



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.

10th December 2010: This Week's Headlines...

Committee on Climate Change advises UK to cut emissions 60% by 2030

[Guardian](#) - [Click Green](#) - [Energy Saving Trust](#) - [BusinessGreen](#)

Faster review of support for Renewable electricity to provide investor certainty

[DECC](#) - [USwitch](#) - [Renewable Energy Focus](#) - [Energy Efficiency News](#) - [Let's Recycle](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Reuters](#)

'Green deal' for energy-efficient homes begins parliamentary journey

[Guardian](#) - [Energy Saving Trust](#) - [Energy Efficiency News](#)

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Upcoming PRASEG Events

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: 12th January 2011

Time: 09.30 - 11.30

Location: Committee Room 5, House of Commons

PRASEG Seminar Planning reform: implications for renewables

Date: 25th 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; Renewable UK;

2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES

Headline news

Committee on Climate Change advises UK to cut emissions 60% by 2030 - Tuesday, 7th December 2010
Britain is set world-leading carbon emissions cut target requiring complete overhaul of energy, farming and motoring, [Guardian](#) - [Click Green](#) - [Energy Saving Trust](#) - [BusinessGreen](#)

Faster review of support for Renewable electricity to provide investor certainty - Wednesday, 8th December 2010

Developers of new large-scale renewable electricity projects will get earlier and greater certainty about how much support they will receive under the Renewables Obligation from 2013, Energy Minister Charles Hendry announced today, [DECC](#) - [USwitch](#) - [Renewable Energy Focus](#) - [Energy Efficiency News](#) - [Let's Recycle](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Reuters](#)

'Green deal' for energy-efficient homes begins parliamentary journey - Wednesday, 8th December 2010
Bill provides homeowners with up to £6,000 for insulation and places legal obligations on power companies to cut emissions, [Guardian](#) - [Energy Saving Trust](#) - [Energy Efficiency News](#)

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Other news

Cancún climate change conference: We must end energy apartheid - Friday, 10th December 2010
As ministers discuss the technicalities of carbon emissions at the Cancún climate change conference, 1.5 billion people in poorer countries still have no access to electricity. We need to address this injustice, [Guardian](#)



Cancún climate change conference: Russia will not renew Kyoto protocol - Friday, 10th December 2010
Summit cast into doubt as Russia says it will not sign extension to treaty that has governed climate negotiations for more than a decade, [Guardian](#)

After the cop-out in Copenhagen, it's chaos in Cancun - Friday, 10th December 2010
The latest climate talks are at risk of achieving nothing, [Independent](#)

UN Climate Talks Face 'Zombie' Future as Emissions Treaty Remains Elusive - Friday, 10th December 2010

United Nations envoys from 193 countries end two weeks of climate talks today, hoping to agree on protecting forests and aid to poorer nations, [Bloomberg](#)

National Grid union members decide whether to strike after rejecting pay deal - Thursday, 9th December 2010

Balloting of union members at National Grid begins today. If they decide to strike, action will start in January, [UtilityWeek](#)

Carbon capture coal firm Powerfuel calls in administrators - Thursday, 9th December 2010

Administrators have been called in to sell the assets of Powerfuel, which owns Hatfield colliery near Doncaster and planned to build a clean-coal demonstration plant in Britain, [Guardian](#)

Tough carbon cuts 'key' to climate funding - Thursday, 9th December 2010

Governments should cut carbon emissions further in order to raise \$100bn (£60bn) per year to help poorer nations deal with climate change, Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg argues, [BBC](#)

Cancún climate change summit: Leaked documents reveal alternative deal - Thursday, 9th December 2010

Move by Mexican presidency, Europe and Pacific island states to prepare new negotiating text has outraged developing nations, [Guardian](#)

Cancún climate talks risk becoming a 'car crash', says Chris Huhne - Thursday, 9th December 2010

Problems are being caused by division between rich and poor countries on Kyoto protocol, says environment secretary, [Guardian](#)

U.K. Plans Payment for 'Negawatt' to Curb Power Use - Thursday, 9th December 2010

The U.K. will propose paying big power consumers to use less during peak demand periods as part of a plan to overhaul the electricity market due to be drafted by Christmas, Minister of State for Energy Charles Hendry said, [Bloomberg](#)

DECC - Faster review of support for Renewable electricity to provide investor certainty - Thursday, 9th December 2010

"We are determined to increase significantly the amount of renewables in our energy mix..."(Charles Hendry), [DECC](#)

British Gas buys insulation firm - Wednesday, 8th December 2010

British Gas has agreed a £4 million deal to expand its insulation business by acquiring ECL Contracts, a specialist external-wall insulation company, [H&Vnews](#)

EU carbon price to rise 49 per cent next year - Wednesday, 8th December 2010

The price of a tonne of carbon in the EU's emissions trading scheme (ETS) will rise by around 50 per cent next year as energy companies attempt to hoard carbon credits ahead of the launch of the next phase of



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the scheme in 2013, [BusinessGreen](#)

U.S. Sees No 'Game-Changer' in China's Pledges at UN Global Warming Talks - Wednesday, 8th December 2010

China's most recent stance on bringing its emissions-reduction goals into a United Nations deal marks "business as usual" and doesn't advance fractured climate negotiations in Mexico, U.S. envoy Todd Stern said, [Bloomberg](#)

Global investment in renewables to total \$1.7 trillion by 2020 - Wednesday, 8th December 2010

More proactive government policies could generate an extra \$546bn of investment in clean energy, report finds, [Guardian](#)

How forest privatisation could attract biofuel energy companies - Wednesday, 8th December 2010

The Ecologist: Industry analysts predict land could be snapped up by energy companies looking to burn wood as a biofuel, [Guardian](#)

Cancún climate change summit: Japan defiant in face of diplomatic pressure - Wednesday, 8th December 2010

Japan under fire over Kyoto deadlock but senior negotiator says country will stand firm, [Guardian](#)

Global investment in renewables to total \$1.7 trillion by 2020 - Wednesday, 8th December 2010

More proactive government policies could generate an extra \$546bn of investment in clean energy, report finds, [Guardian](#)

Huhne asked to 'bridge Kyoto gap' between nations - Wednesday, 8th December 2010

Britain's Energy and Climate Change Secretary, Chris Huhne, was yesterday handed the job of solving the key problem which threatens the collapse of the UN climate talks in Cancun, [Independent](#)

UK taxpayers face unlimited nuclear waste bills if costs spiral - Wednesday, 8th December 2010

The taxpayer will have to pick up a potentially unlimited bill for disposing of radioactive waste from Britain's new nuclear stations if costs exceed expected levels, [Telegraph](#)

US cable portrays Oettinger as 'unloved lame duck' - Wednesday, 8th December 2010

Günther Oettinger, the EU's energy commissioner, comes in for heavy criticism in a leaked cable recently released by WikiLeaks, which sees his promotion to Brussels portrayed as a move primarily aimed at getting rid of an embarrassing ally, [EurActiv](#)

Multi-billion dollar low carbon partnership - Wednesday, 8th December 2010

Scotland's world-leading expertise in developing low carbon technologies can play a role in advancing clean energy developments in Latin America and the Caribbean thanks to an innovative new partnership, [Scotland](#)

EU Energy: Commission Sets Out Ideas To Boost Regional Cooperation On Energy Supply - Tuesday, 7th December 2010

The European Commission laid out proposals which seek to boost regional cooperation on ensuring secure supply of energy at low prices, [eGov](#)

Transocean oil rig suffered blow-out in North Sea - Tuesday, 7th December 2010

Drilling company had incident in North Sea similar to that which caused Deepwater Horizon disaster, internal report shows, [Guardian](#)

Climate pledges are 9 gigatonnes short - Tuesday, 7th December 2010

The "gigatonne gap" looms large as UN climate talks in Cancún, Mexico, enter their final days without new



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commitments from big polluters to cut their carbon dioxide emissions, [NewScientist](#)

Energy Credits Prove Inflated With Green Claims Seen as Hot Air - Tuesday, 7th December 2010

Along the steel-gray Quinebaug River in eastern Connecticut, Duncan Broatch is tinkering with machinery that will keep one of his two hydroelectric plants cranking out clean energy, [Bloomberg](#)

China, India, Brazil Push U.S. for Deeper Greenhouse Gas Cuts - Tuesday, 7th December 2010

China, India, Brazil and South Africa said the U.S. must pledge deeper cuts in greenhouse gas emissions to help make progress in United Nations climate talks, sharpening divisions between rich and poor countries on how to combat global warming, [Bloomberg](#)

Russia, Poland focus on energy, trade - Tuesday, 7th December 2010

Russia wants to take part in the privatisation of Polish companies, its president said yesterday (6 December) during a visit designed to draw a line under old disputes and highlight burgeoning economic ties, [EurActiv](#)

Global carbon capture expertise - Tuesday, 7th December 2010

Scotland is to design a blueprint to ensure carbon capture and storage technology (CCS) can be implemented effectively around the world, [Scotland](#)

Falkland Islands oil: false dawns and rollercoaster share rides - Tuesday, 7th December 2010

With oil prices much higher than 1998, companies are continually hunting for the black stuff, with some explorers having more success than others, [Telegraph](#)

EU shifts energy policy focus to consumers' bills - Tuesday, 7th December 2010

European consumers should be able to switch to the cheapest energy supplier more easily, EU energy ministers said at a meeting last Friday (3 December), [EurActiv](#)

Britain needs to revert to central planning of market - Monday, 6th December 2010

Britain needs to go back to old-style central planning of its electricity market, with the Government deciding who builds power stations where, so that it can take on the world's toughest target to cut its emissions of the greenhouse gases causing global warming, the independent Committee on Climate Change tells the Government today, [Independent](#)

China to Meet Year-End Goal of Cutting Energy Intensity by 20%, NDRC Says - Monday, 6th December 2010

China, the world's fastest-growing major economy, will meet its year-end energy conservation targets, said Zhao Jiarong, a deputy secretary general at the National Development and Reform Commission, [Bloomberg](#)

UN Climate Negotiators Considering Two-Year Deadline for New Emission Cuts - Monday, 6th December 2010

Zoe Knight, director of climate change strategy at HSBC Holdings Plc, talks about the possible outcome of the United Nations climate change talks in Cancun, Mexico, that start today and run until Dec. 10, [Bloomberg](#)

DECC reveals Green Deal finance plan is ready for launch - Monday, 6th December 2010

DECC confirms it has completed final design for domestic efficiency scheme, as DfT misses sustainable rail deadline, [BusinessGreen](#)

Campaigners hail 'recycling revolution' as plastics collection soars - Monday, 6th December 2010

40,000 tonnes of mixed plastics - including items not previously accepted - were recycled in 2009, up almost 50% in a year, [Guardian](#)



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British Gas says smaller firms need their own Green Deal - Monday, 6th December 2010

Managing director of British Gas Business urges government to develop a carbon cutting incentive for small and medium sized firms, [BusinessGreen](#)

Shell UK to be prosecuted - Monday, 6th December 2010

The Environment Agency and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have notified Shell (UK) Ltd that the company is to be prosecuted jointly by both authorities, [EA](#)

UK remains committed to zero-carbon homes - Monday, 6th December 2010

Grant Shapps, minister for housing, responds to George Monbiot's comment that the government has abandoned its green homes commitment, [Guardian](#)

EU countries launch North Sea electricity grid - Monday, 6th December 2010

Ten European countries, including Norway, have agreed to develop an offshore electricity grid at the North Sea, in a bold move that promoters say will give Europe the possibility of tapping into an even bigger source of energy than the Middle East's oil capacity, [EurActiv](#)

Defra reveals rationale for waste PFI funding cuts - Monday, 6th December 2010

Defra has today revealed that the most important factor it considered when deciding which waste projects should have their PFI funding cut in October 2010's Spending Review was the progress they had made in contract procurement and securing planning permission, [LetsRecycle](#)

Saltire Prize Medal - Monday, 6th December 2010

First Minister Alex Salmond today announced an annual award, to be presented under the auspices of Scotland's marine energy Saltire Prize, to recognise outstanding contributions to the development of wave and tidal power, [Scotland](#)

Utilities fear extra costs from Coalition Green Deal' plan - Monday, 6th December 2010

Utility companies are locked in a battle with the Government over the extra liabilities they may be forced to accept under the Coalition's £3bn of "Green Deal" loans, [Telegraph](#)

DECC reveals Green Deal finance plan is ready for launch - Monday, 6th December 2010

DECC confirms it has completed final design for domestic efficiency scheme, as DfT misses sustainable rail deadline, [BusinessGreen](#)

Red faces for SNP as Holyrood fails to meet green targets - Sunday, 5th December 2010

Scottish ministers have been accused of double standards by their own environmental advisers because they are breaking targets to cut pollution caused by government activities, [HeraldScotland](#)

EDF, Centrica inject £435m into nuclear consortium - Sunday, 5th December 2010

Partners in Britain's first two new atomic reactors, EDF and Centrica, have injected £435m of capital into their nuclear consortium - despite no planning permission or certainty on Government policy yet, [Telegraph](#)

Utilities fear extra costs from Coalition Green Deal' plan - Sunday, 5th December 2010

Utility companies are locked in a battle with the Government over the extra liabilities they may be forced to accept under the Coalition's £3bn of "Green Deal" loans, [Telegraph](#)

Carbon Capture and Storage Projects May Win UN Approval in CDM System - Saturday, 4th December 2010

United Nations climate envoys are set to approve carbon capture and storage projects in the developing world as offsets for companies in industrial nations that are striving to meet their greenhouse-gas emissions targets, [Bloomberg](#)



SSE takes stake in services firm to bolster efficiency business - Friday, 3rd December 2010

Scottish & Southern Energy has bought a 40 per cent stake in energy services firm Anesco with an eye on the raft of new and incoming government energy efficiency programmes, [UtilityWeek](#)

EDF Gets First Extension to Operate Nuclear Reactor for 40 Years - Friday, 3rd December 2010

Electricite de France SA, the biggest operator of atomic plants, was given approval by the country's nuclear watchdog to run a 30-year-old reactor for another decade, the first owned by the utility to get such an extension, [Bloomberg](#)

WikiLeaks cables reveal how US manipulated climate accord - Friday, 3rd December 2010

Embassy dispatches show America used spying, threats and promises of aid to get support for Copenhagen accord, [Guardian](#)

EU to Hold Consultations on Volume for Pre-2013 Carbon Auctions - Friday, 3rd December 2010

The European Union regulator will consult emission-market participants, investors and experts on the volume of carbon allowances for the period after 2012 that could be sold at early auctions, [Bloomberg](#)

The Holy Trinity: Integrated power generation with energy storage and carbon capture - Wednesday, 1st December 2010

Deputy Editor Tim Probert reports from the University of Leeds, which in conjunction with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, is developing an integrated system for thermal power generation, electrical energy storage and carbon capture, [PowerGenWorldwide](#)

Energy: Supergrid - Wednesday, 1st December 2010

Is a vast undersea grid bringing wind-generated electricity from the North Sea to Europe a feasible proposition or an overpriced fantasy? [Nature](#)

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3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

Parliamentary Report - Commons

Select Committees

The **Environmental Audit Committee** held an evidence session on its inquiry into the Green Investment Bank on Wednesday 8th December. Click [here](#) to watch the session.

The **Energy and Climate Change Committee** held a one-off evidence session with the 'big six' energy companies on Tuesday 7th December. Click [here](#) to watch the session.

The **Energy and Climate Change Committee** announced a one-off evidence session with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on Wednesday 15th 2010 in Grimond Room, Portcullis House. Click [here](#) for further information.

The **Energy and Climate Change Committee** will hold its second evidence session on the revised National Policy Statements on Tuesday 14th December 2010 in Committee Room 17 at 11:00. Click [here](#) for further information.



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Parliamentary Questions

The **written answers** to MPs' questions published this week by DECC are summarised below.

Monday: (Browse the day's printed answer [here](#))

Topics included: carbon emissions ([here](#)); energy subsidy reform ([here](#)); fossil fuel subsidy reform ([here](#)); exploration licensing for geothermal ([here](#)); discussions with Ofgem on deep geothermal ([here](#)); regulatory regime for geothermal ([here](#)); shale gas ([here](#)); near zero emissions coal ([here](#)); the RO and biofuels ([here](#)); wind power ([here](#)); planning permission for wind power ([here](#)); wind power research ([here](#));

Tuesday: (Browse the day's printed answers [here](#))

Topics included: housing ([here](#)); competition commission ([here](#)); energy tariffs ([here](#)); rising energy prices and SMEs ([here](#)); global climate fund ([here](#)); geothermal heat ([here](#)).

Wednesday: (Browse the day's printed answers [here](#))

Topics included: electricity supply from renewables ([here](#)); EU Directives ([here](#)); geothermal ([here](#)); RE target 2010 ([here](#)).

Thursday: Oral Questions - (Browse the day's printed answers [here](#))

Topics included: energy supply ([here](#)).

Westminster Hall Debates

Brandon Lewis MP secured a Westminster Hall debate on Tuesday 7th December 2010 entitled: Energy Industry (East Anglia). Read the debate [here](#).

Parliamentary Report - Lords

The House of Lords' contributions to renewable and sustainable energy debates this week include:

- **Lord Kennedy of Southwark** asked a question on nuclear fusion ([here](#));
- **Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke** asked a question on oil and gas licences ([here](#));
- **Baroness Smith of Basildon** asked a question on the nuclear industry ([here](#));
- **Lord Williams of Elvel** asked a question on planning ([here](#));

The Energy Bill was introduced to the House of Lords on Wednesday 8th December ([here](#)).

Reports

Committee on Climate Change report: *Reducing emissions through the 2020's* - 7th December 2010

This report sets the Committee's advice on the fourth carbon budget, covering the period 2023-27, as required under Section 4 of the Climate Change Act; the Government will propose draft legislation for the fourth budget in Spring 2011. In line with the required timetable, this report comes only two years after the first report, which recommended budgets for the first three periods. From now on budget advice reports will be delivered every five years.

This report joins up the detailed analysis that we have previously published on the path to 2020, with longer-term analysis of the path to 2050. It contains in depth analysis of the latest climate science, the international context and looks across sectors including power, surface transport, buildings, industry and agriculture

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



CHPA report: *Community Energy - planning, development and delivery - November 2010*

A Combined Heat & Power Association (CHPA), LDA Design and Town & Country Planning Association (TCPA) guide, outlines a straightforward step-by-step approach to the challenge of creating a successful and efficient community energy scheme.

Click [here](#) to access the guide.

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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: 27th 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:

- 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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