



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.

2nd July 2010: This Week's Headlines...

Government commission urges rapid setting up of Green Investment Bank

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

UK must take radical action to meet climate change targets, watchdog warns

[Telegraph](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Independent](#) - [BBC](#)

Ministers to command major planning

[Daily Mail](#) - [Star](#) - [NewEnergyFocus](#)

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PRASEG Welcome Reception for new MPs

Sponsored by British Gas



Supported by National Grid

Date: 6th July 2010

Time: 18.30 - 21:00

Location: One Great George
Street

Speakers: Chris Huhne MP, Secretary of State, Energy and Climate Change
Phil Bentley, Managing Director, British Gas
Alan Whitehead MP, Chair, PRASEG

PRASEG's industry members and Parliamentarians have been invited to attend this welcome reception for new MPs. Places are limited so please RSVP as soon as possible to Rose Dickinson, PRASEG Coordinator, at info@praseg.org.uk if you would like to attend, stating your name and organisation.

Welcome Pack for new MPs:

A welcome pack, which will be distributed to all MPs, has been generously sponsored by Eaga. This pack is entitled: *A guide to renewable and sustainable energy policy in the UK.*



2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES

Headline news:



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Government commission urges rapid setting up of Green Investment Bank - Tues, 29th June 2010

- Cost of the low-carbon infrastructure is estimated at £550bn
- Venture capital sector prepared to invest in ecological projects, [Guardian](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Independent](#)

UK must take radical action to meet climate change targets, watchdog warns - Tues, 29th June 2010

Britain needs to build twice as many wind farms every year, put more than a million electric cars on the road and insulate every home in the country in order to meet ambitious legally-binding climate change targets, Government advisers have warned, [Telegraph](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Independent](#) - [BBC](#)

Ministers to command major planning - Tuesday 29th June 2010

Ministers are to take charge of major infrastructure planning applications following the abolition of a quango set up to fast-track decision-making, the Government has announced, [Daily Mail](#) - [Star](#) - [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Other news:

Launch of Energy Technology Perspectives 2010 - Fri, 2nd July 2010

IEA sees the first early signs of an energy technology revolution underway across the globe but urges that much more needs to be done to achieve the necessary long-term CO2 cuts, [IEA](#)

China Starts Building First Emissions Capture, Storage Project - Fri, 2nd July 2010

China, the world's second-biggest energy user, started construction of its first carbon dioxide capture and storage project in Ordos in Inner Mongolia to reduce emissions, [Bloomberg](#)

Shortage of skills for offshore energy hub - Thurs, 1st July 2010

Scotland's offshore energy industry faces "a chronic shortage of skills" that could hamper the creation of jobs and hurt the balance of trade, a new report has warned, [Herald Scotland](#)

Global carbon emissions steady for first time since 1992 - Thurs, 1st July 2010

Drop in rich countries' emissions caused by recession in 2009 was nullified by steep increases from China and India, [Guardian](#)

Regulation is holding back green power, says Drax - Thurs, 1st July 2010

Europe's biggest coal-fired power station is calling for changes to the Government's renewable energy regulations to enable Drax to convert one of its six coal generators to run on biomass, [The Independent](#)

Wind farm go-aheads are 'key' to climate change target - Thurs, 1st July 2010

The number of new wind farms being built in the UK needs to be dramatically stepped up in order to meet climate targets, a key report has warned, [Scotsman](#)

2 Nuclear Power Plants Approved by Finland - Thurs, 1st July 2010

The Finnish Parliament approved the construction of two nuclear power plants on Thursday, the latest victory for proponents of atomic energy in Europe, [New York Times](#)



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EU skeptical on CO2 benefits of switch from coal to Russian gas - Thurs, 1st July 2010
Any emission reductions in the EU from switching coal-fired power plant to modern gas plant fuelled by Russian gas might be offset globally by higher emissions in Russia, EU energy commissioner Gunther Oettinger said Thursday, [Platts](#)

The Green Investment Bank is going down the wrong path - Weds, 30th June 2010
The Green Investment Bank should boost struggling independents instead of handing public money to multinational utilities, says Jo Butlin, [Telegraph](#)

Green property: solar electricity - Weds, 30th June 2010
Sarah Lonsdale tests the latest eco products, sorts the fads from the finds and reports back on the greenest homes in Britain . This week: solar electricity, [Telegraph](#)

Democrats Willing to 'Scale Back' Carbon Cap in Energy Bill, Kerry Says - Weds, 30th June 2010
Democrats would be willing to "scale back" a climate proposal that would cap greenhouse gases across the economy, Senator John Kerry said after a meeting with President Barack Obama, [BusinessGreen](#)

Labour planning quango which spent £16million of public money and achieved nothing is abolished - Weds, 30th June 2010
A planning quango that wasted £16million of taxpayers' money in little more than a year without making any decisions was scrapped yesterday, [Daily Mail](#)

Businesses vent anger over decision to scrap the Infrastructure Planning Commission - Weds, 30th June 2010
Business groups have expressed dismay over the Government's decision to scrap the independent Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), which was introduced by Labour to take planning decisions out of ministers' hands, [Telegraph](#)

'Dash for Wind' picks up pace as industry commitment to Carbon Trust's ground-breaking R&D collaboration grows - Tues, 29th June 2010
Seven leading renewable energy companies join forces with the Carbon Trust in drive to make offshore wind more competitive, [Carbon Trust](#)

Quangos jostle for position at Green Investment Bank - Tues, 29th June 2010
Agencies earmarked for the chop defend record and hint at role within Green Investment Bank, [BusinessGreen](#)

Green Investment Bank report - the reaction - Tues, 29th June 2010
[BusinessGreen](#)

Nine out of 10 not yet registered for Carbon Reduction Commitment - Tues, 29th June 2010
Fears mount that companies will miss September deadline for registering with flagship carbon management scheme, [BusinessGreen](#)

Britain's Green Investment Bank will have to walk a political tightrope - Tues, 29th June 2010
Bob Wigley's Green Investment Bank Commission has delivered a blueprint for how private sector



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funds can be successfully diverted into funding essential investment, particularly in energy, [Telegraph](#)

'£80 cost' of hidden taxes to combat climate change - Tues, 29th June 2010
Households are typically being charged more than £80 a year in hidden taxes to help combat the impact of climate change, research suggested today, [Independent](#)

Offshore wind industry to provide 45,000 new jobs - Tues, 29th June 2010
But only if the government quickly clarifies its renewable energy policy, [BusinessGreen](#)

Government must act now to secure UK offshore wind manufacturing industry - Tues, 29th June 2010

The Government must not delay action if it wants to ensure the UK secures a substantial homegrown offshore wind manufacturing base, employing tens of thousands of people, [Green Wise](#)

Germany setting up \$500 million climate fund - Tues, 29th June 2010
Germany has set up a \$500 million climate fund to micro-finance projects such as new supermarket freezers or biomass heating in developing countries to help cut greenhouse gases, Environment Minister Norbert Roettgen said Tuesday, [Bloomberg](#)

Energy bills to increase by £72 to pay for environment - Tues, 29th June 2010
Energy customers will have to pay an extra £72 on their annual gas and electricity bills to pay for the Government's green taxes, a report has suggested, [Telegraph](#)

Seven renewable firms commit £8m to Offshore Wind Accelerator - Tues, 29th June 2010
The Carbon Trust has today (June 29) announced that it has secured £8 million in funding from seven leading renewable energy developers to its technology research and development (R&D) programme, the Offshore Wind Accelerator (OWA), [NewEnergyFocus](#)

EU agrees rules to secure gas supply - Tues, 29th June 2010
EU member state representatives approved on Friday (25 June) a compromise reached between the EU institutions on a new regulation to safeguard security of gas supplies, [EurActiv](#)

North Sea discovery 'may net £200m a year' in revenues - Tues, 29th June 2010
An oil discovery off the east coast of Scotland might generate £2 billion for public finances, experts have claimed, [Scotsman](#)

Nimby protesters offered tax 'bribes' - Tues, 29th June 2010
Householders will be offered "economic incentives" to drop their opposition to major developments including wind farms, nuclear plants and housing estates, the Chancellor said, [Independent](#)

Hedegaard: 'Tax what you burn, not what you earn' - Mon, 28th June 2010
'Don't tax what you earn, tax what you burn' should be the EU's response to safeguarding our welfare societies, EU Climate Action Commissioner Connie Hedegaard told EurActiv in an interview, expressing support for an EU carbon tax, [EurActiv](#)

Shale gas 'heats' Polish presidential elections - Mon, 28th June 2010
The front runner in Poland's presidential election, Bronisław Komorowski, said on 27 June that



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Warsaw could not sign a long-awaited gas deal with Moscow if it were to find enough shale gas in its territory, [EurActiv](#)

Massive oil field discovery in North Sea - Mon, 28th June 2010

A GROUP of UK firms has made what could be one of the largest North Sea oil field discoveries in nearly a decade

Europe's first waste to bio-ethanol plant announced - Mon, 28th June 2010

Europe's first waste to bioethanol plant could be operational by 2012, according to the firm behind the project, [Edie](#)

France Warned by European Commission on Energy, Power Grid, Les Echos Says - Mon, 28th June 2010

The European Commission has warned France that Electricite de France SA's wholly owned power grid Réseau de Transport de l'Electricite doesn't publish enough information about power capacity, [Les Echos](#) reported, citing information from the commission, [Bloomberg](#)

'No economic or scientific barriers to tackling climate change' - Mon, 28th June 2010

Though it is a daunting task, the rapid decarbonisation of the global economy is an eminently achievable one, according to one of the co-authors of the widely-quoted Stern Report, [Edie](#)

France Warned by European Commission on Energy, Power Grid, Les Echos Says - Mon, 28th June 2010

The European Commission has warned France that Electricite de France SA's wholly owned power grid Réseau de Transport de l'Electricite doesn't publish enough information about power capacity, [Les Echos](#) reported, citing information from the commission, [Bloomberg](#)

China Will Impose Tax on Carbon Emissions Soon, Financing Weekly Reports - Mon, 28th June 2010

China will soon impose an emissions tax, Financing Weekly reported today, citing an unidentified person close to the State-Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, who spoke on June 21. The publication didn't give details of the proposed tax, [Bloomberg](#)

Paris looks for power from turbines beneath the Seine - Mon, 28th June 2010

The river Seine, the historical "sacred river" running through Paris, inspired Monet, Matisse and even the British painter Turner, who sat on its banks to capture the scenery, [Guardian](#)

The £84 per year green tax hidden on energy bills that most consumers do not know they are paying - Mon, 28th June 2010

Families are paying £84 a year in 'hidden' green taxes to subsidise a shift to wind power and other environmental measures, a study has revealed, [Daily Mail](#)

Offshore wind sector looks beyond 2020 - Mon, 28th June 2010

RenewableUK calls for long term planning as the Crown Estate mulls proposals for next round of offshore wind farm zones, [BusinessGreen](#)

Green setback for UK as British power supplied by renewable sources falls - Mon, 28th June 2010



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Fall of 7.5% in power obtained from wind, hydro and other renewable sources blamed on dry winter with low wind speeds, [Guardian](#)

Scottish Government considers loan fund for renewables - Mon, 28th June 2010
The Scottish Government has commissioned a feasibility study to look into the early stage financing for renewable projects and to consider whether a loan fund could be established to help encourage local ownership of energy, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

British-Irish Council agrees to accelerate marine energy sector - Mon, 28th June 2010
The British-Irish Council has agreed that member administrations should continue to work together in order to push the development of the marine energy sector and capitalise on the significant wave and tidal resources, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

BP oil spill: Barack Obama and David Cameron agree BP must not collapse - Mon, 28th June 2010
BP must not be allowed to implode in the wake of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster, Barack Obama and David Cameron have declared, as the company starts the week with its shares at a 14-year low, [Telegraph](#)

'Carbon storage' faces leak dilemma - study - Sun, 27th June 2010
Dreams of braking global warming by storing carbon emissions from power plants could be undermined by the risk of leakage, according to a study published on Sunday, [AFP](#)

Europe to switch on Saharan solar power by 2015 - Sun, 27th June 2010
The race to harness the sun of the Sahara and Middle East deserts is one initiative in a far-ranging European energy consensus, [Guardian](#)

Eris review names Britain as 'dirty man of Europe' - Sun, 27th June 2010
Survey of Europe's top 300 companies reveals UK as worst offender in terms of corporate impact on global warming, [Guardian](#)

Well-heeled eco homebuyers find it ain't easy being green - Sun, 27th June 2010
Gary Neville put in a lot of effort and was ready to shell out £6m on a subterranean "eco bunker", designed - despite its resemblance to the Teletubbies house - to exist in peaceful harmony with its surroundings. Unfortunately, at least 100 of his neighbours had other ideas and lodged objections, [Independent](#)

EU carbon tax proposal delayed - Fri, 25th June 2010
Proposals for a European carbon tax have been kicked into the long grass following a debate between EU commissioners, who face divisions between member states whilst the effects of the financial crisis are still being felt, [EurActiv](#)

Sainsbury takes the green energy chair - Thurs, 24th June 2010
Winds of change are blowing through Scottish Renewables after the trade body has appointed Jeremy Sainsbury as its interim chairman, [Scotsman](#)

Budget 2010: Time to see the light on nuclear energy - Thurs, 24th June 2010
Tuesday's Budget saw the Government adopt Ofgem's estimate that the UK must spend £200bn on



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its power stations and energy infrastructure if it is to keep the lights on with secure, diverse and low carbon sources of energy, [Telegraph](#)

BP refits Gulf of Mexico oil cap as Barack Obama's rating drops - Thurs, 24th June 2010
Barack Obama administration appeals court ruling blocking six-month moratorium on deep-water drilling in the US, [Guardian](#)

Chris Huhne: Belarus gas dispute underlines Britain's desperate need for renewables and nuclear - Thurs, 24th June 2010
Energy and climate change secretary says green energy can play vital part in UK's future energy security, [Guardian](#)

Wales "perfectly placed" for emerging marine energy industry - Thurs, 24th June 2010
Wales offers the perfect conditions for the emerging marine energy industry, according to Welsh environment minister, Jane Davidson, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

EU plans 'transition subsidies' for coal sector - Thurs, 24th June 2010
The European Commission is planning to prolong subsidies for the coal industry until 2023, in an effort to help the sector's transition to cleaner energy and the eventual closure of mines, EurActiv has learnt, [EurActiv](#)

EDF outlines vision for a smarter London - Thurs, 24th June 2010
Energy giant to request £39m in Ofgem funding to pay for wide-ranging smart grid project, [BusinessGreen](#)

Hydro-electric power capacity to treble by 2020 - Thurs, 24th June 2010
Britain's hydro-power plant capacity may treble by 2020 as electricity producers make use of government incentives for renewable energy, the Environment Agency said yesterday, [Independent](#)

Green energy plant 'not carbon neutral for 40 years' - Weds, 23rd June 2010
The new "green energy" biomass plant proposed for Leith would take at least 40 years to become carbon neutral, according to a new study, [Scotsman](#)

EU Carbon Permit Prices May Gain as Electricity Demand Rises, Nomura Says - Weds, 23rd June 2010
European Union carbon emission permit prices, which increased 22 percent this year, may extend gains while comparable UN certified emission credit units may lag behind, Nomura International Plc's analyst said, [Bloomberg](#)

Carbon Spread Narrows as Traders Bet On Fewer UN Credits: Energy Markets - Weds, 23rd June 2010
The [gap](#) between carbon permits in the European Union and United Nations markets reached the narrowest in three months on speculation that the world organization will restrict credits for hydrofluorocarbons, [Bloomberg](#)

Belarus stops gas transit to the West - Weds, 23rd June 2010
Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko yesterday (22 June) called a halt to gas flows to Lithuania, Poland and Germany following a payment dispute with Russian monopolist Gazprom, speaking of a



"gas war," the press in the region reported, [EurActiv](#)

Hydropower schemes surge in decade, Environment Agency figures show - Weds, 23rd June 2010

Businesses and communities cash in on small-scale renewables, but some areas deemed too environmentally sensitive, [Guardian](#)

Spain Rules Out Backdating Cuts on Renewables Energy Premiums, Cinco Says - Weds, 23rd June 2010

Spain has decided not cut premiums paid for renewable energy generated at existing plants after lobbying by banks that have 15 billion euros (\$18.4 billion) in loans to the industry, Cinco Dias reported, [Bloomberg](#)

Energy plans 'could create thousands of jobs in Wales' - Weds, 23rd June 2010

Thousands of new jobs could be created in Wales to help cut greenhouse gas emissions to zero, it is claimed, [BBC](#)

Wind farm set for inquiry - Weds, 23rd June 2010

A public inquiry is set to be held to decide the future of a proposed wind farm in Caithness after councillors lodged an objection yesterday, [Scotsman](#)

Budget 2010: Green policies 'sidelined', campaigners say - Tues, 22nd June 2010

Green groups disappointed after chancellor reveals no further details on plans for a green investment bank or home energy-efficiency schemes, [Guardian](#)

UN climate chief departs an optimist despite setbacks - Tues, 22nd June 2010

Even after the failure to reach agreement on binding CO2 cuts in Copenhagen last December, UNFCCC executive director Yvo de Boer is confident that the world is making progress on global warming, [Guardian](#)

Green groups disappointed in lack of detail in the budget - Tues, 22nd June 2010

Environmentalists were disappointed with a budget that promised a number of green measures but failed to deliver on the details, [Telegraph](#)

3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

News this fortnight...

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the emergency budget statement on Tuesday 22nd June. This statement included an announcement on the creation of a Green Investment Bank, which the government will use to bring forward private investment in clean energy and green technologies. Read the full budget statement made to the Commons [here](#).

Select Committees

The Committees still await the nomination of members - activity is not expected from the reformed



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Committees until after the summer recess.

Bills and debates

The new Energy Security and Green Economy Bill announced in the Queen's Speech has yet to reach parliament. However DECC answered a parliamentary question this week on the drafting process involved with it within the Department ([here](#)). Officials from their policy and legal directorates continue to work on the Bill.

On Wednesday 30th there was a debate on "Progress and prospects in Energy Efficiency" - click [here](#) for the links to the video, audit and Hansard records.

There was a Westminster Hall debate on Tuesday 22nd June on government policy on nuclear energy - watch the session [here](#). John Robertson MP led the debate, taking the opportunity to seek assurances from the new coalition Government on their energy policy. A number of Members contributed to the debate.

Looking forward there will be a Westminster Hall debate next Thursday afternoon on energy security.

Early Day Motions

Motions tabled this week related to renewable and sustainable energy are:

- Martin Horwood's EDM [272](#) on the Low Carbon Transition, which calls on government to progress the transition to a low carbon economy by taking decisive action, such as putting significant funds in the Green Investment Bank, setting an effective carbon price, creating a more comprehensive industrial strategy and implementing a national energy efficiency strategy.

- Julian Huppert's EDM [280](#), which raises the issue of the need for higher winter fuel payments for severely disabled persons.

- Robert Ffello's EDM [367](#), which promotes his Sustainable Livestock Bill, which seeks the adoption of more sustainable livestock-rearing practices. The EDM calls for the use of sustainable home-grown food crops by UK dairy and livestock farmers, which will alleviate deforestation pressures abroad.

Private Members' Bills

On Wednesday 30th there was a Presentation of Bills in the House by those members who were drawn in the Private Members Bill Ballot. Those themed around sustainability are:

Robert Ffello MP's Sustainable Livestock Bill, which will "require the Secretary of State to improve the sustainability of the production, processing, marketing, manufacturing, distribution and consumption of products derived to any substantial extent from livestock". (Second Reading: 12th November)

Rebecca Harris MP's Daylight Saving Bill, which will "require the Secretary of State to conduct a cross-departmental analysis of the potential costs and benefits of advancing time by one hour for all, or part of, the year", and to act on the analysis. (2nd Reading: 3rd December)

Joan Walley's Public Bodies (Sustainable Food) Bill, which will "make provision for the creation of a Code regarding the procurement of sustainable food by public bodies". (Second reading: 12th November)



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Nigel Adam's Protection of Local Services (Planning) Bill regards reforming the planning system to protect local services, which could impact on the development of new micro-renewables or larger scale energy projects.

Written Statements

DCLG and Defra both made statements this week on the changes that will be made to the bodies that function to deliver their work. DCLG will abolish the former government's controversial Infrastructure Planning Commission, replacing it with the 'Major Infrastructure Planning Unit', within which ministers will make decisions. Meanwhile Defra has abolished the Commission for Rural Communities, compensating by strengthening the rural communities team within the department. Read the statements [here](#).

Parliamentary Questions

On Thursday 24th June Defra Ministers answered oral parliamentary questions in the House. Issues related to renewable and sustainable forms of energy were not raised in the session, apart from anaerobic digestion and hydroelectric power, which came up in Topical Questions ([here](#)).

On Thursday 1st July Ministers at DECC answered Energy and Climate Change questions, including Topical Questions. [Topics](#) included:

- energy from waste incinerators ([here](#));
- the financing of nuclear power and decommissioning of nuclear waste ([here](#));
- wind energy: public opinion, Welsh planning, distance to dwellings and generation targets ([here](#));
- security of supply ([here](#) and later [here](#));
- increasing the number of green jobs in the economy ([here](#));
- the cost of implementing a 10% emissions reduction target in the next 12 months ([here](#));
- the Green Deal for domestic energy efficiency ([here](#));
- the use of former oil fabrication construction sites for developing wind, wave and tidal energy ([here](#));
- electricity pylons and tourism issues; local democracy and renewable energy installation conflicts ([here](#));
- expenditure on CCS technology for gas-fired power stations; CCS infrastructure spending in Yorkshire and CCS project potential in Scotland ([here](#));

- the projected electricity supply and likelihood of shortages ([here](#));
- new nuclear power stations and (lack of) public subsidies ([here](#) and later [here](#));
- implementation on the EU's 30% by 2030 emissions reduction target (and the role for a supergrid)([here](#));
- EU discussions on carbon pricing ([here](#));
- wave and tidal (stream) energy technology in the UK ([here](#)) and the Severn tidal barrage ([here](#));

Topical question topics (browsable [here](#)) included:

- increased energy bills resulting from low carbon energy generation;
- the effect on the economy and green growth on abolishing the RDAs;
- delays in the decision on a 100 KW hydroelectric scheme on the weir at Avoncliff;
- the effect on the energy industry of scrapping the Infrastructure Planning Commission;
- the loft insulation programme and targeting of funds to those in fuel poverty;
- the development of electric-powered vehicles;
- the need for solar panels of roofs in social housing; and
- the need for a moratorium on all new deep-sea offshore drilling.



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Remaining answers can be browsed ([here](#)), which include:

- Drax power station and the further use of biomass;
- palm oil burning plants and sustainability issues - applicability of palm oil for the RO;
- wind turbine proximity to villages;
- wood biomass and the timber industry;
- the HQ of the new Green Investment Bank;
- oil or gas supplies from the Falkland Islands; and
- evening out the tariffs for electricity usage by card meter payments and by billing.

Written Questions

Written questions that have received answers from DECC and other government departments in the last fortnight are summarised below in date order.

Monday 21st: Topics included the phasing out of energy subsidies, government subsidies for nuclear energy and the associated waste, the RHI, and energy generation from renewable across the EU. Feed in Tarriffs also featured ([here](#)).

DfT answered a question on the implementation of a new charging network for electric vehicles ([here](#)).

Tuesday 22nd: Topics included cross-departmental cooperative in building a low carbon economy, DECC's capital grants schemes, and the Severn Tidal Feasibility Study.

DfT answered a question on EU action on sustainability criteria for biofuels ([here](#)), whilst Defra answered one on government incentives for farmers wishing to grow them ([here](#)). The answer mentions anaerobic digestion applicability under the Feed in Tariff, biomass and the Renewables Obligation and the Energy Crops scheme for perennial energy crops.

Wednesday 23rd: DECC answered no questions, whilst DCLG answered a question on planning permission for wind turbines, and in particular, height restrictions for those close to residential dwellings ([here](#)).

Thursday 24th: Topics included biofuels, a carbon floor price, visual impacts of electricity pylons, fuel poverty, new nuclear build, government spending on nuclear energy, the RHI and Transocean. DfT answered a question on electric vehicles ([here](#)).

Monday 28th: Topics included the bio-energy capital grant fund, CERT and RHI, the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme, environmental jobs, nuclear power station siting, oil rigs, the RHI, biofuels, loans for renewables and other Departmental support plans. DCLG answered a question on wind turbine applications in AONBs ([here](#)).

Tuesday 29th: Topics included DECC expenditure, energy subsidy reform, energy billing, radioactive waste, renewable heat and FiTs for biomass. DfT answered a question on the EU target of 20% of transport energy coming from renewable sources by 2020 ([here](#)). DCLG answered a question on permitted development for micro-wind turbines and air source heat pumps ([here](#)).

Wednesday 30th: topics included the drafting of the new Energy Security and Green Economy Bill. DCLG answered a question on planning permission needed for wind turbines ([here](#)).

Thursday 1st: topics included nuclear power's contribution to electricity generation ([here](#)); the Green Deal ([here](#)); and EU carbon floor price on the volume of carbon emissions ([here](#)); CCS for gas ([here](#)); Yorkshire low carbon energy projects ([here](#)); cuts to the Environmental Transformation Fund ([here](#)); 'green'



investment bank definition ([here](#)); nuclear subsidies expenditure since 1997 ([here](#)) and funding for port developments to facilitate offshore wind expansion ([here](#)).

House of Lords highlights

On Wednesday 30th June there was a second reading on the Local Government Bill in the House of Lords - read it [here](#).

The Lords parliamentary questions that received answers this week, included:

- Lord Stoddart of Swindon's written question on an EU-wide carbon tax ([here](#));
- Lord Jenkin of Roding's written question on nuclear reactors ([here](#));
- Lord Hunt of Kings Heath's oral question on the Russia-Belarus gas dispute ([here](#));
- Lord Vinson's written question on finance of the UK's nuclear industry ([here](#));
- Lord Judd's written question on nuclear waste disposal ([here](#));
- Lord Vinson's written question on the cost of generation electricity from renewable sources, and whether utilities will need to report this on invoices ([here](#));
- Lord Hunt of Kings Heath's written question on national government discussions with Local Government about an increase in onshore wind energy generation ([here](#));
- Lord Hunt of Kings Heath's oral question on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ([here](#));
- Lord Alton of Liverpool's written question on the visual impact of electricity pylons ([here](#));
- Lord Hunt of Chesterton's written question on the inclusion on nuclear energy in the policies to be adopted at the UNFCCC in Cancun in December ([here](#));
- Lord Hunt of Kings Heath's written question on when the government will publish details of the Renewable Heat Incentive ([here](#));
- Baroness Miller of Hendon's oral question on daylight saving time ([here](#));
- Lord Hunt of Kings Heath's written question on a statutory regular for the nuclear industry ([here](#));
- Lord Stoddart of Swindon's written question on the impact of reducing emissions on the UK's competitive position ([here](#));
- Lord Vinson's written question on upgrading the electricity transmission network between Scotland and London ([here](#)); and
- Lord Greaves' written question on the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 ([here](#));

Reports

RenewableUK Report: UK Offshore wind: Building an Industry - 29th June 2010

Report states how to build a UK offshore wind powerhouse

- RenewableUK's 'Building an Industry' report released
- Government must act now and commit to the ?60m offshore wind infrastructure competition to ensure key port infrastructure upgrades will go ahead as a key requirement to attracting manufacturing jobs
- Government in conjunction with industry needs to agree a realistic target for delivery if sector is not to lose opportunity to create at least 45,000 jobs
- Report identifies market stability is key to industrial development



Click [here](#) to access the report. See coverage - [NewEnergyFocus](#)

WWF report: 2010 Rating of Designated Operational Entities (DOEs) - 28th June 2010

Commissioned by WWF, the Öko-Institut analysed, for the second time, to what degree DOEs (Designed Operational Entities) fulfill the requirements of the UNFCCC CDM Executive Board (EB). More than 900 projects have been evaluated for this analysis. The rating is based on a statistical evaluation of decisions by the EB on projects that were validated positively by a DOE and which are later either registered, rejected, reviewed or requested for correction by the EB. In 2007 a separate study commissioned by WWF already showed that many of these projects are of questionable quality and do not lead to emission reductions. Click [here](#) to access the report. See coverage - [BusinessGreen](#)

Green Investment Bank Commission report: Unlocking investment to deliver Britain's low carbon future - Tuesday, 29th June 2010

Since February 2010, the Green Investment Bank Commission, an independent and non-partisan advisory group brought together by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has been working to identify how Britain can better support and accelerate the private sector investment required to deliver the UK's transition to a low carbon economy. The Commission has consulted widely with experts in government, business, policy and finance to identify the barriers that are constraining investment. In response, we have developed proposals for a Green Investment Bank (GIB) that could help to remove these barriers and rapidly increase investment in the low carbon infrastructure and technologies that Britain urgently needs. Click [here](#) to access the report

Committee on Climate Change report: Meeting Carbon Budgets - ensuring a low-carbon recovery - 30th June 2010

This is the Committee's 2nd annual report to Parliament on the progress made in reducing emissions and meeting carbon budgets as required under the Climate Change Act (2008). Within this report we assess the latest emissions data and determine whether emissions reductions have occurred as a result of the recession, or, as a result of other external factors. We assess Government's progress towards achieving emissions reductions in 4 key areas of: Power, Buildings and Industry, Transport and Agriculture. Click [here](#) to access the report

4. EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

National Energy Foundation courses

[Wood Fuel Heating & CHP](#), November 8th, Milton Keynes

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

Upcoming RenewableUK events

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

LowCVP Low Carbon Champions Awards 2010 - call for nominations.

Nominations are invited for the LowCVP's inaugural Low Carbon Champions Awards to be presented during an Awards Dinner at Twickenham Stadium during the [LowCVP Annual Conference](#) on July 14th. The deadline for nominations to the LowCVP is Thursday 24 June. For more information including a nomination form please visit www.lowcvp.org.uk

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](#)

BRE event

Event: [Opportunities for Social Housing Providers from Feed-in Tariffs](#)

Date: Friday 9 July,

Location: BRE, Watford

£195 + VAT

Description: FITs have given householders and all types of organisations an opportunity to become electricity generators, benefiting financially from long-term income streams.

Social Housing providers are well-placed to take advantage of the FITs scheme and provide significant benefits to their tenants, for example, reducing fuel poverty.

This half-day awareness seminar, delivered by independent experts with first-hand knowledge of FITs, will equip Social Housing providers with a full understanding of the benefits of the scheme

Further details: [click here](#)

Event: [Part L 2010 Explained](#)

Date: Wednesday 14 July

Location: BRE, Watford

£115 + VAT

Description: One-day conference providing a detailed overview of the new Part L, F & J requirements, effective from October 2010.

- Hear directly from CLG about the new Government's policy for regulations and the move to zero carbon buildings understand the revised 2010 energy and CO2 targets for dwellings and other buildings and the typical construction and servicing strategies to meet these targets
- Hear about the use of accredited details in delivering quality buildings
- Learn about improved calculation methods and software tools - SAP 2009 and SBEM
- Understand the link between energy efficiency and adequate ventilation (Part F) in maintaining air quality and avoiding over-heating



PRASEG NEWS



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

- Have the opportunity to question the speakers

Further details: [click here](#)

National Heat Pump Awards

Date: 23rd June, 2011

Location: International Convention Centre (ICC), Birmingham

Description: The awards will act as a focus of excellence, to show what the latest technology can achieve and highlight outstanding work by the people and organisations driving developments forward.

The event takes place on 23rd June, 2011, at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in the heart of Birmingham. The gala black-tie evening at only £145 plus VAT will include a pre-dinner drinks reception, a sumptuous four-course dinner, wine at table plus top flight professional presentation with celebrity entertainment. There are ten award categories, and organisations and individuals are now invited to enter:

- Installation of the year:
 - Domestic, air source
 - Domestic, ground/water source
 - Commercial, air source
 - Commercial, ground/water source
- Product innovation of the year
- Training excellence award;
- Public sector project of the year
- Installer of the year;
- Consultant of the year;
- Heat pump champion.

The closing date for entries is 4th March, 2011.

Further details: To register and for further details go to www.national-heat-pump-awards.co.uk

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