



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.

2010: This Week's Headlines...

Coal-fired power stations win reprieve

[Guardian](#) - [Channel Six News](#) - [The First Post](#)

Nick Clegg outlines plans for 'Green Deal'

[NewEnergyFocus](#) - [Edie](#) - [Guardian](#) - [New Civil Engineer](#) - [REVE](#)

Renewables giants highlight financial positions for Q2 2010

[NewEnergyFocus](#) - [Edie](#) - [Guardian](#) - [Energy Efficiency News](#)

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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 Seminar** **Planning reform: implications for renewables**

Date: 2nd November 2010

Time: 16:00 - 18:00

Location: Committee room 17

Speakers: Helen Phillips, CEO, Natural England



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



2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES

Headline news

Coal-fired power stations win reprieve - Sun, 15th August 2010

Exclusive: Government's decision to put pollution standards 'on hold' raises possibility of dirtiest coal plants going ahead, [Guardian](#) - [Channel Six News](#) - [The First Post](#)

Nick Clegg outlines plans for 'Green Deal' - Fri, 20th August 2010

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has today (August 19) outlined the government's plans for a Green Deal during a visit to the North East, which has been hailed as an important step for the renewables industry by trade body RenewableUK, [NewEnergyFocus](#) - [Edie](#) - [Guardian](#) - [New Civil Engineer](#) - [REVE](#)

Renewables giants highlight financial positions for Q2 2010 - Thurs, 19th August 2010

In a rush of renewable energy sector results this week, Vestas has pointed to a fall in revenues in the second quarter of the year while Statkraft has noted an increase in revenue but a fall in profits. Meanwhile, DONG Energy performed strongly with increased profits on reduced revenues, [NewEnergyFocus](#) - [Edie](#) - [Guardian](#) - [Energy Efficiency News](#)

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Other news

Roadmap 2050: McKinsey and company lay down the low-carbon gauntlet to the EU - Fri, 20th August 2010

Environmentalists may now be able to sleep a little easier at night. Their dreams of a zero-carbon Europe are wholly realistic, but it is up to the politicians and policymakers of the European Union (EU) to make it happen. Says who? Greenpeace? The World Wildlife Fund? In fact, it is McKinsey & Co., the world's leading management consulting firm, [Powergenworldwide](#)

Global firms applaud new greenhouse gas yardsticks - Fri, 20th August 2010

More than 60 companies complete road testing of new global standards for measuring carbon footprint of products and supply chains, [BusinessGreen](#)

Japan plots new green stimulus package - Fri, 20th August 2010

Draft report reveals government is planning to increase support for clean tech manufacturers, [BusinessGreen](#)

Record year for European offshore wind, UK leads the sector - Fri, 20th August 2010

- UK has half of newly installed European offshore wind farms in first half of 2010
- European total approaches 2.5 gigawatts, a threefold increase since 2006

[RenewableUK](#)

Carbon Profit Grows on Trees as Kiwi Farmers Ditch Sheep - Thurs, 19th August 2010

New Zealand's sheep farmers are flocking to a government carbon trading program that pays more to plant trees than sell wool and mutton, [Bloomberg](#)

Eleven projects able to bid for low carbon networks funding - Thurs, 19th August 2010

Energy regulator Ofgem has announced that 11 "innovative" projects that could speed up the development of the low carbon energy sector are eligible to compete for a share of an annual £64 million fund, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Green energy firm PV Crystalox Solar sees big fall in earnings - Thurs, 19th August 2010

PV Crystalox Solar blow adds to gloom in green energy sector. Crystalox boss insists group can compete effectively, [Guardian](#)

New right of appeal would give teeth to planning challenges - Thurs, 19th August 2010

A public right of appeal in planning would end the costly judicial review process and ensure the delivery of good development. Opinion piece by Paul Miner is senior planning campaigner with CPRE, [Guardian](#)

Helius boosts biomass portfolio with new Southampton site - Thurs, 19th August 2010

Company outlines plans for new 100MW biomass power plant on the south coast, [BusinessGreen](#)

OPINION: Consequences of scrapping regional spatial strategies - Thurs, 19th August 2010

Regional Spatial Strategies have gone, but what about the renewable energy targets that they once embodied? Haydn Scholes, director of Wardell Armstrong's renewable energy group, looks at the consequences, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Simon Hughes, Lib Dem with a licence to attack - Thurs, 19th August 2010

He has become the outspoken voice of the Liberal Democrat left - yesterday calling for the party's MPs to be given the power of veto over contentious Coalition policy proposals, [Independent](#)



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UN climate panel head expects no climate deal at Cancun - Thurs, 19th August 2010

NEW DELHI – The head of the UN's climate science panel said Wednesday there was little prospect of a breakthrough in efforts to forge a global agreement on climate change at a world meeting in December, [\[AP\]](#)

A hundred days of the 'greenest-ever' government- Weds, 18th August 2010

In an era when everything environmental - including biodiversity, waste, and fish stocks - is measured with indicators announcing that you will be the UK's "greenest-ever government", begs a number of questions - most obviously, "measured how?" [BBC](#)

Vestas shares plummet following huge second-quarter losses - Weds, 18th August 2010

Poor results at Vestas damage wind energy sector already hit by Barack Obama's inability to introduce green policies, [Guardian](#)

Power from Corus steelworks could generate heating for Port Talbot homes - Weds, 18th August 2010

HEAT produced at the Corus works in Port Talbot could be used to warm up homes in the Sandfields area of the town, [ThisIsSouthWales](#)

US oil speculators fined for \$100-a-barrel "vanity trade" - Weds, 18th August 2010

The US commodities regulator has imposed a \$12m (£7.7m) fine on oil traders responsible for speculatively pushing the price of oil above the \$100-a-barrel mark for the first time in January 2008, [Telegraph](#)

Think twice about visiting Canada until it abandons tar sands destruction - Weds, 18th August 2010

The Alberta tar sands are an inefficient way of producing oil and leave permanent scars on hundreds of miles of landscape, [Guardian](#)

Vestas Plunges as Wind-Turbine Maker Cuts Forecasts Blaming Delayed Orders - Weds, 18th August 2010

Vestas Wind Systems A/S lost almost a quarter of its value in Copenhagen trading after the world's largest wind-turbine maker reported a larger-than-expected loss and cut forecasts, blaming delayed orders, [Bloomberg](#)

Australia's 'Depressing' Clean Energy Policies Deter Investors - Weds, 18th August 2010

The Arkx Clean Energy Fund's managers are Australians who don't have a dollar invested in Australia, a stance that's unlikely to change after the Aug. 21 election, [Bloomberg](#)

Berlin plans more mini and micro CHP capacity - Weds, 18th August 2010

The joining of two major district heating networks after the fall of the Berlin Wall created what is said to be Europe's largest decentralized energy system. Now, the city's energy agency aims to stimulate the growth of more cogeneration capacity, including micro -CHP plants and plants fuelled with biogases, [PowergenWorldwide](#)

Scotland's renewables potential - Weds, 18th August 2010

First Minister Alex Salmond today met Statoil, a Norwegian based oil company, to discuss the possibility of developing the world's first floating wind farm in Scotland. [\[Scotland\]](#)

Coalition turns down heat under energy suppliers - Weds, 18th August 2010

The Coalition Government has shelved plans for an independent inquiry into the £25bn-a-year energy industry amid accusations of profiteering on electricity and gas, [Independent](#)

£4m power deal 'tip of iceberg' for Scottish jobs - Weds, 18th August 2010

SCOTLAND came another step closer to becoming the "Saudi Arabia of offshore energy" after Alex Salmond



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yesterday unveiled the first in a wave of lucrative contracts to build the world's "most advanced" tidal power machines in Scottish yards, [Scotsman](#)

Three-Fourths of U.K. Companies Haven't Yet Measured Carbon Footprints - Weds, 18th August 2010
Almost three-quarters of U.K. companies have yet to measure their carbon footprints, the government's Carbon Trust said, [Bloomberg](#)

Scientists Say as Much as 79% of Oil Remains in Gulf of Mexico - Tues, 17th August 2010
A group of scientists say as much as 79 percent of BP Plc's leaked oil remains in the Gulf of Mexico, challenging an Obama administration assessment that the crude is largely gone or rapidly disappearing, [Bloomberg](#)

Winter fuel payment cuts to hit millions of pensioners - Tues, 17th August 2010
Older people will have to wait at least six years longer to receive winter fuel payments, under government plans to cut the welfare bill, [Telegraph](#)

Award-winning power scheme could be extended - Tues, 17th August 2010
Aberdeen City Council's award winning combined heat and power (CHP) scheme could be rolled out to another eight blocks of flats, [AberdeenCC](#)

We Waste *How Much* Water On Coal?! - Tues, 17th August 2010
We usually give coal the stink eye for the ways it harms the earth's surface when it is extracted, and the way it harms the earth's systems when it is burned. But we also need to hone in on the way coal harms our fresh water supplies, [Treehugger](#)

Scottish firm BiFab wins £4m contract to build prototype tidal energy turbine - Tues, 17th August 2010
Victory by Fife-based BiFab raises the prospect of thousands of new jobs for Scotland, [Guardian](#)

Scottish scientists develop whisky biofuel - Tues, 17th August 2010
By-products from distilling process could be used to power cars and even aviation, according to researchers in Edinburgh, [Guardian](#)

LWaRB puts seven projects in pool for funding - Tues, 17th August 2010
Plans for a plastics processing facility, four anaerobic digestion plants and two materials sorting projects have today (August 17) been named as the first seven schemes in the running for a share of the £28 million that the London Waste and Recycling Board expects to award to infrastructure projects in 2010/11, [LetsRecycle](#)

SITA issues warning over planning "time bomb" - Tues, 17th August 2010
Local authority opposition to planning applications for energy-from-waste facilities is creating a "time bomb" for the UK's long-term ability to divert residual waste from landfill, the chief executive of one of the UK's largest waste company's has warned, [LetsRecycle](#)

Demand Forces Scottish Government to Close Applications for Community Renewables Fund in Scotland - Tues, 17th August 2010
The Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) is closing to new applications due to unprecedented demand, it was announced today, [eGov](#)

Oettinger under fire for failing to disclose side activities - Tues, 17th August 2010
EU Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger is under fire as public prosecutors in Stuttgart examine whether he lied in his declaration of interests about secondary sources of income, [EurActiv](#)



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Huhne: Our policy on clean energy is clear - Tues, 17th August 2010

The idea that we are "watering down" our commitment is simply incorrect (Dirtiest coal power plants win reprieve, 16 August): this government has committed to introducing an emissions performance standard, [Guardian](#)

Government urged to "get a grip" on planning - Tues, 17th August 2010

The Confederation of British Industry yesterday (August 16) urged the government to "get a grip" on planning for large-scale power generation projects, including renewables schemes, after uncovering 37 proposals currently held up in a "log-jam" of delayed applications, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Oettinger under fire for failing to disclose side activities - Tues, 17th August 2010

EU Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger is under fire as public prosecutors in Stuttgart examine whether he lied in his declaration of interests about secondary sources of income, [EurActiv](#)

More than half of Britain's wind farms have been built where there is not enough wind - Tues, 17th August 2010

It's not exactly rocket science - when building a wind farm, look for a site that is, well, quite windy. But more than half of Britain's wind farms are operating at less than 25 per cent capacity, [Daily Mail](#)

Green taxes to triple, costing you £50 a year - Tues, 17th August 2010

Household energy bills will increase by £50 as the impact of green taxes triples over a decade, new research shows.

[Telegraph](#)

Green taxes could treble by 2020, costing taxpayers more than £16billion a year - Tues, 17th August 2010

Taxes to pay for contentious climate change policies are set to treble over the next decade, soaring to more than £16billion a year, [DailyMail](#)

Climate-Change Laws Won't Affect Demand for Power-Station Coal, AME Says - Mon, 16th August 2010

Laws aimed at combating climate change won't reduce the burning of coal to fuel electricity generation, Michael Dixon, manager of business development at AME Mineral Economics, said at a conference in Brisbane today, [Bloomberg](#)

Rwanda harnesses volcanic gases from depths of Lake Kivu - Mon, 16th August 2010

Project could power Rwanda for decades, while reducing risk of disaster for 2 million people living alongside 'exploding lake', [Guardian](#)

Welsh committee calls for landfill ban for wood - Mon, 16th August 2010

The National Assembly for Wales' sustainability committee has advocated the introduction of restrictions on sending wood to landfill in order to stimulate the production of woody biomass, [LetsRecycle](#)

German utilities offer billions in nuclear deal - Mon, 16th August 2010

Germany's utilities are offering to pay the government billions to let them keep their nuclear power plants running longer instead of shutting them down as mandated under current law, energy giant RWE AG said Monday, [BusinessWeek](#)

Carbon reduction commitment catches franchises and bust companies - Mon, 16th August 2010

The controversial carbon reduction commitment regulations require businesses with half hourly electricity meters to register by September 30 but awareness is low, [Telegraph](#)

Steelmaker Corus announces plans for offshore wind products - Mon, 16th August 2010



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Corus has announced plans for a £31.5-million plant in Teesside that would manufacture steel foundation structures - called monopiles - used to secure offshore wind turbines to the seabed, [UtilityWeek](#)

China Approves 24 Power Plant, Grid Projects as Demand Climbs, NDRC Says - Mon, 16th August 2010
China, the world's largest energy user, approved 24 power projects last month to help meet rising energy demand in the country's less developed northern and western provinces, [Bloomberg](#)

Warning over "real deadline" for CRC registration - Mon, 16th August 2010
Professional services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers has warned businesses that they have less than half the time they think to register for the Carbon Reduction Commitment due to the checks and balances they need to carry out, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

School leavers 'not interested' in engineering career - Sun, 15th August 2010
Hopes that the UK can develop a green energy industry are under threat because school leavers are not interested in engineering, the country's leading power companies have warned, [Telegraph](#)

More opencast mine bids 'likely on greenfield sites' - Sun, 15th August 2010
Applications for opencast mining on greenfield sites are likely to increase to meet the UK's demand for energy, the British Geological Survey has said, [BBC](#)

Sheffield Forgemasters' expansion into nuclear power may go ahead if Government loan is approved - Sun, 15th August 2010
Sheffield Forgemasters' controversial publicly-financed expansion into nuclear power could still go ahead if a loan is approved from the Government's £1bn regional growth fund, the city council has said, [Telegraph](#)

Free solar panels sound good, but buying them yourself is better - Sat, 14th August 2010
Companies are keen to install free solar panels, but paying for it yourself could earn you more than £35,000 over 25 years, [Guardian](#)

Renewable energy is the cash crop of the future for British farmers - Sat, 14th August 2010
Visitors are stalking Britain's rural communities in unsuitable footwear, offering farmers the deal of a lifetime. They're not pushing a wonder fertilizer or trying to side-step their local farmers' market in the hunt for a new superfood, but offering help to cash in on the new gold rush - solar power, [Telegraph](#)

Wind farm company challenging figures - Sat, 14th August 2010
A COMPANY that wants to create a wind farm on the edge of a beauty spot says the Government's calculation of the efficiency of nearby turbines is inaccurate, [NorthernEcho](#)

Britain is struggling to power the nuclear revolution - Sat, 14th August 2010
About 40km south of Beijing, some of the world's most exciting science is splitting atoms in pursuit of the nuclear physicist's Holy Grail - the tiny, cheap reactor, [Telegraph](#)

We have to create a more local, decentralised energy system - Sat, 14th August 2010
When David Cameron became Prime Minister he pledged that the new Coalition would be the greenest government ever. As Climate Change Minister my job is to help deliver this promise, [Telegraph](#)

Upfront cost of energy efficient improvements still deters homeowners - Fri, 13th August 2010
A gap remains between homeowners' understanding of low carbon solutions and implementation of the technology, according to one industry expert, [LowCarbonEconomy](#)

World currently has enough uranium for 100 years – study - Fri, 13th August 2010
The world's total identified resources of uranium, used in the production of nuclear energy, are currently



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sufficient for over 100 years of supply, a new study showed, [ManillaBulletin](#)

Cornwall Wave Hub cable laying halted - Fri, 13th August 2010

A multi-million pound project to create a testing platform for wave energy devices in Cornwall has ground to a halt, [BBC](#)

China Prepares to Steal United States' Thunder, May Launch Cap-and-Trade within Five Years - Weds, 11th August 2010

Just when leaders in the U.S. Senate admitted to abandoning their plan of issuing a federal climate bill by the end of this year, top Chinese officials were discussing how to launch carbon trading programs under their country's next Five-Year Plan (2011-15), [WorldwatchInstitute](#)

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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.

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4. EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

Carbon Connect Inquiry

Event: Inquiry session examining private sector investment opportunities created by Feed-in-Tariffs.

Date: Wednesday 13th October 2010

Time: 10.00am - 12.00pm

Location: Portcullis House, Westminster

Description: Carbon Connect is conducting a research inquiry to examine how private sector organisations can develop sustainable business strategies that reduce GHG emissions and stimulate investment in renewable technologies. This inquiry session will examine how businesses of all shapes and sizes can unlock the commercial value of FiTs, secure upfront capital and overcome implementation hurdles. If you feel that your expertise would be able to contribute to this debate please contact thomas.moody@policyconnect.org.uk. A final report is to be launched in Parliament in March 2011.

Further details: [click here](#).

National Energy Foundation courses

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

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



Upcoming RenewableUK events

Event: [RenewableUK 2010](#)

Date: Tuesday 2nd November - Thursday 4th 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 public alike.

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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