



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.

25th February 2011: This Week's Headlines...

Solar industry steps up calls for feed-in tariff U-turn

[BusinessGreen](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [PV Tech](#) - [Scotsman](#)

Location announced for 900 MW offshore wind farm

[Renewable Energy Focus](#) - [Telegraph](#) - [Daily Mail](#) - [Bournemouth Echo](#)

Record profits for British Gas

[Edie](#) - [Telegraph](#) - [Scotsman](#) - [Daily Mail](#)

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Upcoming PRASEG Events

PRASEG and FPEEG Seminar

Tackling fuel poverty: the role of the new Energy Company Obligation

Date: 30th March 2011

Time: 09.00 - 11.00

Location: Wilson Room, Portcullis House

Speakers: Tracy Vegro, Director, Energy Efficiency and Consumers, Department of Energy and Climate Change or David Purdy, Head of Insulation and Delivery, Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Chair: Alan Whitehead MP

PRASEG Annual Conference 2011

Delivering Low Carbon Energy – Electricity Market Reform and Beyond



Date: 7th July 2011

Time: 9:00 - 17:00

Location: One Great George Street

Confirmed Speakers: Chris Huhne MP, Secretary of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change; Tim Yeo MP, Chair, Energy and Climate Change Select Committee; Meg Hillier MP, Shadow Secretary of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change; Caroline Lucas MP, Leader, Green Party. *Other speakers TBC.*

2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES

Headline news

Solar industry steps up calls for feed-in tariff U-turn - Wednesday, 23rd February 2011

The solar industry has launched two separate online campaigns calling on the government to rethink its decision to review the level of support available through the feed-in tariff incentive scheme to large and medium-sized solar installations, [BusinessGreen](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [PV Tech](#) - [Scotsman](#)

Location announced for 900 MW offshore wind farm - Tuesday, 22nd February 2011

Eneco will build a 900 MW offshore wind farm off the Dorset and Hampshire coasts, UK, [Renewable Energy Focus](#) - [Telegraph](#) - [Daily Mail](#) - [Bournemouth Echo](#)

Record profits for British Gas - Thursday, 24th February 2011

Centrica, the parent company of British Gas has announced record profits for its British Gas operations of £742 million for last year, [Edie](#) - [Telegraph](#) - [Scotsman](#) - [Daily Mail](#)

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Other news

'Zero-carbon' homes can still emit CO₂ - Friday, 25th February 2011

Newly built houses will be allowed to emit tons of CO₂ every year and still be called "zero carbon" under new rules being considered by ministers, [The Independent](#)

Big profits mean big investment in the UK's energy future, says Centrica chief Sam Laidlaw - Friday, 25th February 2011

In Britain today we face one of the biggest economic challenges since the Second World War. How can we create new wealth and jobs in the face of dramatic, though necessary, public spending cuts? [Telegraph](#)

'Zero-carbon' homes can still emit CO₂ - Friday, 25th February 2011

Newly built houses will be allowed to emit tons of CO₂ every year and still be called "zero carbon" under new rules being considered by ministers, [Independent](#)

UK gas bills may rise on Middle East riots, warns Centrica chief Sam Laidlaw - Friday, 25th February 2011

Protests in the Middle East may force British Gas to raise its prices for UK customers as the unrest drives up gas prices, Centrica chief executive Sam Laidlaw has warned, [Telegraph](#)

Denmark joins the fray over Europe's climate change targets - Thursday, 24th February 2011

The Danish government has boosted attempts of a group of member states to toughen emissions cuts, [Guardian](#)

Australia government to set carbon price from mid-2012 - Thursday, 24th February 2011

Australia's government launched a third attempt on Thursday to make carbon polluters pay for their emissions, unveiling plans for a fixed-price scheme from 2012 and vowing not to surrender this time in the face of fierce opposition, [Reuters](#)

UK firm develops way to store hydrogen - Thursday, 24th February 2011

Cella Energy used nanotechnology to develop microbeads that can trap hydrogen and release it when heated, [Guardian](#)

Iberdrola Records €2.87 Billion Net Profit In 2010, Highest In Its History - Thursday, 24th February 2011

IBERDROLA net earnings rose 1.6% to €2.87 billion in 2010, the highest in its history and an increase in recurring terms of 5.6%, [ScottishPower](#)

Germany's coal own goal over carbon permits - Thursday, 24th February 2011

EUROPE'S plans for tackling global warming by driving down emissions of carbon dioxide may have backfired in Germany, where they have encouraged energy companies to build coal-fired power stations instead of gas-fired stations, which emit less CO₂, [NewScientist](#)

Green energy red tape slashed - Thursday, 24th February 2011

Owners of public buildings and businesses will soon be able to generate energy using technologies such as solar panels without requiring planning permission, [Scotland](#)

Feed-in Tariffs article by Chris Huhne published in Western Morning News and Western Daily Press - Thursday, 24th February 2011

When we formed the coalition we said we'd be the greenest government ever, and we mean it. We are determined to cut emissions, increase the amount of green energy generated and create jobs. The renewables industry is hugely important to us in achieving these ambitions, [DECC](#)



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LNG to take 50% of UK gas market - Thursday, 24th February 2011

The UK's stores of liquefied natural gas (LNG) will top 50% of total stocks in the next 14 years following a £2 billion deal, [Edie](#)

Saudi ruler offers \$36bn to stave off uprising amid warning oil price could double - Thursday, 24th February 2011

The king of Saudi Arabia last night announced \$36bn (£22bn) of extra benefits for his people in an attempt to stop the wave of Arab uprisings spreading to the world's biggest oil exporter, as experts warned Brent crude could hit \$220 a barrel, [Telegraph](#)

RWE to Miss Growth Targets at Renewable Energy Unit on Investment Cuts - Thursday, 24th February 2011

RWE AG, Germany's second-largest utility, said it will miss growth targets at its renewable energy and oil and natural gas production units because of reduced investment and project delays, [Bloomberg](#)

Government faces pressure to relax zero-carbon home standards - Thursday, 24th February 2011

Industry task force recommends weaker emissions targets for all new homes, [BusinessGreen](#)

UK firm develops way to store hydrogen - Thursday, 24th February 2011

Cella Energy used nanotechnology to develop microbeads that can trap hydrogen and release it when heated, [Guardian](#)

Google-backed firm promises to Transphorm AC:DC technology - Thursday, 24th February 2011

California-based Transphorm pulls in \$20m of funding to support rollout of highly efficient conversion system, [BusinessGreen](#)

Australia launches latest attempt to price carbon - Thursday, 24th February 2011

Australian prime minister vows not to take a backwards step on fixed carbon tax, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

IT industry must do more to be green, says Microsoft's environment chief - Thursday, 24th February 2011

Rob Bernard wants to drive efficiency gains he has made at the world's biggest software firm through the wider IT sector, [Guardian](#)

Fuel Cell System to Run on Biohydrogen - Thursday, 24th February 2011

Horizon Fuel Cell Technologies has formed a partnership with Pilus Energy to provide an integrated clean energy system, [FuelCellToday](#)

Heat loss map of UK - Wednesday, 23rd February 2011

Aerial mapping company Bluesky is producing thermal maps of several areas of the UK, [GreenBuildNews](#)

The palm oil PR offensive is gathering pace - but not weight - Wednesday, 23rd February 2011

An Adam Smith Institute report is the latest development as the palm oil industry attempts to rebrand itself as 'the good guys', but many of its claims appear to be unfounded, [Guardian](#)

Air pollution worse than cocaine for triggering heart attacks, says study - Wednesday, 23rd February 2011

Research into 'final straw' risk factors says traffic fumes greater population-wide threat than drug because of numbers exposed, [Guardian](#)

Energy Minister approves new power plant for Wales - Wednesday, 23rd February 2011



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Wales is set to gain a new power plant with the potential to provide electricity to 1.4 million homes, as Energy Minister Charles Hendry today gave the go-ahead for SSE to build an 870 megawatt gas-fired power station near Port Talbot, [DECC](#)

Oil could hit \$220 a barrel on Libya and Algeria fears, warns Nomura - Wednesday, 23rd February 2011
Libya's descent into civil war has led to drastic cuts in oil shipments and prompted warnings that an escalation of the crisis could see Brent crude prices double to \$220 a barrel, [Telegraph](#)

Newcastle borehole drilling starts in search of heat - Wednesday, 23rd February 2011
The BBC's Alison Freeman spoke to Professor Paul Younger who said it was the first project of its kind to look for low carbon energy in a city centre, [BBC](#)

£40bn investment for North Sea oil 'to bring 15,000 jobs' - Wednesday, 23rd February 2011
NORTH Sea oil and gas companies are poised to invest a bumper £40 billion developing new and existing fields over the next five years, creating up to 15,000 jobs across the UK, [Scotsman](#)

Centrica Seals \$3.25 Billion Gas Deal With Qatar for Liquefied Natural Gas - Wednesday, 23rd February 2011
Centrica Plc, the U.K.'s biggest energy supplier, agreed a 2-billion pound (\$3.25 billion) deal with Qatar to deliver liquefied natural gas to the U.K. as the country seeks to replace dwindling North Sea reserves, [Bloomberg](#)

Investor confidence in cleantech and renewable energy still high - Tuesday, 22nd February 2011
Government attitudes to renewable energy are the most important investment driver, according to a survey by London Bridge Capital, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

Ukraine turns to ExxonMobil for shale gas - Tuesday, 22nd February 2011
Ukraine's state-run energy firm Naftogaz and US oil major ExxonMobil have signed a memorandum to cooperate on searching for shale gas deposits in Ukraine. But Moscow warned Ukraine that shale gas "won't help" the country reduce its reliance on Russia's gas, [EurActiv](#)

All eyes on Bahrain as Gulf tremors frighten oil markets - Tuesday, 22nd February 2011
Oil analysts are paying very close attention to fast-moving events in Bahrain, fearing that clashes between the island's Sunni elite and an aggrieved Shi'ite majority could embroil the two Gulf giants of Iran and Saudi Arabia, [Telegraph](#)

Benefit to cutting 'black carbon' - Tuesday, 22nd February 2011
Cutting atmospheric soot, methane and ground-level ozone is the quickest way to tackle climate change in the short term, according to a new report, [BBC](#)

EIB Boosts Climate Lending, Drafts CO2-Permit Sale Rules - Tuesday, 22nd February 2011
The European Investment Bank boosted its lending for climate-related projects to a record 19 billion euros (\$26 billion) last year and said it was preparing rules on 2012 sales of European Union carbon permits from a reserve to spur clean-energy projects, [Bloomberg](#)

Power station owner Drax sees profits jump 61pc - Tuesday, 22nd February 2011
Drax, operator of Europe's largest coal-fired power station, beat expectations in its 2010 results, as the cold weather boosted demand, [Telegraph](#)

New report on benefits of cutting CO2 by 30% - Tuesday, 22nd February 2011
Reducing Europe's carbon dioxide emissions by 30% by 2020 may increase its GDP by up to 0.6% annually and create around six million jobs, according to a report commissioned by the German environment ministry,



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eGov

Drax Says Carbon-Dioxide Emissions Rose 13% Last Year on Output - Tuesday, 22nd February 2011

Drax Group Plc, owner of western Europe's largest coal-fired power station, said its carbon-dioxide emissions rose 13 percent last year after it produced more electricity during a colder-than-usual winter, [Bloomberg](#)

UK Energy Minister Charles Hendry at International Energy Forum - Tuesday, 22nd February 2011

Energy Minister Charles Hendry, speaking at the International Energy Forum (IEF) ministerial meeting in Saudi Arabia today, said:

"Current oil prices underline the fundamental importance of international collaboration to enhance oil price stability, [DECC](#)

Could the rebound effect undermine climate efforts? - Tuesday, 22nd February 2011

Researchers warn of phenomenon where savings from energy efficiency are cancelled out by increases in other carbon-intensive behaviour, [Guardian](#)

Scotland divides forest land for wind turbine schemes - Tuesday, 22nd February 2011

Scottish Forestry Commission land across the entire country has been divided into lots to be explored for wind farm development, [UtilityWeek](#)

EU and Canada clash over tar sands policy - Tuesday, 22nd February 2011

Report claims Canada is stepping up lobbying efforts to block moves that could curb tar sands exports, [BusinessGreen](#)

Libya crisis: Are we witnessing the start of a new oil price shock? - Tuesday, 22nd February 2011

The events in North Africa and the Middle East so far this year are reminiscent of the Iranian revolution in 1979 and, before that, the Yom Kippur war of October 1973, [Telegraph](#)

Putin to seek 2050 gas 'roadmap' on Brussels visit - Tuesday, 22nd February 2011

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who will be in Brussels on 24 February, will seek long-term special arrangements for his country's gas supplies to the EU, various speakers said yesterday, [EurActiv](#)

Chris Huhne to reopen Delabole wind farm - Tuesday, 22nd February 2011

The UK's first commercial wind farm, at Delabole in Cornwall, is due to reopen later after a multimillion-pound redevelopment, [BBC](#)

Zero Carbon Hub delivers final recommendations for the Carbon Compliance levels of new homes - Tuesday, 22nd February 2011

Zero Carbon Hub has today delivered final recommendations for the Carbon Compliance levels of new homes to the Minister for Housing and Local Government, Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP, [UKGBC](#)

India's \$555 Million Coal Tax May Fund Electricity Lines - Monday, 21st February 2011

India may use part of the 25 billion rupees (\$555 million) it raises this year with a coal tax to fund new electricity-transmission lines for helping distribute power from clean energy projects, [Bloomberg](#)

Sharp Energy unveils solar development project - Monday, 21st February 2011

The Sun and Stars initiative links renewable energy companies with crisis projects in developing countries., [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

BP signs up to \$20bn oil and gas deal in India - Monday, 21st February 2011

BP is poised to become a major player in the Indian gas business after signing a \$20bn (£12.3bn) deal with



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Reliance Industries covering exploration and development, [Telegraph](#)

Green economies for growth, urges UN - Monday, 21st February 2011

Investing \$1.3 trillion (£800bn) each year in green sectors would deliver long-term stability in the global economy, a UN report has suggested, [BBC](#) - [Guardian](#)

EU Set-Aside May Boost CO2 Price by 10 Euros, Barclays Says - Monday, 21st February 2011

The European Union option of setting aside as many as 800 million surplus carbon allowances is “unwelcome” regulation that may add 10 euros (\$13.66) a ton to prices in 2013, Barclays Plc said, [Bloomberg](#)

US signals doubts over binding Durban climate treaty - Monday, 21st February 2011

Top US negotiator believes progress is possible at South Africa summit, but only through non-binding emissions goals, [BusinessGreen](#)

Business leaders demand Osborne delivers green budget - Monday, 21st February 2011

Aldersgate Group urges chancellor to focus on 'green growth' in next month's budget, [BusinessGreen](#)

Renewables set to drive €10bn electricity storage market - Monday, 21st February 2011

More wind and solar power coming onto the grid offers financial returns for batteries and pumped hydro, report says, [BusinessGreen](#)

Centrica 'has nothing to hide' from profits inquiry - Monday, 21st February 2011

Centrica, the owner of British Gas, believes it has “nothing to hide” from a potential Competition Commission inquiry, as calls for an investigation into “profiteering” gather pace, [Telegraph](#)

Sustainable Development Commission slams “timid” green nudge policy - Monday, 21st February 2011

Commission hits out at government's “nudge” policy, predicting it will fail to embed green behaviour, [BusinessGreen](#)

Oscar buzz for Gasland fuelled by US energy lobby attacks - Sunday, 20th February 2011

An Energy in Depth campaign has helped publicise the film and have focused public attention on its subject, natural gas drilling, [Guardian](#)

European gas pipeline costs double - Sunday, 20th February 2011

Plans for a 2,000-mile pipeline to reduce dependence on imports from Russia have been dealt a blow by BP's cost assessment, [Guardian](#)

European Union faces legal action over fraudulent carbon emissions trading - Sunday, 20th February 2011

Court case in Belgium has been brought by TCEI of Italy, which is hoping to recover 267,991 stolen carbon trading permits, [Guardian](#)

Centrica heads for record profits under watchdog's critical gaze - Saturday, 19th February 2011

Centrica, the owner of British Gas, is expected to announce its highest ever annual profits this week, bringing in £5m per day - when some consumers are struggling to pay their bills, [Telegraph](#)

Sainsbury's to ease strain on National Grid - Sunday, 18th February 2011

Innovative store technology cuts energy costs and reduces UK carbon emissions, [JSainsbury](#)

Summer plans for NEC's green mission - Wednesday, 16th February 2011

PLANS to construct a combined energy 'district heating' system at one of the region's main event centres



should be submitted to council chiefs in June, [BusinessDesk](#)

Energy-from-waste plant keeps Finnish city warm - Sunday, 13th February 2011

High energy demand during long winters and tough environmental standards pose severe challenges for the city of Lahti's energy company. That is why it is building one of the world's most modern plants for converting waste into heat and electricity, with the support of the EIB, [EIB](#)

Carillion buys 'green' energy group Eaga for £306m - Friday, 11th February 2011

Support services giant Carillion is paying £306m for Eaga, one of the UK's biggest suppliers of heating and renewable energy services, [BBC](#)

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3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

Parliament is in recess

Reports

German Environment Ministry report: A New Growth Path for Europe - Monday, 21st February 2011

The report, carried out on behalf of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, by a consortium of six leading universities and institutes from across Europe, describes how mitigating climate change should not be seen as a trade-off between economic growth and environmental protection.

The report states, that post-crisis Europe can revitalize its economy by tackling the climate challenge. Raising the European climate target from 20% to 30% emissions reductions can open the way towards higher growth and increased employment. The authors call for 'time for boldness' and point out that clear policies associated with a decisive move to a -30% target, can be doubly beneficial: for the global climate as well as the EU economy.

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

Sustainable Development Commission Report: Making Sustainable Lives Easier: A Priority for Governments, Business and Society - Monday, 21st February 2011

An increasing number of us recycle, insulate our lofts and choose more 'green' products but we are far from living lives that are 'sustainable' for future generations. It's a well quoted statistic but still a powerful one - if the whole world consumed as we do in the UK we would need three planets to sustain everyone. The economic, environmental and social consequences for people and the planet from this excessive and unequal resource use make the goal of sustainable lives not a 'nice to have' some day but an essential priority for governments right now. Our report Making Sustainable Lives Easier: A Priority for Governments, Business and Society gives advice to the UK Government and the devolved administration in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland on how governments can build incentives and infrastructure that make sustainable choices the easy choices.

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

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4. EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST



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Association of Electricity Producers event

Event: Britain's 3 pin energy policy: Does the Electricity Market Reform plug fit?

Date: Tuesday 5 April 2011

Time: 09.30 -17.00, followed by a drinks reception hosted by SJ Berwin

Location: SJ Berwin, 10 Queen Street Place, London

Further details: The UK government has proposed the most significant changes to the electricity market since privatisation -changes which will worry some and provide new opportunities for others.

Are the Electricity Market Reform proposals the right package to switch on the £200 billion of investment needed in the energy sector and combine all of our energy policy objectives?

The Association of Electricity Producers presents a seminar, kindly hosted by SJ Berwin, to assess the proposed reforms and consider the key issues that the government and industry must now address.

Insightful industry players will speak candidly about

- whether companies have the confidence to invest
- the correct mix of incentives to deliver low carbon energy and security of supply
- how the changes will fit with European markets

To register, visit www.aepuk.com or email conference@aepuk.com.

Heat pump seminar

Event: Take advantage of the heat pump market

Date: 28th April 2011: Basingstoke

Further details: [click here](#)

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