



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.

14th January 2011: This Week's Headlines...

David Cameron 'must act to green Whitehall', say MPs

BBC - [Guardian](#), [BusinessGreen](#), [Click Green](#), [eGov Monitor](#), [Energy Efficiency News](#)

Energy firms accused of adding £560m to household bills

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

Gas supplies at five-year low for early January

[Guardian](#), electric.co.uk

Contents...

- 1 Upcoming events ([page 2](#))
- 2 Recent news articles and press releases ([page 2](#))
- 3 Recent reports and parliamentary activity ([page 6](#))
- 4 External events of interest ([page 9](#))

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: 17th 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) or Piya Malik, FPEEG (Malikp@parliament.uk)

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; Charles Anglin, Renewable UK; Hector Pearson, Land and Development Stakeholder & Policy Manager, National Grid

2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES

Headline news

David Cameron 'must act to green Whitehall', say MPs - Monday, 10th January 2011

David Cameron must take the environment to the heart of Whitehall if he wants to make the coalition the greenest government ever, say MPs, [BBC](#) - [Guardian](#), [BusinessGreen](#), [Click Green](#), [eGov Monitor](#), [Energy Efficiency News](#)

Energy firms accused of adding £560m to household bills - Thurs, 13th January 2011

Gas and electricity price rises bring average family's energy spending to £1,250 says comparison site, [Guardian](#), [Telegraph](#)

Gas supplies at five-year low for early January - Sunday, 9th January 2011

National Grid reports that gas supplies have fallen dramatically after coldest December since 1890, [Guardian](#), [electric.co.uk](#)

([Back](#) to contents)

Other news

National Grid faces work-to-rule threat over pay offer - Fri, 14th January 2011

Members of the Unite union stopped short of going on strike in protest at the utility giant's offer of two



PRASEG NEWS



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

years of below inflation pay rises at 2.5pc this year and then 2.25pc next year, [Telegraph](#)

North Sea drilling cut back - but oil exploration on the increase in 2010 - Fri, 14th January 2011

Drilling in UK waters fell by 9 per cent during 2010 but exploration activity increased, according to a major industry report published today, [Scotsman](#)

'Smart' Power Push Needs Rule Changes, Bloomberg New Energy Finance Says - Thurs, 13th January 2011

Governments must change market rules and educate consumers to make smart-energy technologies that cut power use a reality, Bloomberg New Energy Finance said, [Bloomberg](#)

RWE, Flextricity Offer to Curb \$24 Million Worth of Electricity in U.K. - Thurs, 13th January 2011

RWE AG will offer power reduction and generation services to the U.K.'s major energy users via a National Grid Plc mechanism that pays when electricity use is curtailed at times of peak demand, [Bloomberg](#)

Environmental agency raises concerns over recycling plant - Thurs, 13th January 2011

Scotland's green watchdog has fired a warning shot over £640 million plans to build Europe's biggest energy-from-waste plant outside Glasgow, [HeraldScotland](#)

Private investment must plug PFI gap, claims ICE - Thurs, 13th January 2011

The government needs to do more to attract private investment into the waste sector if it is to meet long-term treatment capacity needs following the end of the PFI funding scheme, the Institution of Civil Engineers has claimed, [LetsRecycle](#)

MP accuses government of ignoring waste-to-energy potential - Thurs, 13th January 2011

Labour MP slams Defra decision to cut funding for seven PFI waste processing projects, [BusinessGreen](#)

Green investment bank could help to build nuclear reactors - Thurs, 13th January 2011

The Conservatives' pre-election manifesto promised that the bank would finance 'new green technology start-ups', [Guardian](#)

Edinburgh an ideal base for new 'green' bank, says Huhne - Thurs, 13th January 2011

A NEW taxpayer-funded bank focused on environmental projects could be based in Edinburgh, Energy Secretary Chris Huhne has told MSPs, [Scotsman](#)

Centrica loses competition law battle over gas storage - Weds, 12th January 2011

Centrica has failed in its attempts to get the regulator to loosen competition laws imposed on its Rough gas storage business, [Telegraph](#)

Labour lord raises nuclear reactor safety fears in Parliament - Weds, 12th January 2011

Fears have been raised in Parliament over the suitability of west Cumbria to host new reactors following the earthquake last month, [News&Star](#)

Ground source energy event - Weds, 12th January 2011

This year's Ground Source Energy Conference is set to take place on 10 February this year in London, [H&Vnews](#)

ScottishPower Welcomes Chris Huhne MP To Visit Carbon Capture Prototype At Longannet Power Station - Weds, 12th January 2011

Chris Huhne MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, visited Longannet Power Station in Fife today to see ScottishPower's prototype carbon capture facility - the only such device ever to operate on a coal-fired power station in the UK, [ScottishPower](#)



PRASEG NEWS



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

Military v climate spending: How China outguns the US on clean energy - Weds, 12th January 2011
SolveClimate: China is spending 1/6th as much as the US on its military and investing twice as much on clean energy technology, [Guardian](#)

Solar Lobbyists to Challenge Spanish Government Subsidy Decision in Court - Weds, 12th January 2011
The Photovoltaic Business Association, a lobbying group, will challenge the Spanish government's decision to cut subsidies for existing solar power plants in the Supreme Court, [Bloomberg](#)

Supergrid World

A new weapon is being deployed to keep our cities replete with water and power. Engineers are planning vast networks of pipes, canals and pylons to connect fast-growing cities to supplies of water and green energy thousands of kilometres away, [NewScientist](#)

Offshore oil industry needs sweeping overhaul - White House commission - Tues, 11th January 2011
Oil spill commission to criticise Obama administration for failing to go far enough to reform industry after BP disaster, [Guardian](#)

Huhne extends North Sea environmental inspection improvements - Tues, 11th January 2011
The Energy Secretary ahead of his visit to Scotland on Wednesday announced that he is boosting the number of offshore environmental oil and gas inspectors, [DECC](#)

Low-Carbon Energy Investment Hit a Record \$243 Billion in 2010, BNEF Says - Tues, 11th January 2011
Global investment in low-carbon energy surged to a record \$243 billion last year, boosted by a 30 percent spending increase in China and a burst in small-scale solar-power installations, [Bloomberg](#)

UK and China join forces to strengthen low carbon growth - Monday, 10th January 2011
Low carbon growth was put firmly at the heart of UK-China relations during an inward visit by Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang when both countries agreed formally to work together on this crucial agenda, [DECC](#)

EDF French 2010 Nuclear Output Rose 5%, All Reactors Connected - Monday, 10th January 2011
Electricite de France SA, the world's biggest operator of atomic generators, said 2010 output rose 5 percent and that all its domestic reactors are connected to the grid for the first time in six years, [Bloomberg](#)

Low carbon benchmark for Scotland - Monday, 10th January 2011
Scotland's performance in meeting low carbon energy targets is to be tracked and analysed independently for the first time in a major study, it was announced today, [Scotsman](#)

CES 2011: GE Unveils Our Smart Home of the Future - Monday, 10th January 2011
General Electric has been working on smart appliances for years now, and more importantly, it has been pouring resources into getting those appliances connected within a smart home and the smart grid, [Treehugger](#)

Salmond hails China renewable energy deal - Monday, 10th January 2011
Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond has welcomed a £6.4m renewable energy technology deal signed between Scotland and China, [Scotsman](#)

Factory processes waste vegetable oil in Norfolk to fire UK's CHP generators - Monday, 10th January 2011
Green energy and biofuels company REG Bio-Power has launched a new processing factory in Norfolk, Eastern England using waste vegetable oil stock, [EnvTimes](#)



Deepwater drilling safety doubts multiply - Monday, 10th January 2011

Doubts about the current safety and liability procedures for deepwater drilling are growing after criticism by statutory agencies on both sides of the Atlantic, [EurActiv](#)

US says South Stream and Nabucco could merge - Monday, 10th January 2011

Two major pipeline projects that have so far been considered rivals, the EU-favoured Nabucco and Gazprom's South Stream, may merge, EU Ambassador to Italy David Thorne told Italian daily La Stampa in an interview published today (10 January), [EurActiv](#)

European directive for heating products takes shape - Monday, 10th January 2011

The European Commission's EuP Directive, intended to make heating manufacturers design more energy efficient products, is scheduled to come into force by the end of 2011, it was recently reported, [H&Vnews](#)

Carbon dioxide capture plans could add £60bn to UK coffers - Sunday, 9th January 2011

EU considers £1bn fund to set up plants to use greenhouse gas to help recover North Sea oil, [Independent](#)

([Back](#) to contents)

3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

Parliamentary Report - Commons

Select Committees

The **Environmental Audit Committee** held an evidence session on the Green Investment Bank with Justine Greening MP, Economic Secretary, HM Treasury. Click [here](#) to watch the session. The next evidence session will be on the 19th January in the Thatcher Room, Portcullis House. Click [here](#) for further information.

The **Communities and Local Government Committee** held an evidence session on Localism. Click [here](#) to watch the session.

The **Energy and Climate Change Committee** will hold a one-off oral evidence session with Ofgem on Tuesday 18th January 2011 in Committee Room 15, Palace of Westminster. Click [here](#) for further information.

Parliamentary Questions

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

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

Topics included: fossil fuel subsidies ([here](#)); energy prices ([here](#)); fossil fuel subsidies ([here](#)); fuel poverty ([here](#)); heating oil suppliers ([here](#)); gas storage ([here](#)); community solar energy ([here](#));

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

Topics included: carbon emissions, forests ([here](#)); climate change, international cooperation ([here](#)); energy saving trust; pre payment meters ([here](#)); Green Deal ([here](#)); renewable energy heating ([here](#)); London energy meeting ([here](#)); solar power ([here](#));



PRASEG NEWS



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

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

Topics included: energy efficiency ([here](#)); feed-in tariffs ([here](#)); fuel poverty and renewables ([here](#)); Green Deal ([here](#)); offshore renewable energy ([here](#));

Oral questions:

Wednesday:

Topics included: The Green Climate Fund ([here](#));

Thursday:

Topics included: Daylight Saving ([here](#));

Written Ministerial Statements:

The Minister of State for **Energy and Climate Change** made a statement on the BP deepwater horizon oil spill and offshore drilling ([here](#)).

Westminster Hall Debates:

Andrea Leadsom MP secured a Westminster Hall debate on planning on Wednesday 12th January ([here](#)).

Parliamentary Report - Lords

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

Tuesday, 11th January 2011: debate on the revised energy NPS ([here](#)).

Tuesday, 11th January 2011: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs made a statement on the EU Environment Council ([here](#)).

Thursday, 13th January 2011: debate on the revised nuclear energy NPS ([here](#)).

- **Lord Berkeley** asked a question on the Carbon Reduction Commitment ([here](#));
- **Lord Lucas** asked a question on the baseload electricity ([here](#));
- **Lord Reay** asked a question on fuel poverty ([here](#));
- **Lord Berkeley** asked a question on electricity prices ([here](#));

Reports

Environmental Audit Committee report: Embedding Sustainable Development across Government - Monday, 10th January 2011

The Committee is concerned about the Government's decision to stop funding the SDC. However, it acknowledges that, despite the SDC's hard work, sustainable development has not been fully embedded into Government because the political will to do this has not been maintained. An opportunity now exists to reassess and revitalise the architecture for delivering sustainable development. This report accordingly looks forward, assessing how sustainable development can now be further embedded in Government policy decision-making and operations. It recognises the contribution that the SDC has made and calls on Government to maintain some of the work-streams of the SDC. To further embed sustainable development, Government must take a more effective lead.

Click [here](#) for the report.

([Back](#) to contents)



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 Renewable Energy Marketplace

Host organisation: Regen SW

Date: 22nd March 2011

Location: Westpoint, Exeter

Further information: [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.

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