



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 July 2010: This Week's Headlines...

Government must keep investing in green technologies, watchdog says

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

UN in fresh bid to salvage international deal on climate change -

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

UK sustainability watchdog to be axed

[Guardian](#) - [Independent](#) - [Edie](#) - [Energy Efficiency News](#) - [24 Dash](#)

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2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES

Headline news:

Government must keep investing in green technologies, watchdog says - Mon, 19th July 2010

The Government adviser on climate change has said the UK should ring-fence funding for green technologies in order to meet long-term climate change targets and low carbon economic growth, [GreenWise](#) - [BBC](#) - [Guardian](#) - [Telegraph](#) -

UN in fresh bid to salvage international deal on climate change - Thurs, 22nd July 2010

Campaigners welcome plans to amend the way Kyoto protocol resolutions are passed, [Guardian](#) - [BusinessGreen](#)

UK sustainability watchdog to be axed - Tues, 20th July 2010

Coalition government to announce plans to scrap the Sustainable Development Commission as part of public sector spending cuts, [Guardian](#) - [Independent](#) - [Edie](#) - [Energy Efficiency News](#) - [24 Dash](#)

Other news:

Green energy also has drawbacks - Fri, 23rd July 2010

For all its attractions, green energy also has drawbacks, not least the fact that it cannot guarantee to keep the country's lights on constantly, [Express](#)

Scottish and Southern cools talk of takeover vulnerability - Fri, 23rd July 2010

Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) chief executive Ian Marchant insisted the company is not vulnerable to takeover despite its recent lacklustre share price performance, [Herald Scotland](#)

Defra plans sea management revolution - Thurs, 22nd July 2010

Department sets out draft Marine Policy Statement with an eye to offshore renewables, [BusinessGreen](#)

European Commission aid for solar manufacture in Germany and Spain - Thurs, 22nd July 2010

Regional development needs outweigh possible market distortions, says competition commissioner, [BusinessGreen](#)

Sub-contractors appointed for 50MW biomass plant in Fife - Thurs, 22nd July 2010

Two sub-contractors have been appointed to undertake work in the development of a 50MW biomass facility which its developers claim will be the largest plant of its kind in Scotland, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Wave Hub reaches 'nail biting' stage - Thurs, 22nd July 2010

The next major stage in the delivery of the 20MW marine energy scheme, Wave Hub, is underway with the hub and 25km cable now loaded onto a cable laying ship ready for deployment offshore in the next few weeks, the South West regional development agency (RDA) has revealed, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Whitehall's green efforts saving taxpayers £70m a year, watchdog says - Thurs, 22nd July 2010

Soon-to-be-axed Sustainable Development Commission says energy, carbon and water savings could amount to hundreds of millions, [Guardian](#)



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Oil chiefs to give evidence in UK after BP spill fears - Thurs, 22nd July 2010

Tony Hayward, the chief executive of BP, and other oil bosses will be expected to give evidence to a new UK political inquiry into offshore deep-water drilling, [Telegraph](#)

Vestas Climbs After Winning Largest Wind Turbine Order - Thurs, 22nd July 2010

Vestas Wind Systems A/S, the biggest maker of wind turbines, climbed in Copenhagen trading after winning its largest order for a single power-generation site, [Bloomberg](#)

MPs launch inquiry after call for ban on North Sea oil drilling - Thurs, 22nd July 2010

MPS have launched an investigation into a potential ban on North Sea exploration following calls for a moratorium on new drilling by the European energy commissioner, [Scotsman](#)

China to launch domestic carbon trade in five years - Thurs, 22nd July 2010

“Iron hand” of the market acts to meet self-imposed emission and energy density targets, [BusinessGreen](#)

UK and Australia to lead global CCS action group - Thurs, 22nd July 2010

Energy secretary Chris Huhne has announced that the UK and Australia will lead a new global Carbon Capture Use and Storage Action Group, which aims to facilitate political and business leadership in the technology, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Pickles's rubbish row is a real waste - Thurs, 22nd July 2010

The row between Eric Pickles and Caroline Spelman over who controls waste policy is diverting attention from the real task, [Guardian](#)

Plans submitted for major waste-to-energy project in Salford - Thurs, 22nd July 2010

Proposals to develop a large-scale facility in Salford, Greater Manchester, which would use gasification and anaerobic digestion technology to turn an estimated 140,000 tonnes of waste into up to 10MW of renewable electricity have been submitted for approval to Salford city council, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Biofuel use exceeding Government target - Weds, 21st July 2010

A report into the United Kingdom's take up of biofuels has shown while it remains a small part of the overall market use is above Government targets, [Edie](#)

Coalition axe falls on Sustainable Development Commission - Weds, 21st July 2010

Latest victim of public spending cuts saves more money than it spends, say proponents, [BusinessGreen](#)

7,500 firms face fines under CO2 scheme - WSP - Tues, 20th July 2010

Some 7,500 British firms are expected to miss a September 30 deadline to register for the UK's new energy efficiency scheme, meaning they face fines of at least 5,000 pounds each (\$7,644), an environmental consultancy said on Tuesday, [Reuters](#)

Climate change threatens poverty fight, report warns - Tues, 20th July 2010

Climate change threatens to undo years of work to tackle poverty in developing countries, a report warned today, [Independent](#)

Google Energy's big green power purchase - Tues, 20th July 2010

Google backs wind energy with 20-year renewable power purchase, [Guardian](#)

Record year for offshore wind - Tues, 20th July 2010

Offshore wind is taking off in Europe with 118 new offshore wind turbines being connected to the grid in the first half of 2010, according to the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA), [Renewable Energy Focus](#)



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DECC cuts are 'bad news' for renewables sector - Tues, 20th July 2010

Renewable trade associations and campaigning groups have criticised how the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) plans to make savings of £85 million, claiming renewables must not be seen as an optional extra and that the cuts are bad news for the industry, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

UK Parliamentary solar PV forum - Tues, 20th July 2010

The UK has launched a Parliamentary forum for solar photovoltaic (PV) technology, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

China builds on nuclear ambitions - Tues, 20th July 2010

First steps towards 86GW capacity taken in Guangxi Zhuang, [BusinessGreen](#)

Carbon Trust launches fast-track service for green startups - Tues, 20th July 2010

R&D grants, commercialisation consultancy and networking with business angels on offer, [BusinessGreen](#)

Waste policy advisory quango falls victim to spending cuts - Tues, 20th July 2010

Functions will return to government, says Cable, [BusinessGreen](#)

Economic growth and carbon targets at risk from government cuts - Tues, 20th July 2010

Climate Change Committee report says R&D funding must be a priority, [BusinessGreen](#)

New Carbon Restrictions May Trip a Third of British Companies, WSP Says - Tues, 20th July 2010

A third of U.K. companies and organizations may miss a September deadline to disclose information on their energy use, the consultants WSP Environment & Energy said, [Bloomberg](#)

China knocks US off top energy use spot - Tues, 20th July 2010

After more than a century as the country that consumes the most energy, the United States has been knocked off its perch by China, [Telegraph](#)

Climate Change 'threatens poverty' - Tues, 20th July 2010

Climate change threatens to undo years of work to tackle poverty in developing countries, a report has warned, [Express](#)

Renewable energy will lead to soaring electricity bills - Tues, 20th July 2010

Britain faces years of blackouts and soaring electricity bills because of a growing dependence on renewable energy, according to an expert, [Daily Star](#)

Powering up for energy plant battle - Tues, 20th July 2010

The boss of a firm hoping to build four controversial wood-burning power plants in Scotland has hit back at his critics - as he revealed the first planning application would be lodged next month, [Scotsman](#)

£130m Biomass Plant for Isle of Wight - Mon, 19th July 2010

Plans have been put forward for a biomass plant and renewable energy centre in Newport on the Isle of Wight, [Bioenergy](#)

Smart grid receives high-voltage cash injection - Mon, 19th July 2010

Trilliant raises \$106m from venture funds and industry heavyweights, [BusinessGreen](#)

US offshore wind coalition formed - Mon, 19th July 2010

Group to lobby for fast-tracking Eastern Seaboard and Great Lakes projects, [BusinessGreen](#)

Solar PV parliamentary forum a 'timely addition' - Mon, 19th July 2010

The launch of a new parliamentary forum for solar PV has been welcomed by industry figures as a 'timely



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addition' to the work of the All Party Parliamentary Renewables and Sustainable Energy Group (PRASEG), [NewEnergyFocus](#)

New UK Solar PV Forum is launched - Mon, 19th July 2010

The Associate Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group (PRASEG) have launched "Solar PV Forum", a new parliamentary forum for those interested in discussing the photovoltaic technology industry, [Solar Power Portal](#)

Funding cuts will finish Britain's clean energy race - Mon, 19th July 2010

In the 1970s the UK invested about 0.15% of GDP each year in research and development (R&D) into providing cheaper and cleaner energy. Britain was putting more public money into nuclear power and other new sources of electricity than almost any other economy, [Guardian](#)

UK takes bronze in green building league - Mon, 19th July 2010

Norway and Brazil emerge as leaders in the development of zero-carbon built environments, [BusinessGreen](#)

Grant Shapps Reduces Eco Town Funding By 50% - Mon, 19th July 2010

The Government has halved the funding available for eco-town development, it has emerged. Housing minister Grant Shapps has written to local authorities announcing the funding cut for 2010/11, [eGov](#)

UN Carbon Permit Regulators Juggle Conflicts as They Debate Future Supply - Mon, 19th July 2010

Some United Nations-overseen regulators of the world's second-biggest carbon market need to resolve conflicts of interest as they debate on the supply of emission credits from industrial-gas projects next week, [Bloomberg](#)

CBI calls for global aviation emissions trading scheme - Mon, 19th July 2010

Business group voices concerns over government plans for new per-plane duty, [BusinessGreen](#)

Britain trails China in dash to low-carbon economy, warns Tim Yeo - Mon, 19th July 2010

Conservative says Beijing may be 'playing the bad guy' to grab green profits 20 years ahead, [Guardian](#)

1.4 million people living in homes that cut off their energy supply - warns Consumer Focus - Mon, 19th July 2010

Consumer Focus is today calling on energy suppliers to transform the experience of the 8.8m people who rely on pre-pay meters. The call comes as the biggest ever study of pre-payment meter (PPM) energy customers¹ is published by the consumer champion, [Consumer Focus](#)

Government urged to ring-fence renewables funding - Mon, 19th July 2010

The government must ring-fence funding for low-carbon technologies or it could miss a "critical opportunity" to meet emissions reduction targets and drive the green economy, independent watchdog Committee on Climate Change warned today, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

BP oil cap may not have stopped leak - Mon, 19th July 2010

US government demands answers as engineers detect seepage and possible methane gas leak on seabed of Gulf of Mexico, [Guardian](#)

International Power and GDF-Suez renew tie-up discussions - Mon, 19th July 2010

International Power, the UK power generation company, and GDF-Suez of France have revived talks about entering a partnership to create a global electricity group, they said on Monday, [Telegraph](#)

Government urged to ring-fence renewables funding - Mon, 19th July 2010

The government must ring-fence funding for low-carbon technologies or it could miss a "critical opportunity"



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to meet emissions reduction targets and drive the green economy, independent watchdog Committee on Climate Change warned today, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Conwy council indicates support for 600MW tidal scheme - Mon, 19th July 2010

Proposals for a pilot 600MW tidal energy scheme at Llanddulas in North Wales have received early support from Conwy county borough council, after initial plans were lodged last week, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Blackout Britain faces big turnoff - Mon, 19th July 2010

BRITAIN faces years of blackouts and soaring electricity bills because of the drive toward green power, a leading energy expert warned last night, [Express](#)

Britain faces years of blackouts and soaring energy bills: Expert warns of banking-style collapse in power industry - Mon, 19th July 2010

Britain could face years of blackouts and high electricity bills because of the focus on renewable energy sources, an energy expert has warned, [Daily Mail](#)

Ian Wood: Hurricane put the wind up the press - Mon, 19th July 2010

Wind farms in Scotland, according to an intriguing snippet of weekend news, are apparently suffering from a distinct lack of it - wind, that is, [Scotsman](#)

Irish launch consultation on 10 year waste policy - Mon, 19th July 2010

Ireland has launched a consultation on how to deal with waste over the next decade and beyond, [Edie](#)

Green groups urge suspension of Arctic oil drilling - Mon, 19th July 2010

Environmental groups have called for the suspension of offshore drilling in the Arctic in the aftermath of the BP Gulf of Mexico oil disaster, [Edie](#)

Lloyds backing Borders wind farm with £17m - Mon, 19th July 2010

LLOYDS Banking Group is leading a £32 million investment in a 22 Megawatt onshore wind project in Lanarkshire, marking its second energy deal in less than a week, [Scotsman](#)

Waste Britain: UK's emissions could be cut at flick of a switch - Sun, 18th July 2010

Basic energy-saving measures could slash domestic carbon gases by up to a third, [Independent](#)

Viridor chief Colin Drummond sees a green future in company's landmark energy-from-waste plant - Sun, 18th July 2010

Viridor chief executive Colin Drummond loves rubbish. There's a very good reason why: the waste arm of £2bn utility company Pennon is paid both to take it away and to sell it on after processing - either as electricity or recycled material, [Telegraph](#)

KPMG says nuclear power 'won't happen' - Fri, 16th July 2010

Britain's new generation of nuclear power stations will not be built if the Government refuses them any more support, a KPMG report will say this week, [Telegraph](#)

Defra aims to publish waste strategy in April 2011 - Fri, 16th July 2010

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has today (July 16) revealed that a new version of the waste strategy is set to be published in April 2011, [Let's Recycle](#)

London Olympics to miss renewable energy target - Fri, 16th July 2010

The London 2012 Olympics is unlikely to meet its target of producing 20% of its electricity from new local renewable sources, the London Assembly was told yesterday, [Energy Efficiency News](#)



Eastern Europe struggling to meet EU climate targets - Fri, 16th July 2010

The EU's Eastern European newcomers, who still need to catch up with the rest of the Union in terms of economic and social development, face an uphill battle to attain the 'climate targets' laid out in the bloc's 'Europe 2020' strategy, a round-up of articles from the EurActiv media network reveals, [EurActiv](#)

Senate clears path for run at climate legislation - Fri, 16th July 2010

Passage of financial reform raises prospects for crucial climate-bill vote, but hurdles remain if Obama is to make good on pledge to pass legislation this year, [BusinessGreen](#)

Exclusive: Defra faces spending cuts of up to 50 per cent - Fri, 16th July 2010

Department braces itself for deep cuts, [BusinessGreen](#)

DECC reveals further details of spending cuts - Fri, 16th July 2010

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has today (July 16) published a detailed break-down of how it will make the £85 million savings enforced by the Treasury, beyond the closure of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

'Game change' needed in approach to renewable projects - Fri, 16th July 2010

Climate change minister Greg Barker has said the UK needs a "game change" in its culture and approach to community ownership of renewable energy projects, and indicated support for recognising this in the planning system, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

China's CO2 emissions need to peak by 2020 - IEA - Thurs, 15th July 2010

China's emissions of carbon dioxide need to peak by 2020 if the world is to meet its 2050 targets aimed at curbing climate change, the head of the International Energy Agency said on Thursday, [Reuters](#)

3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

Select Committees

Energy and Climate Change Committee - new inquiry announced: Emissions Performance Standards.

Deadline for written submissions is the 6th September 2010.

Click [here](#) for further information.

Energy and Climate Change Committee - new inquiry announced: UK Deepwater Drilling - implications of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill

Deadline for written submissions is the 13th September 2010.

Click [here](#) for further information.

The membership of the **Environmental Audit** Committee still needs to be approved by the House:

Peter Aldous, Richard Benyon, Neil Carmichael, Martin Caton, Katy Clark, Zac Goldsmith, Simon Kirby, Mark Lazarowicz, Caroline Lucas, Ian Murray, Sheryll Murray, Caroline Nokes, Mr Mark Spencer, Dr Alan Whitehead and Simon Wright.

Early Day Motions

There has been 1 EDM on Feed-in Tariffs and the Renewable Heat Incentive tabled by Katy Clark MP; [EDM 583](#) welcomes the introduction of feed-in tariffs in April 2010 and supports the introduction of a renewable



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heat incentive at the earliest opportunity.

Private Members' Bills

Ones to watch:

- Robert Ffello MP's **Sustainable Livestock Bill**: Second Reading: 12th November
- Rebecca Harris MP's **Daylight Saving Bill**: Second Reading: 3rd December
- Joan Walley's **Public Bodies (Sustainable Food) Bill**: Second Reading: 12th November
- Nigel Adam's **Protection of Local Services (Planning) Bill**: Second Reading: 21st January 2011

Written Questions

Written questions that have received answers from DECC and other government departments in the last week are summarised below in date order.

Monday's DECC answers included topics such as Biofuels, departmental spending and 10:10, Academies and the CRC, the second commitment period of the Kyoto protocol, cloud seeding, combined heat and power, SME energy efficiency, private rented sector energy efficiency, fuel poverty, nuclear decommissioning authority, the marine renewable deployment fund, industrial use of renewable energy, feed-in tariffs, the renewable heat incentive, tidal power, and warm front in greater London.

The Treasury answered questions on biofuels - excise duties ([here](#)), and green taxation ([here](#)).

Tuesday's DECC answers included topics such as carbon emissions and the government estate, energy national policy statements, national grid security, heat pumps and public buildings, radioactive waste, renewables obligation and bioliquids, and planning permission for wind farms.

Wednesday's DECC answers included topics such as Carbon Emissions in Kirklees Local Authority, and attendees and cost of the nuclear development forum.

Thursday's DECC answers included topics such as gas energy suppliers, nuclear waste, renewable energy subsidies, gasification, new manufacturing line at Sellafield, and the number of wind farms that have been built in Yorkshire and the Humber in the last 5 years.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills answered a question on the £500 million grant for wind power in the north east ([here](#)).

The Department of Communities and Local Government answered a question on planning and national parks ([here](#)).

House of Lords highlights

Parliamentary written and oral questions that have received answers this week in the House of Lords include:

- Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean's written question on the cuts to the FCOs spending on low carbon, high growth programmes ([here](#));
- Lord Pearson of Rannoch's written question on the impact of the Climate Change Act on the fuel



poor ([here](#));

- Lord Willoughby de Broke's oral question on the Large Combustion Plant Directive ([here](#));
- Lord Maple's written question on Climate Change global temperature series ([here](#));
- Lord Stoddart of Swindon's written question on the EU's competence to require member states to cease issuing new permits for deep water oil drilling ([here](#)); and
- Lord Taylor of Warwick's written question on planning ([here](#)).

Reports

IET Report: *Smart Grids* - 12th July 2010

A Smart Grid is an electricity network that can intelligently integrate the actions of all users connected to it - generators, consumers and those that do both - in order to efficiently deliver sustainable, economic and secure electricity supplies. Smart Grid is not a single technology but an umbrella term that covers a multitude of different elements that together create a new vision for more intelligent and responsive energy systems.

Click [here](#) to access the report

Sustainable Development Commission Report: *The Future is Local* - 6th July 2010

Enabling communities to lead local renewal projects with a neighbourhood-scale approach is the most cost-effective way to ensure our villages, towns and cities are fit for the future and create the conditions for people to thrive. Through empowering community groups to come together to tackle issues of local priority, and to work in partnership with local authorities and businesses, multiple benefits can be delivered. Upgrades to our physical infrastructure can tackle climate change, deliver reliable and efficient transport networks, improve health and well being, secure a healthy natural environment, improve long-term housing supply, maximise employment opportunities, and make our communities safer and more cohesive. The Future is Local advocates an integrated, area-based approach to retrofitting buildings and upgrading community infrastructure.

Click [here](#) to access the report. Click [here](#) for the press release.

Sustainable Development Commission Report: *Becoming the "Greenest Government Ever"* - 22nd July 2010

Becoming the 'Greenest Government Ever': achieving sustainability in operations and procurement, is the fifth of the SDC's annual watchdog reports which scrutinise Government's progress towards more sustainable operations. It finds that the savings made to date are only the tip of the iceberg, and concludes that by extending its commitment to become the "Greenest Government ever" beyond carbon to a wider range of sustainability issues including water and waste - would enable the new Government to save hundreds of millions more over the course of this Parliament.

Click [here](#) to access the report. Click [here](#) for the press release.

Committee on Climate Change Report: *Building a low-carbon economy - the UK's innovation challenge* - 19th July 2010

In order to build a low carbon economy and meet carbon budgets, the UK will need access to new technologies. This requires public sector investment in all stages of the innovation process from Research, through Development and Demonstration to Deployment (RDD&D).

In October 2009, Professor Sir John Beddington, the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor, asked the Committee to carry out a review of low carbon innovation in the UK. This report consider the effectiveness of current policy measures and institutional arrangements to deliver the technologies required to meet the UK's 2050 emissions target.

Click [here](#) to access the report. Click [here](#) for the press release. See coverage - [GreenWise](#) -



Energy Saving Trust Report: Into the West: Low carbon heat options off Northern Ireland's gas network - 19th July 2010

This research examines options to provide low carbon heat to areas in Northern Ireland (NI) that are off the gas network. Firstly we undertook consumer research to provide a better understanding of the attitudes of NI homeowners' to gas connection and microgeneration. Secondly we compared extending the gas network with using microgeneration in areas off-gas in NI in terms of their potential carbon emissions reduction, cost, their potential contribution to NI's carbon emissions and renewable energy targets
Click [here](#) to access the report.

Ofgem report: Demand Side Response Discussion Paper - 15th July 2010

This considers how increasing the ability of consumers to be more flexible in their electricity use can contribute to secure and sustainable energy supplies and help to achieve financial and environmental benefits.

Click [here](#) to access the report.

4. EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

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](#)

National Heat Pump Awards

Date: 23rd June, 2011

Location: International Convention Centre (ICC), Birmingham

Description: The awards will act as a focus of excellence, to show what the latest technology can achieve and highlight outstanding work by the people and organisations driving developments forward.

The event takes place on 23rd June, 2011, at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in the heart of Birmingham. The gala black-tie evening at only £145 plus VAT will include a pre-dinner drinks reception, a sumptuous four-course dinner, wine at table plus top flight professional presentation with celebrity entertainment. There are ten award categories, and organisations and individuals are now invited to enter:

- Installation of the year:
 - Domestic, air source



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- Domestic, ground/water source
- Commercial, air source
- Commercial, ground/water source
- Product innovation of the year
- Training excellence award;
- Public sector project of the year
- Installer of the year;
- Consultant of the year;
- Heat pump champion.

The closing date for entries is 4th March, 2011.

Further details: To register and for further details go to www.national-heat-pump-awards.co.uk

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