsure as to what planning process major infrastructure projects will have to go through following the confirmation yesterday (May 21) that the Infrastructure Planning Commission will be dissolved by the new government, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Offshore contractor appointed for Wave Hub - Fri, 21st May 2010

Offshore support firm CTC Marine has won a £7 million contract to handle the installation of a 25 kilometre armoured subsea cable at Cornish marine testing centre, Wave Hub, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

E.ON aims for seat at "top table" of marine energy development - Fri, 21st May 2010

Marine energy can make a significant contribution to the UK's 2020 renewable energy targets, but there is a lot of work to do and it is "crucial" that investment in wave and tidal technologies is put in now, according to energy giant E.ON, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

RWE npower renewables pulls out of Inch Cape wind development - Fri, 21st May 2010

RWE npower Renewables has pulled out of the 905MW Inch Cape offshore wind farm project, blaming the size of its other onshore and offshore renewable generation commitments, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

[\(Back to contents\)](#)



3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

News this week

Following the swearing-in of all newly elected MPs last week, the official State Opening of Parliament took place on Tuesday. The Queen's speech included various proposals related to renewable and sustainable energy, a key one being the announcement of a new Energy Security and Green Economy Bill.

Elsewhere in the speech, the government expressed a commitment to an EU emissions reduction target of 30% by 2020. They also committed to helping create new international funding mechanisms for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Select Committees

The Energy and Climate Change Committee and the Environmental Audit Committees were dissolved in April after the calling of the General election. New versions of the committees will be formed in due course.

MPs have this week agreed the proportion of MPs from each party who will chair the new committees. The EFRA and ECC Committees will be chaired by Conservatives, whilst Labour will take the chairperson roles on the Environmental Audit, Transport, BIS and Science and Technology committees. Nominations for the posts will close on 8th June, with elections on 9th June for contested posts.

Bills and debates

The new Energy Security and Green Economy Bill announced in the Queen's Speech this week promises the delivery of greater energy efficiency in homes and businesses, via a new 'Green Deal', which makes funds available for home owners to install energy saving measures in their homes, which they pay back via savings in their fuel bills.

Other measures to be included in the Bill are still to be confirmed, however measures which *may* be included are:

- Carbon-abated coal-fired power stations
- A reform of the energy markets to ensure fairer competition and security of supply
- An obligation upon energy companies to provide more information on fuel bills
- A framework to guide the development of a smart grid, and
- A Green Investment Bank to support the development of low carbon energy projects

A debate on the address took place on Thursday, discussing the environmental and energy aspects of the new legislative programme. Click [here](#) to read the proceedings, which were peppered with significant contributions from Chris Huhne, Edward Miliband, Malcolm Wicks, Caroline Lucas, Alan Whitehead, Malcolm Bruce, Simon Hughes, Michael Fallon and Clive Betts, amongst others, including some new voices to debates on these issues.

Early Day Motions

There have been 110 EDMs tabled so far this session, none of which relate to low carbon energy.

Private Members' Bills

The Private Members' Ballot has not yet been drawn for the new parliamentary session.

Parliamentary Questions

There have been no written answers printed yet this parliamentary session.

House of Lords highlights

The Lords have yet to debate the energy and environmental aspects of the Queen's Speech - this debate will take place on 2nd June.



4. EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

National Energy Foundation courses

[Introduction to Renewable Energy](#), June 9th, Milton Keynes
[Wood Fuel Heating & CHP](#), November 8th, Milton Keynes

For further information, click [here](#).

Upcoming RenewableUK events

Event: [RenewableUK Offshore Wind 2010](#)

Date: Tuesday 29th June - Wednesday 20th June 2010

Location: Liverpool

Description: Over 1,000 people will attend RenewableUK's ninth annual offshore wind event at the Arena & Convention Centre, Liverpool over 29th-30th June 2010. Delegates will include senior government officials, investors, financiers, manufacturers, developers and all others with an interest in the latest policy and technical developments in offshore wind energy. This year's event is sponsored by Subocean Group, leading specialists in offshore subsea construction.

Further details: Click [here](#)

Event: [RenewableUK 2010](#)

Date: Tuesday 2nd November - Thursday 4th November 2010

Location: Glasgow

Description: Over 4,000 people will attend RenewableUK's 32nd annual conference and exhibition, to be held over 2nd - 4th November 2010 at the SECC, Glasgow. Delegates will include senior government officials, investors, financiers, manufacturers, developers and all others with an interest in wind and marine energy. Over 200 companies will be on display at the exhibition, which is open to industry and the wider public alike.

Further details: Click [here](#)

LowCVP event

Event: [Annual Conference and Awards Dinner](#)

Date: 14 - 15 July 2010

Time: 14:00 - 17:30 (14th) 9:30 - 17:00 (15th)

Location: Twickenham Stadium, West London

Description: The conference will take place on July 14-15 at Twickenham Stadium in west London. The event will, for the first time, include an Awards Dinner featuring the third WhatCar? Green Awards and the inaugural LowCVP Low Carbon Champions Awards in the evening of 14 July. The LowCVP conference has become a leading event on the environmental transport calendar, regularly attracting leading speakers and 200 or more high level delegates. This year's expanded event will offer more opportunities for delegates, exhibitors and sponsors.

Further details: Click [here](#)

[\(Back to contents\)](#)