



# 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](mailto:info@praseg.org.uk). For further information on the group, visit the PRASEG website at [www.praseg.org.uk](http://www.praseg.org.uk).

## 7<sup>th</sup> January 2011: This Week's Headlines...

### **EU Will Exceed Its 2020 Renewable-Energy Goal, Wind Association Forecasts**

[Bloomberg](#), [Renewable Energy Focus](#), [BusinessGreen](#)

### **US oil spill: 'Bad management' led to BP disaster**

[BBC](#), [Telegraph](#), [BusinessGreen](#), [Guardian](#)

### **MPs publish report on lessons from BP's Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster**

[Guardian](#), [UtilityWeek](#), [Edie](#), [BusinessGreen](#)

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# Upcoming PRASEG Events

## PRASEG and FPEEG Inquiry

The Associate Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group, and the All-Party Parliamentary Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency Group are holding an inquiry to investigate social justice in the low carbon economy.

Click [here](#) for the terms of reference.

**Deadline for written submissions: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

**Oral evidence sessions:**

31st January 2011, Portcullis House; 8th February 2011, Portcullis House; 16th February 2011, Portcullis House

For further information contact Rose Dickinson, PRASEG ([info@praseg.org.uk](mailto:info@praseg.org.uk)) or Piya Malik, FPEEG ([Malikp@parliament.uk](mailto:Malikp@parliament.uk))

## PRASEG and UK BCSE Seminar Electricity Market Reform: a framework to deliver?

**Speakers:** Jonathan Brearley, Director of Energy Strategy and Futures, Department of Energy and Climate Change; David Green, Chief Executive, UK BCSE; Graham Meeks, Director, CHPA; and Doug Parr, Chief Scientist, Greenpeace UK

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011

**Time:** 09.30 - 11.30

**Location:** Committee Room 5, House of Commons

## PRASEG Seminar Planning reform: implications for renewables

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011

**Time:** 16:00 - 18:00

**Location:** Committee room 17

**Speakers:** Helen Phillips, CEO, Natural England; Bob Neill MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government; Charles Anglin, Renewable UK; Hector Pearson, Land and Development Stakeholder & Policy Manager, National Grid

## 2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES

### *Headline news*

**EU Will Exceed Its 2020 Renewable-Energy Goal, Wind Association Forecasts - Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

The European Union will exceed its goal to get 20 percent of energy from renewable sources in 2020, the European Wind Energy Association forecast, [Bloomberg](#), [Renewable Energy Focus](#), [BusinessGreen](#)

**US oil spill: 'Bad management' led to BP disaster - Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011**



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The companies involved in the Gulf of Mexico oil spill made decisions to cut costs and save time that contributed to the disaster, a US panel has concluded, [BBC](#), [Telegraph](#), [BusinessGreen](#), [Guardian](#)

**MPs publish report on lessons from BP's Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster - Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011**  
Politicians have 'serious doubts' over oil companies' plans to cope with spills in the Atlantic waters off Shetland, [Guardian](#), [UtilityWeek](#), [Edie](#), [BusinessGreen](#)

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## **Other news**

**Regulator Ofgem to fine National Grid Gas £8 million for inaccurate reporting - Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Ofgem has announced plans to fine National Grid Gas £8 million because the company breached licence obligations on providing accurate information to the energy regulator about its gas mains replacement programme, [UtilityWeek](#)

**Companies plead poverty despite efficiency benefits - Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Survey finds industrial energy efficiency is falling by the wayside as businesses feel the pinch, [BusinessGreen](#)

**China Rare Earths Leave Toxic Trail to Toyota, Vestas - Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

China's rare earth industry each year produces more than five times the amount of waste gas, including deadly fluorine and sulfur dioxide, than the total flared annually by all miners and oil refiners in the U.S, [Bloomberg](#)

**Skycon administration puts Scottish wind turbine plant at risk - Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Around 120 workers sent home from Scottish wind turbine factory after parent company goes bust, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Ciris Energy turns coal into cash with \$24m funding round - Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Coal-bed methane extraction firm pulls in new investor, plans first commercial plant, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Six wind turbines secure feed-in tariff approval - Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Certification for micro-turbines sparks hopes of increased demand, despite planning issues that could end up in court, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Sustainable fish customers 'duped' by Marine Stewardship Council - Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Certification granted to controversial fisheries has prompted severe criticism of the sustainable fisheries organisation, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Electric cars not accessible 'in next five years' - Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

The majority of global car executives do not foresee a reasonably priced electric vehicle being available on the mass market in the next five years, a survey has suggested, [BBC](#)

**North Sea oil shines while Falklands fails again - Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Three British explorers have made their second big North Sea discovery, as Desire Petroleum failed to find oil for the fourth time in the Falkland Islands, [Telegraph](#)

**How to judge the 'greenest government ever' - Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

How should we assess David Cameron's ambitious green pledge? Is it all about climate change, energy security and jobs? What about forests, national parks and badgers?, [Guardian](#)



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## **Communities Secretary Pickles Announces New Measures To Promote Use Of Electric Cars In 2011 - Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

The Communities Secretary Eric Pickles announced new measures to promote the usage of electric cars yesterday, [eGov](#)

## **Remember the "Green economy"? - Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

When the global bank HSBC came to name its latest report on the green economy, "Glimmer amid the gloom" was its optimistic choice, [BBC](#)

## **Renewable energy meets quarter of Scottish electricity - Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Renewable energy met 27.4% of electricity demand in Scotland in 2009, according to Government statistics on renewable energy generation, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

## **Fuel prices - a driver for change? - Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Global Action Plan's Trewin Restorick asks if rising fuel prices will encourage greener driving habits, [BusinessGreen](#)

## **Ikea flips off switch for incandescent bulbs - Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Retail giant claims to be first US firm to comply with looming light bulb efficiency rules, [BusinessGreen](#)

## **Fears for growth over \$100-plus oil as speculators pile in - Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Experts have warned that a high oil price could derail the global economic recovery, as the number of market speculators betting on rising crude jumped to a four-year high, [Telegraph](#)

## **UK renewable energy supplies up 23% in Q3 2010**

The supply of renewable energy in the UK rose 23.1% to 6.98 TWh in the third quarter 2010/2011 compared to the same period last year, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

## **Vestas delivers 240 MW of wind turbines - Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Vestas will deliver a total of 240 MW of wind turbines to projects in Germany and Poland over the next two years, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

## **Stalling offshore wind farms threaten UK's renewable strategy - Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Industry urges government to approve offshore wind farms trapped in planning system or risk derailing Round 3 projects, [BusinessGreen](#)

## **Green patent benefit for UK businesses - Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Fast-track green patent applications are benefiting green UK businesses, says the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, [Edie](#)

## **Merkel's Nuclear Plan Earns Derision as Clean Power Costs Climb - Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Klaus Breil, lawmaker and energy spokesman for Germany's ruling Free Democratic Party, talks about renewable and nuclear energy production in Germany, [Bloomberg](#)

## **EA plans to loosen AD permitting restrictions - Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

A consultation on plans to allow anaerobic digestion facilities to be built nearer to homes and businesses without operators having to apply for more expensive and complicated environmental permits has been launched by the Environment Agency, [LetsRecycle](#)

## **Nearly €8bn of EU energy savings fund lies unclaimed - Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2011**

As the EU struggles to meet its target of reducing energy consumption by 20% by 2020, energy efficiency grants from a reallocated fund worth eight billion euros are still going unclaimed, according to a top



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European Commission official who spoke to EurActiv in an interview, [EurActiv](#)

**Chris Huhne promises Britain will speed up switch to green energy - Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2011**

- Oil price reaches \$92 a barrel - highest since October 2008
- UK energy target of getting 15% from renewables by 2020, [Guardian](#)

**Australian energy firms to challenge emissions performance standard - 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011**

Plans to impose emission standards on new power plants could face delay, [BusinessGreen](#)

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## 3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

Parliament is in recess.

### **Reports**

**ECC report: UK Deepwater Drilling - Implications of the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill - Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

The MPs conclude that extra precautions should be considered to ensure that a deepwater drilling disaster does not happen here - but that a moratorium would undermine energy security and is not necessary. The Committee states it has serious doubts about the ability of oil spill response equipment to function in the harsh conditions off the west coast of Shetland - where wells are being drilled over a thousand metres deep.

A lack of clarity in UK liability rules could also see taxpayers pick up the tab for a major oil spill in the North Sea, the Energy and Climate Change Committee has warned.

Click [here](#) for the report. Click [here](#) for the press release.

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## 4. EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

### **Heat pump seminars**

**Event:** Take advantage of the heat pump market

**Date:** 3rd February 2011: Daventry; 28th April 2011: Basingstoke

**Further details:** [click here](#)

### **The Rushlight Awards Clean Technologies Show and Gala Dinner**

**Host organisation:** Rushlight Awards

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011

**Location:** Church House, Westminster

**More information:** Click [here](#)

The Rushlight Awards promote and celebrate the leading energy, resource and environmental technologies and innovations by organizations throughout UK and Ireland.

With 24 separate categories covering renewable energy, clean fuels, energy efficiency, power generation, green products and services, water, waste and environmental monitoring and management, these awards will highlight the technologies and innovations that are shaping the energy, transport, environment and industry sectors in the future. If you have developed a technology or innovation that is pertinent to one of these categories, then do not hesitate to enter as you have so much to gain:



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- There are over £100,000 worth of prizes to be won
- As an RSA accredited event, all group category winners will automatically be nominated for the UK entries for the European Business Awards for the Environment and all entrants.
- All entrants can be included in the Book of Entries published each year
- All entrants are eligible for a significant discount on the price of a stand at the Rushlight Clean Technologies Show on 27 January 2011 at Central Hall Westminster, London

The Rushlight Awards 2010 are now open for entries. The closing date for entries is 31 October 2010 and the Gala Awards Dinner will follow on 27 January 2011 at Church House Westminster, London.

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