



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.

22nd October 2010: This Week's Headlines...

Huhne drops Severn barrage to invest in wind power

[Independent](#) - [New Energy Focus](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

Renewable Heat Incentive breakthrough a "huge relief"

[NewEnergyFocus](#) - [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Coalition hits big business with stealth carbon tax

[BusinessGreen](#) - [Energy Efficiency News](#)

£1 billion to launch green investment bank

[Independent](#) - [Energy Saving Trust](#) - [Scotsman](#) - [MRW](#)

E.ON shelves plans to build Kingsnorth coal plant

[Guardian](#) - [Edie](#) - [The Engineer](#) - [Bloomberg](#) - [BusinessGreen](#)

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 Green Alliance Seminar **Renewables and energy security in an age of austerity**

Speakers: Charles Hendry MP, Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change;
Caroline Lucas MP;
Date: Monday, 8th November 2010
Time: 18:00 - 20:00
Location: Grand Committee Room

PRASEG and APSRG Seminar **Energy from Waste: Realising the potential.** **Anaerobic Digestion and Beyond**

Speakers: Lord Taylor of Holbeach, Government Spokesperson for Energy and Climate Change
Date: 7th December 2010
Time: 15:00 - 17:00
Location: Portcullis House, Boothroyd Room

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

Date: 25th January 2010
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



PRASEG Christmas Reception
Wednesday, 8th December 2010
12:30 - 15.00, House of Commons Terrace
(Marquee)



Speaker: Charles Hendry MP, Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change
Sponsored by Eaga

2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES

Headline news



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Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group

Huhne drops Severn barrage to invest in wind power - Sun, 17th October 2010

Wildlife activists welcome decision to halt £30bn energy scheme in favour of exportable technologies, as new nuclear plants also get the green light, [Independent](#) - [New Energy Focus](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

Renewable Heat Incentive breakthrough a "huge relief" - Weds, 20th October 2010

The renewables industry has expressed gratitude for the government's decision to progress with a Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), describing the announcement in today's (October 20) Spending Review as a "huge relief" for the sector, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Coalition hits big business with stealth carbon tax - Weds, 20th October 2010

DECC announces that CRC will no longer return revenue to participants, [BusinessGreen](#)

£1 billion to launch green investment bank - Weds, 20th October 2010

The Government will provide £1 billion in funding for a green investment bank, as part of efforts to make the UK a leader in the low-carbon economy, the Chancellor George Osborne said today, [Independent](#)

E.ON shelves plans to build Kingsnorth coal plant - Weds, 20th October 2010

Environmentalists claimed a victory over E.ON today when the German energy company confirmed it was shelving plans to build its Kingsnorth coal plant after years of protests, [Guardian](#) - [Edie](#) - [Bloomberg](#) - [BusinessGreen](#)

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

Other news

North Sea helicopter firm breezes into wind power - Fri, 22nd October 2010

A pioneering helicopter company plans to be the first to offer a dedicated service for the global offshore wind-power industry, [The Scotsman](#)

Siemens' Renewable Energy Head Expects Windfarm Boom, FT Deutschland Says - Fri, 22nd October 2010

Siemens AG expects Europe to add 70,000 megawatt in production capacity from offshore windfarms within the next 10 to 15 years, Financial Times Deutschland reported today, citing an interview with Rene Umlauf, head of the company's renewable energy unit, [Bloomberg](#)

Government's £1bn carbon tax grab 'will delay green investment' - Fri, 22nd October 2010

The Government's £1bn "green" tax grab has caused further controversy, with claims it will delay investment on environmental measures and cause companies to waste money on unnecessary changes, [Telegraph](#)

Environment: Major projects to tackle climate change escape the knife - Thurs, 21st October 2010

Major programmes and projects to tackle climate change under the remit of the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) were left largely untouched, [Independent](#)

Power Price Gaps Shrink Amid European Mergers: Energy Markets - Thurs, 21st October 2010

Price differences in Europe's power markets are evaporating as exchanges merge and transmission cables are used more efficiently, advancing the continent's push for a single trading arena, [Bloomberg](#)

Nuclear sell-off could fund green investment bank - Thurs, 21st October 2010

Chris Huhne says sale of stake in Urenco could help the bank invest in low-carbon technology, [Guardian](#)

Exclusive: Greg Barker urges green businesses to "invest with confidence" - Thurs, 21st October 2010



PRASEG NEWS



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Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group

Climate minister predicts encouraging Department of Energy and Climate Change spending settlement will help bring an end to investor uncertainty, [BusinessGreen](#)

Carbon tax bombshell takes business by surprise - Weds, 20th October 2010

Experts predict government move to impose carbon tax through the CRC may help make the scheme less complicated, [BusinessGreen](#)

Shambolic history of the carbon capture contest - Weds, 20th October 2010

E.ON is the latest contestant to withdraw from a competition which now has just one bidder remaining, [Guardian](#)

DECC chief scientist emphasises role for CCS - Weds, 20th October 2010

The UK is set to lead the world in carbon capture and storage with confirmation that support remains for the CCS programme in the UK, a top DECC official said today, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

How has Decc fared in the spending review? - Weds, 20th October 2010

The Department of Energy and Climate Change has done better than expected with 5% cuts for four years, [Guardian](#)

Cornwall's farmers to reap subsidies for 'green' electricity - Weds, 20th October 2010

The UK's first purpose-built solar farm has been given planning permission and the county's farmers are celebrating, [Guardian](#)

Spending review: 'Greenest government ever' reserves worst cuts for Defra - Weds, 20th October 2010

Environment department has budget cut by 30% compared to government average of 19%, [Guardian](#)

Chancellor "ruthlessly" prioritises investment in green energy - Weds, 20th October 2010

After months of speculation, the Chancellor has today (October 20) laid to rest fears over cuts to renewables funding by announcing in the Spending Review that the government will "ruthlessly prioritise" investment in green energy infrastructure, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Q&A: How does the spending review affect feed-in tariffs? - Weds, 20th October 2010

The feed-in tariffs that pay owners of solar panels have survived the coalition's spending review, but key changes have been made. How will they affect you?, [Guardian](#)

Osborne unveils package of green cuts and growth - Weds, 20th October 2010

Green spending faces relatively modest cuts as chancellor vows to put low-carbon economy at heart of economic recovery, [BusinessGreen](#)

How will the spending review affect the environment? - Weds, 20th October 2010

Some steps forward, and not every detail has been finalised, but this looks far from being the 'greenest government ever', [Guardian](#)

Report: Climate change threatens emerging superpowers - Weds, 20th October 2010

Studies find Bangladesh and India are most at risk from growing climate risks, while large regions could be drought-stricken by 2030, [BusinessGreen](#)

Green spending review - the verdict - Weds, 20th October 2010

BusinessGreen.com rounds up the reaction to George Osborne's package of green cuts, [BusinessGreen](#)

Fury over £1bn green stealth tax in spending review - Weds, 20th October 2010

Businesses have condemned an "appalling" £1bn a year green stealth tax that will add 11pc to the energy



PRASEG NEWS



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

bills of British companies, [Telegraph](#)

Russia to build floating nuclear power plant on world's largest archipelago - Weds, 20th October 2010
Russia has offered Indonesia to cooperate in the nuclear field. The offer stipulates the construction of the first nuclear-powered electric power plant in the country, [Pravda](#)

Green spending review - it could have been a whole lot worse - Weds, 20th October 2010
The UK's green economy dodged a bullet today and can now look forward with a degree of confidence, [BusinessGreen](#)

Sky broadcasts plans for world's greenest studio - Weds, 20th October 2010
New West London studio to feature on-site wind turbine and biomass CHP, [BusinessGreen](#)

World's No 1 energy player - GDF Suez's Gérard Mestrallet - Weds, 20th October 2010
The boss of the largest utility company on the planet is sitting opposite me. He's jolly, smiles a lot, French, [ThisIsLondon](#)

U.K. Corporate CO2-Cutting Targets Have Risen About Half, RBS Study Shows - Weds, 20th October 2010
The number of U.K. companies implementing carbon-dioxide reduction targets has risen by about 50 percent since 2008, a study by the Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc showed, [Bloomberg](#)

China a surprise leader in clean energy: study - Weds, 20th October 2010
The world's top polluter, China, is a surprise leader in clean energy efforts, a study showed Tuesday, outstripping the United States and Japan and leaving Australia lagging far behind, [Independent](#)

Electricity: The looming power struggle for water - Weds, 20th October 2010
Competition between electricity and water demand is climbing up Europe's agenda as climate change is set to further deplete freshwater supplies, [EurActiv](#)

EU Plan to Expand CO2 Market by 2015 Infeasible, Climate Strategies Says - Weds, 20th October 2010
The European Union's ambition to create a carbon market embracing 33 nations in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development within five years is infeasible, according to Climate Strategies, [Bloomberg](#)

Passivhaus set to expand in UK as new trust launches - Tues, 19th October 2010
The Passivhaus Trust was launched last week as the popularity of the low energy building incentive continues to grow, [H&Vnews](#)

Yorkshire to lead UK's smart grid revolution - Tues, 19th October 2010
But coalition's £54m project is dependent on Ofgem approving £28m grant, [BusinessGreen](#)

No blots on landscape as Scots vote in favour of wind farms - Tues, 19th October 2010
Most believed that wind farms should go ahead even if considered ugly, [HeraldScotland](#)

Chris Huhne wins £1bn funding for carbon capture technology - Tues, 19th October 2010
Funding is half the sum originally requested but allays fears the coalition would drop costly commitment altogether, [BusinessGreen](#)

Mitie claims significant carbon savings in London Re-Fit initiative - Tues, 19th October 2010
Outsourcing company Mitie has claimed significant energy and carbon savings as part of a ten year contract to provide services to the Metropolitan Police Service and London Fire Brigade, [UtilityWeek](#)



PRASEG NEWS



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

Secretary of State speech to the European Future Energy Forum - Tues, 19th October 2010
I'm delighted to be here, on the first day of the European Future Energy Forum, [DECC](#)

UK's new nuclear power stations 'already nine months late' - Tues, 19th October 2010
Plans for eight new British nuclear plants approved on Monday by the Government are already nine months behind schedule, according to the latest estimates, [Telegraph](#)

E.ON launches trading activity at the Green Exchange - Tues, 19th October 2010
E.ON Energy Trading today announced that it has carried out its first transaction for carbon emissions certificates at the New York-based Green Exchange, entering into a cleared over-the-counter (OTC) contract to buy December 2010 European Union carbon allowances (EUAs) on Friday (October 15), [Commodities](#)

Nuclear power: Eight sites identified for future plants - Mon, 18th October 2010
The government has identified eight sites in England and Wales as suitable for future nuclear power stations while ruling out a further three, [BBC](#)

Spain's Solar Deals on Edge of Bankruptcy as Subsidies Founder - Mon, 18th October 2010
Across the plains around Lerida, the northeastern Spanish town where they spent weekends, farmers were turning over their fields to photovoltaic panels to capitalize on government solar- energy subsidies, [Bloomberg](#)

Iraq, Iran reserves boosts signal OPEC power realignment - Mon, 18th October 2010
On October 4, Iraqi oil minister Hussein al-Shahristani announced a 25% increase in Baghdad's proven oil reserves to 143.1 billion barrels from 115 billion barrels, [Platts](#)

Taxpayer could be hit by nuclear waste bill for new reactors - Mon, 18th October 2010
The nuclear industry could end up passing on to taxpayers the costs of disposing of waste from new reactors under government plans, according to official documents seen by the Guardian, [Guardian](#)

Chris Huhne wins £1bn funding for carbon capture technology - Mon, 18th October 2010
Funding is half the sum originally requested but allays fears the coalition would drop costly commitment altogether, [Guardian](#)

Household bills to swell under green energy plans - Mon, 18th October 2010
HOUSEHOLD energy bills could soar by more than £300 a year under "green" energy plans to be announced today, [Express](#)

Centrica plans for Britain's biggest 'smart-grid project' launched - Mon, 18th October 2010
North East and Yorkshire providing route map for UK's low carbon future - plans for around 14,000 homes and businesses to be involved in £54 million project, [IndustryNews](#)

Carbon savings at forefront of London waste strategy - Mon, 18th October 2010
London boroughs will be encouraged to prioritise plastics, aluminium and food waste recycling collections under proposals launched for consultation today (October 18), [LetsRecycle](#)

United Technologies to Buy Rest of Clipper Windpower After Orders Decline - Mon, 18th October 2010
United Technologies Corp., the maker of Pratt & Whitney jet engines, agreed to buy the rest of Clipper Windpower Plc after reduced orders left the wind-turbine manufacturer struggling to finance operations, [Bloomberg](#)

CO2 Storage Facility to be built in the North Sea - Mon, 18th October 2010



PRASEG NEWS



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Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group

An agreement has been signed in a bid to redevelop a North Sea gas field as a potential CO2 storage facility for a major government project, [IBTimes](#)

Names in frame at ScottishPower - Sun, 17th October 2010

SCOTTISHPOWER is likely to recruit a chief executive with political clout over operational experience after the sudden departure of Nick Horler last week, according to sources, [Scotsman](#)

Spending review: George Osborne to save capital projects from cuts - Sun, 17th October 2010

Chancellor said he would protect key infrastructure projects such as Crossrail and give councils new spending freedoms, [Guardian](#)

China hits back at US clean energy probe - Sun, 16th October 2010

China has hit back at action by the US government to investigate charges that it subsidises its green technology producers, ratcheting up already strained tensions between China and the West, [Telegraph](#)

Renewables policies must be improved, not undermined with cuts - Fri, 15th October 2010

Investors are keen on clean technologies but nervous about the political risks. Without policy guidance they may never reach the mass market, [Guardian](#)

Cable: Sheffield Forgemasters loan was not affordable - Fri, 15th October 2010

Business secretary defends controversial decision to withdraw £80m loan to nuclear component firm, [BusinessGreen](#)

Firms urged to cut emissions by two per cent a year - Fri, 15th October 2010

Carbon Trust Standard analysis argues that businesses should set an annual emissions reduction benchmark to help them meet the UK's 2020 target, [BusinessGreen](#)

Gazprom warns EU it could turn to China - Fri, 15th October 2010

Gazprom warned the European Union yesterday (14 October) that proceeding with reforms of the bloc's gas industry would herald the end of stable supplies, as the Russian energy giant would send more gas to Asia, [EurActiv](#)

Vattenfall scraps plans to extend Thanet offshore wind farm - Fri, 15th October 2010

European energy giant Vattenfall has announced that it will not seek permission to extend the world's largest wind farm, Thanet, due to there not being enough time for the necessary grid upgrades to support it, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

IEA publishes guide to using digestate as fertiliser - Fri, 15th October 2010

A guide highlighting the opportunities and challenges of using digestate from AD plants as fertiliser has been published today (October 15) by the International Energy Agency (IEA), [NewEnergyFocus](#)

IPCC aims for clarity and relevance in new report - Fri, 15th October 2010

Providing information that policymakers can use is key to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as work begins on its next global assessment, [BBC](#)

Wind turbines wrong colour for wildlife - Fri, 15th October 2010

A study has revealed that a wind turbine's colour affects how many insects it attracts, shedding more light on why the turbines occasionally kill bats and birds, [BBC](#)

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

3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY



PRASEG NEWS



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

Parliamentary Report - Commons

Select Committees

The **Public Accounts Committee** heard from the Department of Energy and Climate Change on the Tuesday 19th October, examining the National Audit Office (NAO) Report on government funding for developing renewable energy technologies. Click [here](#) for further information.

The **Energy and Climate Change Committee** held its second evidence session on the Emissions Performance Standard inquiry. Click [here](#) to listen to the session.

The third oral evidence session of the ECC Committee's 'UK Deepwater Drilling - Implications of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill' inquiry will be at 10.15 am on Tuesday 26 October 2010 in the Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House.

The ECC Committee publishes its Second Special Report, *Fuel Poverty: Government Response to the Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2009-10* at 11am on Monday 25 October

The **Environmental Audit Committee** announced the next oral evidence session for the inquiry on embedding sustainable development across government will be on Wednesday 3 November at 14:45. Click [here](#) for further information.

The next oral evidence session on the Green Investment Bank will be on Wednesday 27 October at 14:30. Click [here](#) for further information.

Written Statements

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change made a statement this week announcing the consultation on the energy National Policy Statements. Read the statement [here](#).

Debates and oral answers

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the findings of the Spending Review on Wednesday 20th October. Read the full statement [here](#).

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: Fossil fuel subsidies ([here](#)); LPG ([here](#)); Microgeneration ([here](#)) Renewables Obligation ([here](#)); energy efficiency of rented housing ([here](#)); warm front ([here](#)); wind power noise ([here](#)); energy prices ([here](#))

DWP answered a question on the Winter Fuel Allowance - read it [here](#).

CLG answered a question on energy efficient new housing - read it [here](#).

DfT answered a question on biofuels - read it [here](#).



PRASEG NEWS



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

Treasury answered a question on biofuels - read it [here](#).

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

Topics included: coal fired power stations - Scotland ([here](#)); fuel poverty ([here](#)); geo engineering ([here](#)); renewable energy ([here](#)); feed in tariffs ([here](#)).

DCLG answered a question on energy efficiency in the rented sector - read it [here](#).

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

Topics included: low carbon communities challenge fund ([here](#)); the low carbon buildings programme ([here](#)); renewable heat ([here](#));

DCLG answered a question on energy performance certificates for commercial properties - read it [here](#).

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

Topics included: local carbon budgets ([here](#)); warm front ([here](#)); nuclear energy ([here](#)); smart meters ([here](#)); heat pumps ([here](#)); Renewable Heat Incentive ([here](#)); decommissioning costs for offshore wind ([here](#)).

DCLG answered questions on the administrative burden of the planning system ([here](#)) and sustainable development in planning ([here](#)).

DWP answered a question on winter fuel payments ([here](#))

Early Day Motions

The motions presented this week by MPs are:

- **John McDonnell MP** tabled [EDM 853](#) calling for action on climate change and the need to reduce the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide to 350 parts per million or below.

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

4. EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

Energy Institute event

Event: Countdown to 2020 - 2010: A decade for a British Renewable Energy Revolution

Date: 29 November 2010

Location: Deloitte

Description: The UK has signed up to a legally-binding European treaty requiring it to supply 15% of all primary energy from renewable sources by 2020. This is a huge task and the bulk of the burden will fall to the power generation sector, but heat and transport fuels will also have to make a quantum leap in capacities.

Further details: click [here](#)

Heat pump seminars

Event: Take advantage of the heat pump market

Date: 4th November 2010: Harrogate; 3rd February 2011: Daventry; 28th April 2011: Basingstoke

Further details: [click here](#)

EAS Annual Conference 2010

Date: 3 - 5 November 2010



PRASEG NEWS



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

Description: Prioritising the Fuel Poor. The Energy Action Scotland Annual Conference will focus on why addressing fuel poverty is a matter of urgency as the 2016 target to end it approaches.

Further details: www.eas.org.uk

National Energy Foundation courses

Wood Fuel Heating & CHP, November 8th, Milton Keynes

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

RenewableUK event

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.

Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy

Description: The Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy are seeking entries from ground-breaking businesses, schools, not-for-profit initiatives, and public sector organisations that are encouraging the use of sustainable energy. Applications must be for work that has been running for at least a year, is technically excellent and is improving the lives of local people. In addition to cash prizes of up to £20,000, we offer our winners a package of benefits and support including a broadcast-quality short film about their work, tailored business support, introductions to influential policy makers and, in certain cases, funders. The awards will be presented at a VIP ceremony in London in June 2011. Entries needed by 26 October 2010

Further information: [click here](#)



PRASEG NEWS

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



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