



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.

23rd December 2010: This Week's Headlines...

Planning doubts threaten green success warns CBI

[BusinessGreen](#) - [CBI](#) - [Guardian](#)

Three winners get hot £1.1m prize in Geothermal competition

[DECC](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Environmental Expert](#)

The Planning Minister Greg Clark has announced a review of planning policy

[DCLG](#)

Greg Barker plants seeds for growth in microgeneration industry

[DECC](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Greenwise Business](#) - [The Engineer](#) - [BusinessGreen](#)

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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

Planning doubts threaten green success warns CBI - Sunday, 19th December 2010

CBI's latest climate tracker shows 37 "critical" low carbon projects stuck in the planning system, [BusinessGreen](#) - [CBI](#) - [Guardian](#)

Three winners get hot £1.1m prize in Geothermal competition - Wednesday, 22nd December 2010

Three geothermal projects run by Keele University, Newcastle and Durham University and Cofely District Energy in Southampton have won a total of £1.1 million in funding from the Government's Deep Geothermal Challenge Fund's second round, [DECC](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Environmental Expert](#)

National Planning Policy Framework - Monday, 20th December 2010

The Planning Minister Greg Clark has announced a review of planning policy, designed to consolidate policy statements, circulars and guidance documents into a single consolidated National Planning Policy Framework, [DCLG](#)

Greg Barker plants seeds for growth in microgeneration industry - Wednesday, 22nd December 2010

Climate Change Minister Greg Barker today launched a formal consultation document on the coalition's Microgeneration Strategy, [DECC](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Greenwise Business](#) - [The Engineer](#) - [BusinessGreen](#)

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Other news

Scotland warms to greener heating - Thursday, 23rd December 2010

Funding of £1 million pounds is to be pumped into an extension to the Aberdeen district heating scheme, which cuts



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emissions and helps tackle fuel poverty for people living in multi-storey flats, [Scotland](#)

Statistical Press Release: Energy Statistics - Thursday, 23rd December 2010

Energy Trends and Quarterly Energy Prices publications are published today 23 December by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, [DECC](#)

UK's infrastructure will struggle to cope with climate change, report warns - Thursday, 23rd December 2010

Floods, rising temperatures and higher sea levels threaten the UK's road, rail, water and energy networks between 2030 and 2100, [Guardian](#)

Brussels plans more action to tackle biofuels side-effects - Thursday, 23rd December 2010

The European Union's executive said on Wednesday (22 December) it was looking at further measures to tackle the unwanted side-effects of biofuels production, which compromise the fuels' green credentials, [EurActiv](#)

Clean Technology Industry Set to Accelerate in 2011, Ernst & Young Says - Thursday, 23rd December 2010

Investments in clean technologies from electric cars to light-emitting diodes are set to accelerate next year after gathering momentum in 2011, the global accounting firm Ernst & Young said, [Bloomberg](#)

REpower rethinks strategy as wind turbine market slows - Wednesday, 22nd December 2010

German wind turbine manufacturer REpower has announced cost cutting measures - including manufacturing turbines in Asia - as it tries to insulate itself from a slowdown in the market, [UtilityWeek](#)

US accuses China of illegally subsidising wind power manufacture - Wednesday, 22nd December 2010

Announcement comes a month before Chinese president is due in Washington for talks with Obama, [Guardian](#)

FOE foresees 'hard future' for incinerators - Tuesday, 21st December 2010

Friends of the Earth has claimed that the financial difficulties faced by Swiss firm AE&E Inova could foreshadow a 'hard future' for energy-from-waste incineration technology providers as a whole, [LetsRecycle](#)

France Environment Minister Calls for Curbing Chinese Solar-Panel Imports - Tuesday, 21st December 2010

France's decision to suspend most solar-energy projects for three months was done partly to curb cheaper imports of Chinese solar panels, Environment Minister Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet said today on France Info radio, [Bloomberg](#)

EU Energy: FAQs- European Commission's New Proposals On Regulation Of Energy Markets - Tuesday, 21st December 2010

The European Commission proposed new rules to regulate the European energy market to ensure transparency and more competition. The FAQ's were produced by the European Commission to help understand the various issues related to these new proposals, [eGov](#)

French solar groups to appeal moratorium on new photovoltaic projects - Tuesday, 21st December 2010

French solar power lobby groups Enerplan and Apesi said they will submit appeals to the Council of State Tuesday against France's moratorium on new photovoltaic projects, confirming an earlier report in Les Echos, [Platts](#)

Proposal for £11m energy skills 'hub' - Tuesday, 21st December 2010

PLANS to make the East of England an energy force to be reckoned with are to be put to the Government in a multi-million-pound funding bid, [EADT](#)

London 2012 Olympics: Aggreko wins power contract - Monday, 20th December 2010



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Aggreko has won a £37m contract to supply temporary power to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London in 2012, [Telegraph](#)

Cold weather turns UK gas demand up to record levels - Monday, 20th December 2010

Increased gas consumption will add about £10 to the average household's energy bill this week, [Guardian](#)

Heating oil boats at Inverness and Aberdeen - Monday, 20th December 2010

Supplies of domestic heating oil have arrived by boat to Aberdeen and Inverness amid increasing demand because of the cold weather, [BBC](#)

Co-op and Marks & Spencer named UK's 'greenest' supermarkets - Monday, 20th December 2010

Retailers score highly for their progress in areas such as sustainable sourcing, while Tesco, Asda and Netto receive the lowest ratings, [Guardian](#)

Should 'smart grid' projects be protected from interruptions penalties? - Monday, 20th December 2010

Ofgem is consulting on whether electricity distribution network operators' (DNOs) low carbon network fund (LCNF) projects should be exempt from the penalties usually applied to DNOs for outages, [UtilityWeek](#)

Cold weather turns UK gas demand up to record levels - Monday, 20th December 2010

Increased gas consumption will add about £10 to the average household's energy bill this week, [Guardian](#)

Grant Shapps: Next steps on the road to zero carbon - Monday, 20th December 2010

Housing Minister Grant Shapps today announced the Government is on track to turn its commitment for greener homes into a reality, and set out the next steps to new homes being zero carbon from 2016, [DCLG](#)

Is night falling on classic solar panels? - Monday, 20th December 2010

A new breed of electronic solar cells that harvests power from heat could double the output of conventional panels, [NewScientist](#)

Hungary to hold 'energy summit' at EU helm - Monday, 20th December 2010

Hungary plans to concentrate on the big picture of EU energy policy as it takes on the EU's rotating presidency in January. Energy will feature prominently at the new presidency's first EU summit on 4 February, [EurActiv](#)

Grid issues Gas Balancing Alert, record demand expected today - Monday, 20th December 2010

National Grid said gas demand today is set to hit an all time high of 465.8 million cubic metres (mcm), [UtilityWeek](#)

Cost blowout hits clean coal vision - Monday, 20th December 2010

AUSTRALIA'S hopes to lead the world in generating "clean" electricity from coal have taken a hammering, [TheAustralian](#)

Germany's Renewable Energy Costs Threaten Public Support, ZEW Center Says - Monday, 20th December 2010

Popular acceptance of Germany's renewable energy drive is likely to weaken when households see the cost of subsidies in their power bills jump as much as fourfold, the ZEW Center for European Economic Research said, [Bloomberg](#)

Defra confirms crippling cuts for Environment Agency and WRAP - Monday, 20th December 2010

Defra figures reveal deep budget cuts to key business services from next year, [Guardian](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [DEFRA](#)



Councils in bid to delay Scots climate pollution targets - Sunday, 19th December 2010

Local authorities have launched a campaign to delay Scotland's world-leading targets to cut climate pollution, opening the first crack in the political consensus on climate policy, [HeraldScotland](#)

Ministers block rescue of green energy firm Powerfuel - Sunday, 19th December 2010

Group of energy firms led by 2CoEnergy have approached Powerfuel's administrators KPMG to buy the stricken firm, [Guardian](#)

UK gas prices hit fresh two-year high - Saturday, 18th December 2010

UK natural gas prices have risen again to a fresh two-year high, as freezing temperatures took hold of Britain, [Telegraph](#)

EDF Will Extend Output Lifespan of Two U.K. Nuclear Reactors by Five Years - Friday, 17th December 2010

Electricite de France SA, the world's biggest operator of nuclear reactors, plans to extend the lifespan of two plants in the U.K. by five years and estimated building two EPRs at Hinkley Point will cost 9 billion pounds (\$14 billion), [Bloomberg](#)

Small firms complain over utility contracts - Friday, 17th December 2010

A third (35 per cent) of small businesses do not know when their utility contracts end and 31 per cent do not begin to consider the renewal until they get a letter from their current providers with the rest of the market, [UtilityWeek](#)

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3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

Parliamentary Report - Commons

Select Committees

The **Communities and Local Government Committee** held an evidence session on Localism. 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: carbon emissions ([here](#)); energy supply ([here](#)); fuel poverty ([here](#)); fuel poverty finance ([here](#)); renewable energy ([here](#)); Feed-in Tariffs ([here](#)); river Severn tidal power ([here](#)); solar power ([here](#)); tidal power ([here](#)); warm front ([here](#)); small scale wind power ([here](#)); wood ([here](#))

DCLG answered a question on planning referendums ([here](#)).

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

Topics included: CCS ([here](#)); coal fire power stations construction ([here](#)); Green Deal ([here](#)); energy prices ([here](#)); Feed-in Tariffs ([here](#)); fuel poverty and Green Deal ([here](#)); fuel poverty and smart meters ([here](#)); energy from waste emissions ([here](#)); nuclear power ([here](#)); tidal power ([here](#)); warm front ([here](#)); marine



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renewables ([here](#)); wind power subsidies ([here](#));

DCLG answered a question on climate change finance ([here](#)); and renewable energy planning permission ([here](#)).

Written Ministerial Statements:

The Minister of State for **Communities and Local Government** made a statement on Major Infrastructure Planning Reform ([here](#)).

The Minister of State for **Communities and Local Government** made a statement on the national planning policy framework ([here](#))

The Minister of State for **Housing and Local Government** made a statement on zero carbon buildings ([here](#))

The Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change made a statement on domestic heating oil supplies ([here](#)).

Parliamentary Report - Lords

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

Wednesday, 22nd December 2010: second reading of the Energy Bill ([here](#)).

- Lord Bradshaw asked a question on carbon prices ([here](#));

Reports

Platts report: Global Renewable Energy Outlook - Friday, 17th December 2010

Renewable energy companies are broadening their operations beyond Europe and the United States to new markets in Asia, but serious obstacles to the industry are emerging, several industry analysts told Platts. As the calendar year wraps up, the renewable energy industry at first glance appears in good shape. The wind power industry continues its rapid expansion that began less than a decade ago. Click [here](#) for the report.

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

Deep Geothermal - The UK Opportunity

Host organisation: Renewable Energy Association

Date: 17th January 2011

Time: 16:15 - 18:00

Location: Atlee Suite, Portcullis House

Speakers: Tim Smit (The Eden Project), The Lord Teverson, Dr Ryan Law (Chair REA's Deep Geothermal Group), and Professor Horst Rueter (Leading Expert), **Decc Minister Greg Barker invited**

Further Details: 99.9% of the earth's mass is over 100 degrees centigrade. The 2007 MIT report on new developments in Deep Geothermal has catalysed an international renaissance in this technology with its estimation that the USA could meet its energy needs 2,500 times over from just 2% of its Deep Geothermal resource. Deep Geothermal can provide on-demand power and heat, yet just as international activity accelerates the UK industry has had its grant support cut to just £1million this year. Come and find out about new Deep Geothermal developments in the UK and internationally - and what the UK industry needs to succeed. Afterwards you can meet the industry and REA staff afterwards over a glass of wine.

More information: Contact Leonie Greene: lgreene@r-e-a.net

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 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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