



# 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).

## 2010: This Week's Headlines...

### **Chris Huhne urges local councils to lead 'green energy revolution'**

[Guardian](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [LocalGov](#) - [Herald Scotland](#) - [Scotsman](#) - [Telegraph](#)

### **CBI urges action on energy reform plans**

[Telegraph](#) - [CBI](#) - [Independent](#) - [Energy Saving Trust](#) - [Wales Online](#) - [BBC](#)

### **SolarCentury reports green jobs boom**

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

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- 3 Recent reports and parliamentary activity ([page 6](#))
- 4 External events of interest ([page 9](#))

# Upcoming PRASEG Events

## **Date for the Diary!** **PRASEG and APSRG Seminar** **Energy from Waste: Realising the potential.** **Anaerobic Digestion and Beyond**

Date: 7th December 2010

Time: 15:00 - 17:00

Location: Portcullis House, Boothroyd Room



## **Date for the Diary!** **PRASEG Christmas Reception** **Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010** **12:30 - 15.00, House of Commons Terrace** **(Marquee)**



## 2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES

### *Headline news*

**Chris Huhne urges local councils to lead 'green energy revolution' - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2010**  
Energy secretary lifts ban on the sale of surplus electricity to the national grid as UK aims to meet EU energy targets, [Guardian](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [LocalGov](#) - [Herald Scotland](#) - [Scotsman](#) - [Telegraph](#)

**CBI urges action on energy reform plans - Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010**  
Business leaders have urged the Government to deliver key energy and planning reforms within six months or risk undermining emissions targets and energy security, [Telegraph](#) - [CBI](#) - [Independent](#) - [Energy Saving Trust](#) - [Wales Online](#) - [BBC](#)

**SolarCentury reports green jobs boom- Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010**  
Company predicts feed-in tariff will result in tripling of solar jobs during 2010, [BusinessGreen](#) - [Bloomberg](#) - [Treehugger](#)

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### *Other news*

**"Dramatic increase" needed in offshore wind manufacturing - Fri, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2010**  
A dramatic increase in offshore wind manufacturing is needed to meet the scale-up required for Round 3



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projects, a report published by AMA Research has claimed, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

**Carbon Capture and Storage pilot withdraws only hours after schemes announced - Thurs, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

A pilot scheme for Carbon Capture and Storage has been shaken by the withdrawal of one of the schemes only hours after a series of trials were announced, [Edie](#)

**Italian solar PV company given green light - Thurs, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Acta S.p.A has been given project consent for its three first solar photovoltaic (PV) projects - "well ahead of our expected schedule," Paolo Bert, CEO, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

**Solar players fatten up in 2010, fear lean 2011 - Thurs, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Leading solar firms report better-than-expected financial performance, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Energy efficiency ratings to be compulsory for home sales - Thurs, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

EU legislation means that from 2012 all homes for sale will require an energy efficiency rating to be carried out upfront, [Guardian](#)

**UK government urged to evaluate biochar potential with trial schemes - Thurs, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

First official report says burying charcoal in the soil has potential to cut greenhouse gases but scientific uncertainties remain, [Guardian](#)

**China's energy giants join solar gold rush - Thurs, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Country's largest energy companies are all chasing contracts to build a new wave of large-scale solar farms, [BusinessGreen](#)

**OPINION: Biomass market - supply and demand - Thurs, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

In the second of two pieces, Gordon Watts, woodfuel programme manager at CO2Sense Yorkshire, discusses the necessity of supporting energy users in the uptake of this renewable fuel, and its role in the low carbon economy, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

**Vestas Wins 140-Turbine Order for Australia's Largest Wind-Power Project - Thurs, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Vestas Wind Systems A/S, the world's largest maker of wind turbines, won an order for 140 turbines of its V112-3.0 MW model for a project in Australia, the largest wind power project in the country, [Bloomberg](#)

**Carbon prices slip on weak economic outlook - Thurs, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Downbeat economic data drives price of carbon below €14.30, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Bright outlook for world's largest concentrated solar photovoltaic plant - Thurs, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Work on cutting-edge solar farm expected to get underway early next year as Xcel Energy agrees power purchasing deal, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Wind of change delivers MoD's first wind turbine - Thurs, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Turbine deployed at military school near Dover, [BusinessGreen](#)

**National Grid licence change could cut gas bills by £40m - Thurs, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Gas shippers have welcomed Ofgem's plans to make a technical change to a licence given to National Grid which will mean it won't be able to benefit from a "windfall" allowance for infrastructure it was expecting to provide but which hasn't been needed, [UtilityWeek](#)

**Over 2,000 divers needed for European offshore wind sector - Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

More than 2,000 commercial divers are needed to meet the demands of the European offshore wind sector,



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with 500 likely to be required mainly in the UK and Germany during the installation phase, according to the findings of a report released yesterday (August 10) by The Underwater Centre, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

## Electric car subsidies not the answer - Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Taxpayers' money needs to be used fairly for energy-saving initiatives. The best way to do this is to scrap the subsidies for electric cars and introduce a nation-wide car share scheme which will benefit us all, [IrishTimes](#)

## US study finds solar energy is now cheaper than nuclear power - Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010

This conclusion has been reached by researchers at Duke University in North Carolina (US). Their report entitled "Solar and nuclear costs" was produced for the clean energy non-profit organisation NC Warn and suggests that we are facing an "historic transition", in which the costs of solar PV systems have fallen to a point which is lower than that of any new nuclear plants, [EcoPeriodicals](#)

## Oil prices fall as IEA predicts recovery will slow next year - Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Oil prices fell on Wednesday after the International Energy Agency (IEA) warned of risks to demand as it predicted a slowdown in the global recovery, [Telegraph](#)

## Germany mulls tax on coal for power generation: paper - Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Germany is mulling a new tax on coal used in power generation to help make up for revenue it would lose if it kept much-debated tax breaks for large corporate energy consumers, a newspaper said on Wednesday, [Reuters](#)

## Tropical storm forces BP to halt relief well drilling - Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010

BP will have to wait a few more days before declaring its Deepwater Horizon well permanently sealed because a tropical storm may be heading for the Gulf of Mexico, [Guardian](#)

## Killer heat waves and retreating icesheets raise climate alarm - Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Scientists warn Congress that melting Greenland icesheet could lead to sea level rises of seven metres, [BusinessGreen](#)

## German E.ON presses Berlin on nuclear power - Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010

German power giant E.ON posted mixed quarterly results on Wednesday and pressed Chancellor Angela Merkel to live up to her promise to extend the life of some of the country's nuclear plants, [Yahoo](#)

## E.ON reports growth in profits for first half of 2010 - Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Energy giant E.ON, one of the companies behind the London Array offshore wind farm, has today (August 11) reported a 7% rise in worldwide sales to roughly €44 billion (£36 billion), [NewEnergyFocus](#)

## Less than half of organisations signed up for CRC - Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Figures released today (August 11) by the Environment Agency show just 1200 organisations have registered for the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme, [Edie](#)

## Let's stop Cancun being a COP out - Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010

From the icy cold disappointment of Copenhagen to the sunny beaches of renewed optimism in Cancun the results, or failures, of COP16 are likely to dominate the news at the end of 2010, [Edie](#)

## 50 days and counting to CRC deadline - Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Greg Barker: "My message to businesses today is to register now", [BusinessGreen](#)

## New green standards in Wales widened to cover all new homes - Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Environment Minister Jane Davidson is reminding planners and developers that from next month all planning



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applications for new homes in Wales will be expected to comply with increased environmental standards, [Welsh Assembly Government](#)

**WAG advised on how to stimulate biomass supply - Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

The Welsh Assembly Government has been advised on how to stimulate the production of woody biomass, with recommendations including introducing restrictions on sending wood to landfill, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

**EDF to set out supplier quality standards and UK nuclear procurement structure next month - Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

EDF Energy will set out its procurement process, the work up for tender and the quality standards required of British firms aiming to win contracts for its next generation of nuclear plant at a supply chain event in Westminster next month, [UtilityWeek](#)

**Businesses urged to register as CRC deadline looms - Weds, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Climate change minister Greg Barker and the Environment Agency are today (August 11) urging organisations to sign up to the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC), with just 50 days remaining before the cut-off date, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

**Greener, cheaper and accountable - Tues, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Micro-renewables do not make economic sense. Policymakers must take responsibility for getting value from taxpayers' money, [Guardian](#)

**Baxi urges greater emphasis on whole home efficiency within CERT scheme - Tues, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

In response to the latest figures released on the government's Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) scheme, Baxi Group is calling for more focus on co-ordinated, whole home efficiency solutions to deliver carbon savings and alleviate fuel poverty, [H&Vnews](#)

**GDF boosts low-carbon plans with £1.4bn takeover of International Power - Tues, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Energy industry merger creates Anglo-French hydroelectric powerhouse, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Greenland ice sheet faces 'tipping point in 10 years' - Tues, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Scientists warn that temperature rise of between 2C and 7C would cause ice to melt, resulting in 23ft rise in sea level, [Guardian](#)

**Business facing a wave of green taxes - Tues, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Thousands of British businesses will be liable for significant fines and charges under a new government "green tax" scheme, [Telegraph](#)

**First turbines erected at Nottingham wind farm - Tues, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

RWE npower renewables has announced that its 9MW Lindhurst wind farm, near Rainworth in Nottingham, has started to take shape with the erection of the first two turbines, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

**Bristol Council Leads The Way On Selling Electricity To National Grid - Tues, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Rules that will come into force next week will mean Bristol council can start making cash from their green energy projects, [eGov](#)

**Businesses play key role in feed-in tariff take up - Tues, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Over 6MW of onsite renewable-energy capacity installed by commercial sector since introduction of feed-in tariff, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Firms join forces to build 35MW waste-to-energy facility - Tues, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Two major industrial companies with operations on Teesside are to join forces to strengthen the growing



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renewable energy sector in the area, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

## **Exercising Britain's nuclear options - Tues, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Chris Huhne insists Britain's new nuclear power stations will be built on time, but scepticism remains, [Independent](#)

## **International Power sweetens GDF Suez merger with £1.4bn cash for investors - Tues, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

International Power has agreed a merger with France's GDF Suez, sweetening the deal with a £1.4bn, 92p-a-share special dividend for investors in the British power producer, [Telegraph](#)

## **Senator Kerry debuts second energy bill - Tues, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Democrat senator unveils new clean energy bill that will focus on the carrot rather than the stick, [BusinessGreen](#)

## **Renovating old homes 'uses third of CO2 as building a new one' - Tues, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

The government has been urged by the British Property Federation (BPF) to re-use vacant homes across the UK to stem the housing waiting list and take steps in reducing carbon emissions, [Energy Saving Trust](#)

## **E.ON, RWE Poised to Cut Spending as Nuclear Tax Erodes Profits - Tues, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

E.ON AG and RWE AG, two of the worst performers in Germany's benchmark DAX share index this year, are poised to cut dividends and investment because a proposed tax on nuclear reactors will erode the utilities' profits., [Bloomberg](#)

## **China to Set Regional Targets to Reduce Levels of Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Tues, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

China plans to set regional targets for some provinces to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, the National Development and Reform Commission said on its website today, [Bloomberg](#)

## **BP's \$6bn oil spill cost is two-thirds higher than 'worst-case scenario' - Tues, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

BP's clean-up costs for the Gulf of Mexico have now reached \$6.1bn (£3.8bn) - two-thirds higher than the worst case scenario cited in June by Tony Hayward, its chief executive, [Telegraph](#)

## **Lifting council ban "great news" for renewable projects - Tues, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Energy secretary Chris Huhne's decision to overturn the ban on council's selling electricity to the grid has been hailed as an essential first step needed by the renewables industry, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

## **CBI urges government to end energy policy confusion - Mon, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Lobby group argues lack of clarity is blocking £150bn of low-carbon investment, [BusinessGreen](#)

## **UK Carbon Trust cuts free services - Mon, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

The UK Carbon Trust, which advises organisations on energy use and efficiency, has announced that it is to cut its free services for large organisations, [EnergyEfficiencyNews](#)

## **Be wary of 'solar for free' offers, householders told - Mon, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

With companies offering to fit homes with solar panels for free, experts say you can save more by paying for them yourself, [Guardian](#)

## **Whole buildings could become solar panels - Mon, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Whole buildings - including their windows - could potentially become solar power generators thanks to new technology, [Telegraph](#)

## **Go into free solar panel deals with your eyes open - warn campaigners - Mon, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Following an announcement from a company who say they intend to provide free solar panels to 100,000



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households, Consumer Focus and the Centre for Sustainable Energy are warning consumers to investigate the details of such schemes to avoid future problems, [Consumer Focus](#)

**DECC lifts ban on councils selling green energy - Mon, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010**  
Councils will be free to sell energy to the grid from next week, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Australia's aboriginal communities clamour against uranium mining - Mon, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010**  
'We don't want to bequeath a legacy for future generations of a toxic environment' say aboriginal clans in opposition to major uranium mining site opening in western Australia, [Guardian](#)

**UK start up announces £1bn solar panel giveaway - Mon, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010**  
HomeSun promises to use new leasing model to cover upfront cost of domestic solar panels, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Quietrevolution slashes turbine prices 40 per cent - Mon, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010**  
Onsite turbine specialist cuts prices in attempt to tap into feed-in tariff gold rush, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Travis Perkins stocks up ahead of price hikes - Mon, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010**  
Travis Perkins has started to stockpile heating and ventilation units, as well as radiators, ahead of expected price increases from its European suppliers, [H&V News](#)

**Ernst & Young beefs up presence in booming clean-tech sector - Mon, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010**  
Company aims to build 300-strong green division generating £100m in revenue, [BusinessGreen](#)

**China Risks 'Sacrificing' Growth as Energy Curbs Hit Industry - Mon, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010**  
China's industrial output growth may have weakened in July as the government shuttered energy-intensive factories, highlighting how environmental goals risk damping growth just as export orders soften, [Bloomberg](#)

**CBI energy wishlist - at a glance - Mon, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010**  
The CBI has today spelled out what it is needed from the government to trigger £150bn of energy sector investment - here are its list of demands, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Is Solar Too Expensive? Critics Cite Cost Per Unit of CO2 Saved - Sun, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2010**  
No sooner do we hear about the massive growth in UK solar jobs as a result of feed-in tariffs, than others start asking questions about the viability of such policies, [Treehugger](#)

**All new homes to run on green power by 2016 - Sun, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2010**  
Developers failing to reach zero-carbon standards will be charged a levy to fund local energy plants, [Independent](#)

**The world's first really green oil deal - Sun, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2010**  
The world's first genuinely green energy deal is about to be sealed. In a plan which could be a blueprint for saving large tracts of the planet from exploitation, a greater value is being put on a pristine wilderness than on the oil that lies beneath, [Independent](#)

**Obama Gets a Menu of Climate Actions He Can Take Without Congress - Fri, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2010**  
President Obama could invoke strong climate policies, like gasoline carbon limits, without congressional input before world leaders convene this fall to negotiate an international global warming treaty, a research group says in a plan provided to the administration, [NY Times](#)

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## 3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

Parliament is now in recess. The Commons will return on 6 September 2010, the Lords on 5 October 2010.

### Select Committees:

The Communities and Local Government Committee has launched an inquiry into the abolition of regional spatial strategies. Interested parties are invited to submit evidence by Wednesday 15 September 2010 ([here](#))

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### *Recent Reports*

#### CBI report: "No time to lose: Deciding Britain's energy future" - 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Launching a new report; No time to lose: Deciding Britain's energy future, the UK's leading business group warned that without clarity on Government policy, £150bn of private sector investment in low-carbon infrastructure would fail to materialise. This investment is essential for the UK to achieve a secure, sustainable and cost-effective energy mix that includes renewable sources, nuclear power and fossil fuels. The CBI said that uncertainty about the planning regime in particular is making investors wary of committing to new energy projects. The Government has announced it will abolish the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) and replace it with a Major Infrastructure Unit with decision-making powers returned to Ministers.

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

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## 4. EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

### National Energy Foundation courses

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

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

### Upcoming RenewableUK events

#### Event: [RenewableUK 2010](#)

Date: Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> 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



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