



# 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](mailto:info@praseg.org.uk). For further information on the group, visit the PRASEG website at [www.praseg.org.uk](http://www.praseg.org.uk).

## 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011: This Week's Headlines...

### **Proposals published today on liabilities for nuclear operators**

[Guardian](#) - [DECC](#) - [Edie](#) - [Platts](#) - [Nuclear Engineering International](#)

### **Ofgem sanctions £95m low-carbon grid proposal**

[BusinessGreen](#) - [Ofgem](#) - [Transmission and Distribution](#) - [Energy Helpline](#) - [The Press Association](#) - [Wind Power Monthly](#) - [Energy Efficiency News](#)

### **MPs publish report on the revised draft National Policy Statements on Energy**

[ECC](#) - [Edie](#) - [Energy Efficiency News](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Wall Street Journal](#)

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# Upcoming PRASEG Events

## PRASEG and FPEEG Inquiry

The Associate Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group, and the All-Party Parliamentary Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency Group are holding an inquiry to investigate social justice in the low carbon economy.

Click [here](#) for the terms of reference.

**Deadline for written submissions: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

### Oral evidence sessions:

31st January 2011, Portcullis House; 8th February 2011, Portcullis House; 16th February 2011, Portcullis House

For further information contact Rose Dickinson, PRASEG ([info@praseg.org.uk](mailto:info@praseg.org.uk)) or Piya Malik, FPEEG ([Malikp@parliament.uk](mailto:Malikp@parliament.uk))

## PRASEG Seminar Planning reform: implications for renewables

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011

**Time:** 16:00 - 18:00

**Location:** Grimond Room, Portcullis House

**Speakers:** Helen Phillips, CEO, Natural England; Bob Neill MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government; Charles Anglin, Renewable UK; Hector Pearson, Land and Development Stakeholder & Policy Manager, National Grid

**Chair:** Caroline Lucas MP

## 2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES

### Headline news

**Proposals published today on liabilities for nuclear operators - Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Nuclear operators will be expected to take on liability of €1.2 billion for each of their sites, an increase on the current level of £140 million, under proposals outlined by Chris Huhne today, [Guardian](#) - [DECC](#) - [Edie](#) - [Platts](#) - [Nuclear Engineering International](#)

**Ofgem sanctions £95m low-carbon grid proposal - Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Energy regulator approves grid upgrade projects in attempt to boost renewables and accommodate new nuclear, [BusinessGreen](#) - [Ofgem](#) - [Transmission and Distribution](#) - [Energy Helpline](#) - [The Press Association](#) - [Wind Power Monthly](#) - [Energy Efficiency News](#)

**MPs publish report on the revised draft National Policy Statements on Energy - Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

The Commons Energy and Climate Change Committee warn that proposed energy rules could lead to new 'dash for gas', [ECC](#) - [Edie](#) - [Energy Efficiency News](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Wall Street Journal](#)

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### Other news



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## **Firms battle to own offshore wind grid links - Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Latest round of offshore wind transmission bidders announced as National Grid unveils £700m project to export Scottish renewable energy, [BusinessGreen](#)

## **Coal confirms its lead as king of fuels - Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Generations ago the black stuff hewn out of the earth was called King Coal, [BBC](#)

## **'Sellafield is where we house the toxic legacy of our failed nuclear industry' - Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Industry experts say the government must deal with legacy waste before committing to new nuclear in the UK, [Guardian](#)

## **BP faces legal action from TNK-BP partners over Rosneft - Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

BP's three Russian billionaire partners have filed for an injunction in London to stop the British company jumping into bed with their Kremlin-backed rival Rosneft, [Telegraph](#)

## **Good Energy Plans Community Bond Offering to Fund Wind Farm Expansion - Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Good Energy Group Plc, a U.K. retailer of renewable energy, plans to sell community bonds to fund a five-fold expansion in its wind power-generating capacity, Chief Executive Officer Juliet Davenport said, [Bloomberg](#)

## **Climate Benefits of Natural Gas May Be Overstated - Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

New research by the Environmental Protection Agency—and a growing understanding of the pollution associated with the full “life cycle” of gas production—is casting doubt on the assumption that gas offers a quick and easy solution to climate change, [ProPublica](#)

## **Sharp Adds 300 Workers at U.K. Solar Panel Production Plant in Wrexham - Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Sharp Corp., Japan's largest maker of solar cells, said it added 300 jobs in the U.K. following the extension of its European solar panel plant in Wrexham, Wales, [Bloomberg](#)

## **Queensland flood repairs swamp low-carbon funding - Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Spending on solar and carbon capture cut to pay for flood damage, Australian PM announces, [BusinessGreen](#)

## **Two-thirds of UK biofuel fails green standard, figures show - Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Just 31% of the biofuel supplied under the government's initiative to tackle climate change met its own green standards, the Renewable Fuels Agency reports, [Guardian](#)

## **East Europe nuclear plants struggle to find investors - Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Cash shortages and uncertainty over energy prices are delaying or cutting back nuclear power projects across Central and South-Eastern Europe, threatening energy supply and a push to abandon polluting coal, [EurActiv](#)

## **The green investment bank: neither particularly green, nor a bank - Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

It's a bit rich to call the coalition's venture a green investment bank if it can neither borrow nor lend, and invests in nuclear, [Guardian](#)

## **Shadow energy minister calls for shale gas ban - Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Huw Irranca-Davies urges government to suspend drilling until ongoing investigation is complete, [BusinessGreen](#)



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## 'Energy House' to reveal scale of UK retrofit challenge - Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011

A unique study, involving a full-scale terraced house built inside a chamber, hopes to find ways the UK housing sector can cut its energy use, [BBC](#)

## UK Green Building Council issues three key tests for Green Deal success - Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011

The UK Green Building Council has today issued three key tests for government, that need to be met if its flagship 'Green Deal' programme is to be a success, [UKGBC](#)

## Efficiency could cut world energy use over 70 per cent - Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Simple changes like installing better building insulation could cut the world's energy demands by three-quarters, according to a new study, [NewScientist](#)

## New power plant to double as ski slope - Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Thanks to a clever design, a new combined heat and power (CHP) plant in the Amager district will also serve as a ski slope, reports Politiken newspaper, [CPHpost](#)

## State aid: Commission approves €26m for district heating network in Paris - Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011

The European Commission has authorised France, under EU state aid rules, to provide a €26 million direct grant for the construction of a district heating network in the North-East of Paris, [Europa](#)

## BP, Chevron, Morgan Stanley Miss Voluntary U.K. Biofuels Targets - Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011

BP Plc, Morgan Stanley and Chevron Corp. were among six biofuels suppliers to miss all three of the U.K. government's voluntary sustainability targets last year, the Renewable Fuels Agency said today in an e-mailed report, [Bloomberg](#)

## UK-GBC launches new Task Group on Existing Non Domestic Buildings - Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011

The UK Green Building Council (UK-GBC), bringing together experts from across the construction and property industry, has launched a new task group to help fix the nation's energy hungry non-domestic buildings, [EcoBuilding](#)

## Lithuania pressures Commission against Gazprom - Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Lithuania stepped up a row with Gazprom on 25 January. The dispute pits EU energy policy against gas supplier Russia and reveals more friction between Moscow and its neighbours over energy, [EurActiv](#)

## Clean Energy Stimulus to Peak at \$67 Billion in 2011, WEF Say - Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Government stimulus programs benefiting clean energy projects including solar and wind power may peak this year, then decline in 2012 and 2013, the World Economic Forum said in a report by Bloomberg New Energy Finance, [Bloomberg](#)

## Heritage Oil investors shun its giant Iraqi gas find - Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Shares in Heritage Oil unexpectedly plunged by 16pc on the news that it has made Iraq's biggest gas discovery for 30 years, [Telegraph](#)

## Bidders announced for next round of offshore wind transmission links - Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Pension funds, capital providers, transmission specialists and the usual infrastructure investors are among the eight groups bidding for three offshore wind farm transmission links, [UtilityWeek](#)

## Wind energy fans welcome Sarkozy plans but question timing - Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011

France announced yesterday tenders for a €10 billion offshore wind project that will create 600 wind turbines capable of churning out 3,000 MW of energy, [EurActiv](#)



**Clean Energy Stimulus to Peak at \$67 Billion in 2011, WEF Say - Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Government stimulus programs benefiting clean energy projects including solar and wind power may peak this year, then decline in 2012 and 2013, the World Economic Forum said in a report by Bloomberg New Energy Finance, [Bloomberg](#)

**MPs 'sceptical' that nuclear power stations will be built on time - Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Energy companies are unlikely to build all the UK's planned nuclear power stations on time, according to an influential committee of MPs, [Telegraph](#)

**Council plans to heat pool from crematorium - Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

A council's proposal to heat a new swimming pool using waste energy from a crematorium has landed them in hot water, writes Science Correspondent Tom Clarke, [Channel4](#)

**French Government to Seek Bids for First Sites for Offshore Wind Farms - Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

The French government will seek bidders to build the country's first offshore wind-power facilities, a project requiring total investment of 10 billion euros (\$13.6 billion), President Nicolas Sarkozy said, [Bloomberg](#)

**High heating oil prices spark Office of Fair Trading inquiry - Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Consumer complaints about high prices for heating oil this winter have led the Office of Fair Trading to launch inquiry into the UK's domestic market, [Telegraph](#)

**German-Danish consortium wins €240 million Gwynt y Mor turbine foundation contract - Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

RWE npower renewables has awarded a major wind power supply chain contract to a German-Danish consortium, [UtilityWeek](#)

**EC Commissioner backs CCS as key climate change technology - Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) stands out as one of the most important technological solutions if Europe is to achieve its goals for energy and climate change, insists the EU Commissioner for Energy, Gunther Oettinger, [Powergen](#)

**Row Over Crematorium Heating For Swimmers - Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Moves to warm a swimming pool with heat generated by an adjacent crematorium have sparked outrage, [Sky](#)

**French Network Operator RTE Begins Next-Day Forecasts for Wind Power - Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

French power grid operator RTE will start day-ahead forecasts of wind-power generation from today, it said at a press conference in Paris. It will start publishing the estimates today and update them hourly, [Bloomberg](#)

**Hendry approves Kent power station with enough power to supply 1.5m homes - Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Energy Minister Charles Hendry today gave the go-ahead for ScottishPower to construct a new 1,000 megawatt gas-fired power station near Hoo St Werburgh in Kent, adjacent to the existing Damhead Creek 800 MW gas-fired power station, [DECC](#)

**Cyber-attacks now the most feared EU energy threat - Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

In the wake of last week's cyber-fraud on the world's carbon market, a senior EU official has told EurActiv that of all threats to Europe's energy supply, cyber-attacks are "probably the most to be feared", [EurActiv](#)

**Feed in tariff fund aims for 12 per cent returns - Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011**



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An asset management fund launched today aiming to make 10-12 per cent returns from feed-in tariff investments by combining the FIT revenues with the tax relief available under the Enterprise Investment Scheme, [UtilityWeek](#)

**Caspian Sea oil find could be 'biggest this year' - Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Oil has been found by a ConocoPhillips-led consortium drilling in the waters of Kazakhstan, in what could be the biggest discovery this year, [Telegraph](#)

**UN: Dramatic greenhouse gas cuts are both achievable and affordable - Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Dramatic cuts in industrial emissions of the global warming greenhouse gases that threaten to drastically change Earth's climate are achievable in both developed and developing countries at acceptable cost with the right policies, the United Nations reported today, [UN](#)

**Cofely secures UK government funding for Southampton geothermal project - Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Cofely District Energy has secured £200,000 from DECC's Deep Geothermal Challenge Fund to part-fund the refit of the Southampton District Energy Scheme's deep geothermal well, [H&Vnews](#)

**Europe votes to ban industrial gas credits - Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Carbon credits gained by destroying controversial HFC-23 and nitrous oxide industrial gases will be banned from Europe's emissions trading scheme (ETS) after a vote by EU member-state representatives, [EurActiv](#)

**Solar-Panel Makers Will Avoid 'Hard Landing,' Goldman Sachs Report Says - Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Solar-panel makers will avoid a "hard landing" in 2011 and forecast that the industry will expand by 13 percent, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. said, [Bloomberg](#)

**Huhne visits proposed site of UK'S first new nuclear power station - Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

New nuclear programme moves to next stage as consultation on list of suitable sites closes, [DECC](#)

**National Grid lets redundancy plans slip - Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

National Grid yesterday sent employees details of potential job cuts after an unfinished document was emailed to staff by mistake. Up to 400 jobs are said to be under threat, [UtilityWeek](#)

**Siemens Renewable-Energy Unit to Add 2,000 Jobs This Year - Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011**

Siemens AG, Europe's largest engineering company, will add at least 2,000 jobs at its renewable-energy division this year, as the business expands to meet rising demand for clean energy, [Bloomberg](#)

**Hydrogen Fuel Cell Ferry for Bristol, UK - Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011**

The first hydrogen-powered ferry in the UK is planned for operation in Bristol Harbour in summer 2011, [FuelCellToday](#)

**Energy Saving Trust funding cut by half - Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011**

Department of Energy and Climate Change halves 2011-12 funding for energy-saving consumer body, [Guardian](#)

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## 3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

***Parliamentary Report - Commons***



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## Select Committees

The **Environmental Audit Committee** will hold an evidence session on its inquiry into the Green Investment Bank with the Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable MP on Wednesday 2 February 2011, in the Wilson Room, Portcullis House. Click [here](#) for further information.

The **Energy and Climate Change Committee** held an evidence session on its inquiry into electricity market reform on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011, with Dieter Helm, E3G, Oxera, Green Alliance, and Policy Exchange. Click [here](#) to watch the session.

The **Energy and Climate Change Committee** will hold an evidence session on its inquiry into electricity market reform on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 9.45 in the Thatcher Room, Portcullis House. Click [here](#) for further information.

The **Energy and Climate Change Committee** published a report on the energy National Policy Statements. Click [here](#) to read the report.

The **Communities and Local Government Committee** held an evidence session on its inquiry into localism on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011. 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: Combined Heat & Power - hospitals ([here](#)); CHP efficiency ([here](#)); energy supply ([here](#)); European Council on energy efficiency ([here](#)); tariff changes ([here](#)); sub critical reactors ([here](#)); energy profits ([here](#)); anti competitive practices - heating oil market ([here](#)); costs - domestic heating oil ([here](#)); regulation, heating oil market ([here](#)); cost - heating in rural areas ([here](#)); emissions - gas ([here](#)); renewable energy finance ([here](#)); solar farms ([here](#));

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

Topics included: international cooperation, climate change ([here](#)); pre-payment meters ([here](#)); social tariffs ([here](#)); fuel poverty ([here](#)); early review, FIT ([here](#)); warm front scheme ([here](#)); wind power - intermittency ([here](#)); finance onshore and offshore wind ([here](#));

Treasury answered a question on fuel duty for small businesses ([here](#)); and fuel prices ([here](#));

CLG answered a question on petitions and the localism bill ([here](#)); the cost of referendums ([here](#)); and planning permission appeals ([here](#));

Work and Pensions answered a question on winter fuel payments ([here](#));

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

Topics included: pre-payment meters ([here](#)); wind energy supply ([here](#)); energy efficiency, rented housing ([here](#)); energy regulation ([here](#)); vulnerable customers and heating oil ([here](#)); heat exchange pumps ([here](#)); methane - natural gas ([here](#)); the nuclear NPS ([here](#)); warm front ([here](#));

DCLG answered a question on neighbourhood planning ([here](#)); planning permission - solar power ([here](#));



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Work and pensions answered a question on winter fuel payments ([here](#));

DEFRA answered a question on biofuel crops ([here](#)); and carbon emissions from biofuels ([here](#));

Oral answers:

The Secretary of State for Scotland answered a question on renewable energy industries and China ([here](#));

**Thursday:** Oral Questions - (Browse the day's printed answers [here](#))

Topics included: central government emissions ([here](#)); electricity generation, wind power ([here](#)); peak oil ([here](#)); rural areas and LPG ([here](#)); radioactive waste ([here](#)); warm front finance ([here](#));

DEFRA answered a question on shale gas and drinking water ([here](#));

## Localism Bill Committee

Watch the sessions: Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011 ([here](#)) and ([here](#)); Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011 ([here](#)), ([here](#)) and ([here](#));

## Westminster Hall Debates

**Clive Betts MP** secured a Westminster Hall debate on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011 on Decent Homes. Read the debate [here](#).

## EDMs

**Gregory Campbell MP** tabled [EDM 1357](#) on utility charges and vulnerable groups, highlighting the additional charges placed on vulnerable groups who do not pay by direct debit.

## Parliamentary Report - Lords

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

- **Viscount Waverley** asked a question on natural gas supply([here](#));
- **Lord Stoddart of Swindon** asked a question on energy saving lightbulbs ([here](#));
- **Lord Reay** asked a question on solar PV ([here](#));
- **Viscount Montgomery of Alamein** asked a question on interconnectors ([here](#));
- **Viscount Waverley** asked a question on gas demand ([here](#));
- **Lord Reay** asked a question on FITs ([here](#));
- **Viscount Waverley** asked a question on imported gas ([here](#));

The Energy Bill is currently in Grand Committee ([here](#)); ([here](#))

## Reports

**ECC Committee report: The revised draft National Policy Statements on energy - Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

New Government rules on energy policy could lead to a second 'dash for gas', delaying critical investment in renewables and other low carbon technologies and making the UK's climate change targets impossible to achieve - MPs on the Energy and Climate Change Select Committee warn in a report published today. Click [here](#) for the report. Click [here](#) for the press release.



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## 4. EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

### Heat pump seminars

**Event:** Take advantage of the heat pump market

**Date:** 3rd February 2011: Daventry; 28th April 2011: Basingstoke

**Further details:** [click here](#)

### BRE Events:

**Event:** Regional FITs and RHI seminars

2 February, East Kilbride

8 February, Bristol

These half-day awareness seminars, delivered by independent experts with first-hand knowledge of FITs and RHI, will equip you with a clear understanding of the benefits of the schemes and address the options that should be considered before participating.

**Event:** Planning for solar farms: making money by cultivating a greener world

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> February,

**Location:** BRE, Watford

**Further information:** One day conference providing a clear understanding of the planning requirements and processes, and financial benefits of installing large-scale PV.

Visit [www.bre.co.uk/solarfarms](http://www.bre.co.uk/solarfarms) for more information

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