



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.

17th December 2010: This Week's Headlines...

UN Climate Change Conference in Cancún delivers balanced package of decisions, restores faith in multilateral process

[UNFCCC](#) - [Guardian](#) - [Bloomberg](#) -

Localism Bill starts a new era of people power

[DCLG](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Renewable Energy Focus](#) - [IB Times](#) -

Chris Huhne unveils plans for reform of UK energy market

[Guardian](#) - [BBC](#) - [DECC](#) - [Telegraph](#)

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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; Dr Gordon Edge, Director of Policy, Renewable UK; National Grid

2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES

Headline news

UN Climate Change Conference in Cancún delivers balanced package of decisions, restores faith in multilateral process - Sat, 11th December 2010

The UN Climate Change Conference in Cancún, Mexico, ended on Saturday with the adoption of a balanced package of decisions that set all governments more firmly on the path towards a low-emissions future and support enhanced action on climate change in the developing world, [UNFCCC](#) - [Guardian](#) - [Bloomberg](#) -

Localism Bill starts a new era of people power - Mon, 13th December 2010

A landmark bill that heralds a ground-breaking shift in power to councils and communities overturning decades of central government control was unveiled by Communities and Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles today, [DCLG](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Renewable Energy Focus](#) - [IB Times](#) -

Chris Huhne unveils plans for reform of UK energy market - Thursday, 16th December 2010

Climate secretary says plans will allow the UK to cut emissions and lead to a 'seismic shift' towards clean energy, [Guardian](#) - [BBC](#) - [DECC](#) - [Telegraph](#)

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Other news

UK government agrees to subsidise nuclear power companies' prices - Thurs, 16th December 2010

Years of lobbying by nuclear companies has finally paid off, as the Government will on Thursday reveal plans to subsidise the price that they are paid for generating electricity, [Telegraph](#)

WikiLeaks cables: BP suffered blowout on Azerbaijan gas platform - Thurs, 16th December 2010



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Embassy cables reveal energy firm 'fortunate' to have evacuated workers safely after blast similar to Deepwater Horizon disaster, [Guardian](#)

SITA UK 'disappointed' by Localism Bill focus - Thurs, 16th December 2010

The Localism Bill published this week does not do enough to provide the community buy-in that new waste infrastructure requires to win local support, according to SITA UK, [LetsRecycle](#)

Climate groups throw weight behind Longannet upgrade - Thurs, 16th December 2010

Environment groups have swung their support behind an ageing Scottish power plant, despite the fact that plans for the site involve burning fossil fuels and releasing CO2 into the atmosphere, [HeraldScotland](#)

Energy reform is a burning issue and the nuclear fallout will be higher bills - Thurs, 16th December 2010

One share price worth watching on Thursday will be Drax, the coal-fired power station business, which could be a loser from Chris Huhne's electricity market reforms, due at lunchtime, [Telegraph](#)

David Cameron denies electricity bill rise - Thurs, 16th December 2010

Speaking at the Building Research Estate in Watford, the Prime Minister said Britain's energy generating capacity was "clapped out and needs replacing", [Telegraph](#)

Test to make it easier to get ROCs for EfW - Weds, 15th December 2010

The Renewable Energy Association (REA) revealed this week that it is working with energy regulator Ofgem to help make it easier for pyrolysis and gasification operators to gain ROCs accreditation, [LetsRecycle](#)

Warm Front funds allocated for 2010/11 - Weds, 15th December 2010

Energy and Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne today announced that this year's budget for Warm Front - the Government's grant scheme in England to help vulnerable households - is fully allocated, [DECC](#)

Hedge Funds Gain as Arctic Weather Increases Nordic Power: Energy Markets - Weds, 15th December 2010

Arctic weather, water shortages and halted reactors drove Nordic power prices to the biggest monthly gain in three years, boosting profits at hedge funds investing in European energy markets, [Bloomberg](#)

Big business faces multimillion-pound Carbon Reduction Commitment bill - Weds, 15th December 2010

Study suggests Tesco will face £21m bill as a result of CRC changes, [BusinessGreen](#)

Survey: UK spending cuts have knocked clean tech confidence - Weds, 15th December 2010

Ernst & Young poll warns government has six months to tackle clean tech growth hurdles, [BusinessGreen](#)

Chris Huhne admits green bank may be scaled back - Weds, 15th December 2010

Environmental bank could start as a fund owing to fears of adding to deficit, says environment secretary Chris Huhne, [Guardian](#)

Climate rethink for city buildings - Tues, 14th December 2010

They are the physical face of the city and the backdrop to most of our lives, but Glasgow's tenements could be in for a re-design as tradition bows to the threat of climate change, [HeraldScotland](#)

Wellstream finally accepts £800m General Electric offer - Tues, 14th December 2010

General Electric's £800m deal to buy Wellstream ends four months of speculation that saw hedge funds pile into the company's share register and push for a deal, [Telegraph](#)

Dramatic rise in demand for heat pump engineers predicted - Tues, 14th December 2010

The increase in heat pump demand will require up to 120,000 more engineers to be trained on the



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technology by 2020, according to SummitSkills, the sector skills council for the building services engineering sector, [H&Vnews](#)

Coal Imports May Rise 78% to China, India, Drive Up Prices: Energy Markets - Tues, 14th December 2010
China and India may increase imports of coal by 78 percent to 337 million metric tons next year, further driving up prices from the highest in two years and diverting supplies from Europe to Asia, [Bloomberg](#)

First subsidised electric cars announced - Tues, 14th December 2010
The Government today announced the first nine electric cars for which drivers will be eligible for a 25% Whitehall-paid grant, [Independent](#)

Taiwan May Lower Solar Power Feed-In Tariffs as Installation Costs Decline - Tues, 14th December 2010
Taiwan may cut the feed-in tariffs paid to generators of solar power next year because of the lower cost of installing equipment that converts sunlight to energy, a government official said, [Bloomberg](#)

London black cabs will be electric by 2020 - Tues, 14th December 2010
A universal fleet of emission-free black cabs within the decade is part of Boris Johnson's drive to improve London's poor air quality, [Guardian](#)

Waste as energy - a key trend for the sustainable industry in 2011 - Tues, 14th December 2010
Cascadia Capital, an investment bank serving both public and private growth companies around the world, has published its predictions for sustainable industries in 2011, [Independent](#)

Far from being a drain on the public purse, new power plants will be major boost to UK economy - Mon, 13th December 2010
With public finances in such a delicate position, it is inevitable that analysis of the Government's policy has so far been largely focused on public sector cuts. Far less attention has been paid to two consultations it is about to launch on energy and climate change. These could be equally important in shaping Britain, [Telegraph](#)

UK must shake off the dominance of the energy giants - Mon, 13th December 2010
Any move to a sustainable future is unlikely while it is not in the interests of the energy companies to deliver more efficiently, [Guardian](#)

Government approves Gloucestershire installation to allow for more gas imports - Mon, 13th December 2010
The Government today gave the go-ahead for a new gas installation at Tirley in Gloucestershire, which will help boost UK energy security by allowing for more gas imports, [DECC](#)

Carbon Trust: finance directors underestimating energy efficiency returns - Mon, 13th December 2010
Study finds businesses are wasting up to £1.6bn a year by failing to embrace efficiency measures, [Guardian](#)

Wales: Interest Free Loans Help Public Sector Organisations Go Green - Mon, 13th December 2010
Public sector organisations in Wales will have another opportunity to access interest free loans to help reduce their carbon footprint, thanks to £2.9m of Assembly Government funding, [eGov](#)

Coal's future is burning hot - just not in Britain - Mon, 13th December 2010
"It's possible," said Alistair Phillips-Davies, "that we may never build another coal plant in Britain.", [Telegraph](#)

Carbon tax and energy price hike to create 'perfect storm' - Sun, 12th December 2010
BUSINESSES are facing a "perfect storm" from 2012 when they will be hit by a doubling in their energy bills



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at the same time as the UK government's controversial "carbon tax", [Scotsman](#)

At last, the climate changes - Sun, 12th December 2010

Environment Editor Michael McCarthy witnesses the successful conclusion of the UN talks on global warming - and explains why the deal is good news, [Independent](#)

Households face higher bills for using home appliances at peak periods - Sun, 12th December 2010

Households will pay more to use their washing machine or cooker in the late afternoon after government green advisers said prices should vary by time of day, [Telegraph](#)

Interview: Siemens CEO Peter Löscher on green energy - Sat, 11th December 2010

Siemens is one of Europe's largest industrial conglomerates, making everything from medical devices to gas turbines, [IBtimes](#)

Smart meters could be 'spy in the home' - Sat, 11th December 2010

Smart meters could become a 'spy in the home' by allowing social workers and health authorities to monitor households, adding to concern at Britain's surveillance society, [Telegraph](#)

Npower domestic energy prices set to rise by 5 per cent in New Year - Fri, 10th December 2010

Energy supplier Npower announced today that from 4 January 2011, its domestic gas and electricity tariffs will increase on average by 5.1 per cent, [UtilityWeek](#)

Italy Not Planning Dramatic Cuts in Energy Incentives - Fri, 10th December 2010

Italy isn't planning "dramatic" cuts in clean-energy incentives, preferring a gradual approach that will favor consumers without harming the business, Industry Ministry Undersecretary Stefano Saglia said, [Bloomberg](#)

IEA, OPEC at odds over supply needs as demand surges - Fri, 10th December 2010

The International Energy Agency issued a guarded warning for OPEC to start loosening its output quotas December 10 as recovery the US continues to outpace expectations and Chinese growth remains buoyant, [Platts](#)

Text power aims to tackle Xmas carbon spike - Fri, 10th December 2010

Low Carbon Christmas initiative to notify people of the best time to cut carbon by turning off festive lights, [BusinessGreen](#)

UN Needs New Body to Spend CO2 Revenue, De Boer Says - Fri, 10th December 2010

The United Nations needs a new body to spend revenue from future sales of carbon allowances, ensuring that developing nations build sustainable economies, according to the former climate chief, [Bloomberg](#)

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3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

Parliamentary Report - Commons

Select Committees

The Energy and Climate Change Committee held 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](#) to watch



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the session.

The Energy and Climate Change Committee held its second evidence session on the revised National Policy Statements on Tuesday 14th December 2010. Click [here](#) to watch the session.

The HOL EU Sub Committee B held an evidence session on the internal market, energy and transport on Monday 13th December. Click [here](#) to watch the session.

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: the Beachley barrage ([here](#)); DECC's contribution to the European Commission's European Sustainable Nuclear Industrial Initiative Implementation Plan ([here](#)); the Green Climate Fund ([here](#)); the CRC and nuclear power ([here](#));

The Department for Transport asked a question on biofuels ([here](#)).

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

Topics included: downstream oil industry forum ([here](#)); EU ETS ([here](#)); fuel poverty ([here](#)); Green Deal ([here](#));

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

Topics included: carbon emissions ([here](#)); heat pumps ([here](#)); Green Deal ([here](#)); loft insulation ([here](#)); security of supply ([here](#)); nuclear power ([here](#)); renewable energy and social rented housing ([here](#)); warm front grants ([here](#)); wind power construction ([here](#)); winter fuel payments ([here](#)).

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

Topics included: energy supply ([here](#)); gas security ([here](#)); carbon emissions ([here](#)); electricity ([here](#)); energy prices ([here](#)); fuel poverty ([here](#)); oil prices ([here](#)); warm homes and energy conservation act ([here](#)).

Oral debates:

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change made a statement on the outcome of the UN Climate Conference in Cancun ([here](#)).

Thursday: DECC oral questions - topics included:

Bioenergy ([here](#)); geothermal energy ([here](#)); smart meters ([here](#)); community energy schemes ([here](#)); warm front ([here](#)); onshore wind ([here](#)); electricity supply ([here](#)); Green Deal ([here](#)); domestic fuel prices ([here](#)); low carbon energy products ([here](#)); nuclear power stations ([here](#)); heating bills - Newcastle upon Tyne Central ([here](#)).

Written Ministerial Statements:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government introduced the localism bill to Parliament ([here](#)).

The Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change made a statement for the post EU Energy Council ([here](#)).



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The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change made a statement on Warm Front ([here](#)).

EDMs:

Paul Farrelly MP tabled [EDM 1184](#) on Anaerobic Digestion.

Parliamentary Report - Lords

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

- Lord Stevens of Ludgate asked a question on climate change ([here](#));
- Lord Berkeley asked a question on the Carbon Reduction Commitment ([here](#));
- Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke asked a question on oil and gas licences ([here](#));
- Lord Stevens of Ludgate asked a question on climate change ([here](#));
- Lord Stoddart of Swindon asked a question on wind farms ([here](#)).

Reports

Policy Exchange report: Ten principles for electricity market reform - Tuesday, 14th December 2010
Britain's electricity market is being hamstrung by too much regulation and uncertainty, according to a new study from Policy Exchange. The research finds that costs are being piled on consumers, with generators waiting for government to centrally plan, and regularly fine-tune its plans, rather than seeking out the best investments and innovations to secure supplies and reduce carbon emissions.
Click [here](#) for the report. Click [here](#) for the press release.

UK ERC Report: Smart Grids: Commercial Opportunities and Challenges for the UK - December 2010
Smart grids - intelligent electricity networks - are attracting a great deal of national and international interest and are viewed as an essential component in the transition to a low-carbon economy. The smart grid market has been identified as important and lucrative for the UK, which has led to a great deal of differing opinions surrounding the subject. The 'Smart Grids: Commercial Opportunities and Challenges for the UK' report, authored by Dr Aidan Rhodes from the UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC) on behalf of the Energy Generation and Supply Knowledge Transfer Network (EG&S KTN), provides a clear and informative definition of a smart grid, the UK strategic priorities that a smart grid would assist and the opportunities and challenges awaiting companies who engage in this important emerging market. It also looks closely at the public support schemes for companies entering the smart grid market and presents a selection of international case studies.
Click [here](#) for the report.

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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](#)



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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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