



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.

3rd December 2010: This Week's Headlines...

Japan derails climate talks by refusing to renew Kyoto treaty

[Independent](#) - [Guardian](#)

Cancun climate summit: UN calls for worldwide phase out of incandescent bulbs

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

MPs prepare to vote on daylight savings bill

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

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Upcoming PRASEG Events

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

Speakers: Lord Taylor of Holbeach, Government Spokesperson for Energy and Climate Change; Gaynor Hartnell, REA; Julian Kirby, Friends of the Earth; David Pickering, National Grid; CBI
Date: 7th December 2010
Time: 15:00 - 17:00
Location: Portcullis House, Boothroyd Room

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; Renewable UK;



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



Speakers: Charles Hendry MP, Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change; and Willie MacDiarmid, Chief Operating Officer, Eaga.
Sponsored by Eaga



2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES

Headline news

Japan derails climate talks by refusing to renew Kyoto treaty - Thurs, 2nd December 2010

The world's climate negotiations in Cancun were faced with deadlock at their outset yesterday after Japan insisted it would not agree to renewing the Kyoto Protocol, the current treaty under which rich countries are cutting their emissions of greenhouse gases, [Independent](#) - [Guardian](#)

Cancun climate summit: UN calls for worldwide phase out of incandescent bulbs - Fri, 3rd December 2010

Traditional light bulbs should be banned across the world as part of plans to help tackle climate change, according to a new United Nations report, [Telegraph](#) - [Guardian](#)

MPs prepare to vote on daylight savings bill - Fri, 3rd December 2010

Plans to make evenings lighter have support from road safety, environmental, tourism and sports groups, [Guardian](#) - [Guardian](#) - [BBC](#) - [BusinessGreen](#)

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Other news

Scottish hopes for Green Investment Bank - Fri, 3rd December 2010

The Scottish Secretary has put his support behind setting up the Green Investment Bank (GIB) in Scotland, [Edie](#)

Around world, thermometers point to 2010 being hottest year yet - Fri, 3rd December 2010

It may be snowing hard in Britain, but 2010 is on course to be the hottest year ever recorded for the world, figures released by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) indicated yesterday, [Independent](#)

Siemens sets up wind turbine factories in China and the US - Thurs, 2nd December 2010

Siemens has opened a wind turbine blade manufacturing plant in Shanghai, China, and a wind turbine nacelle production plant in Hutchinson, Kansas, as well as selecting Tillsonburg, Ontario, Canada for a Canadian wind turbine blade site, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

China Turns Negotiating Tables on U.S. in Stalled Climate Talks - Thurs, 2nd December 2010

The U.S. pressed China to do more at climate-change talks in Copenhagen last year. Now, as the U.S. falls short of its own goals, China may have gained more credibility in renewed negotiations by moving to clean up its energy industry, [Bloomberg](#)

DECC - Warm Home Discount' to provide money off energy bills - Thurs, 2nd December 2010

"Warm Home Discount is a practical way to provide tangible financial help on energy bills to more of the most vulnerable."(Chris Huhne), [DECC](#)

German solar PV installations to fall in 2011 - Thurs, 2nd December 2010

The global solar photovoltaic (PV) market is predicted to see double-digit growth in 2011, growing to 19 GW, but the German market is predicted to decline, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

E.ON sells stake in Gazprom for £2.8bn - Thurs, 2nd December 2010

E.ON has sold its 3.5 per cent stake in the Russian gas giant Gazprom for £2.8bn. The German utility group,



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which is raising money to expand outside Europe, sold 2.7 per cent to the Russian state bank VEB and 0.8 per cent on the stock market, [UtilityWeek](#)

Cancún climate change conference: 2010 to rank in top three hottest years - Thurs, 2nd December 2010
2010 will almost certainly be one of the three warmest years since 1850, according to the World Meteorological Organisation, [Guardian](#)

Russian oil flows to Central Europe 'to dry up' - Thurs, 2nd December 2010
Russia's growing oil exports to Asia and the Baltic have unsettled European traders and refiners, who fear shortages on the Black Sea and in Central Europe should Russian output stall or decline, [EurActiv](#)

Sterecycle points to opportunity left by PFI gap - Thurs, 2nd December 2010
The withdrawal of PFI funding from seven projects could present an opportunity for affected councils to develop alternative or untested waste treatment technologies, according to autoclave specialist Sterecycle, [LetsRecycle](#)

London mayor to gain HCA powers - Thurs, 2nd December 2010
Eric Pickles has confirmed plans to devolve housing investment powers from the London Homes and Communities Agency to City Hall will be included in the coming Localism Bill, [InsideHousing](#)

Emissions Performance Standards Needed to Meet U.K. Carbon Goals, MPs Say - Thurs, 2nd December 2010
Emissions performance standards limiting the amount of carbon dioxide produced by U.K. power stations are needed to meet climate change targets, according to an Energy and Climate Change Committee report released today, [Bloomberg](#)

Green restrictions on power stations 'could make bills unaffordable' - Thurs, 2nd December 2010
New environmental restrictions on coal stations and ultimately gas stations will raise energy prices, possibly to "unaffordable" levels, according to MPs, [Telegraph](#)

Defra publishes plan to increase AD uptake - Weds, 1st December 2010
Defra has published the Coalition Government's first draft anaerobic digestion action plan, which aims to increase the uptake of the technology across the UK, [LetsRecycle](#)

Anaerobic digestion strategy makes advances - Weds, 1st December 2010
The government have published a document setting out the steps needed to increase energy from waste in England through anaerobic digestion (AD), [Eddie](#)

Planning Permission for Combined Heat and Power Plant Denied - Weds, 1st December 2010
An application for planning permission for a combined heat and power plant in Balrath, Co. Meath has been turned down. The planning permission, originally granted by Meath County Council, was rejected by an Bord Planeála due to local objections, [IrishEnergyNews](#)

China is global renewables leader - Weds, 1st December 2010
China now leads the world in the renewable energy sector, according to a report by Ernst & Young, overtaking the US, which topped the indices up to May 2010, [Eddie](#)

More capacity in use at Isle of Grain LNG terminal - Weds, 1st December 2010
National Grid has brought its second capacity extension at the Isle of Grain into commercial operation. The company said the expansion of the LNG import facility had been completed to time and budget, [UtilityWeek](#)

Low Carbon Networks Fund 'very little, very late' say critics - Weds, 1st December 2010



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Ofgem's Low Carbon Networks Fund has been criticised for lacking ambition by Ernst & Young. The firm said the £62 million awarded this week to CE Networks, UK Power Networks, Western Power Distribution and Central Networks "seemed very little, very late", [UtilityWeek](#)

France is Planning to Reduce Subsidies for Solar Power, Les Echos Reports - Tues, 30th November 2010
The French government is preparing a plan to cut subsidies for solar energy, Les Echos reported, citing people it didn't identify, [Bloomberg](#)

France Must Triple Tax to Pay EDF's Solar Costs, Watchdog Says - Tues, 30th November 2010
A French tax on electricity must be almost tripled next year to pay for a seven-fold increase in subsidies for solar energy paid for by Electricite de France SA, according to the energy watchdog, [Bloomberg](#)

New energy sources vital to tackle climate change - Tues, 30th November 2010
The president of the UK Royal Society, Lord Rees, has said that it is "essential" for governments to prepare for the worst effects of climate change, [BBC](#)

Ed Miliband's green energy targets 'unrealistic' - Tues, 30th November 2010
A "greater sense of urgency and purpose" is needed at the Department of Energy and Climate Change (Decc) to help meet targets agreed while Labour were in power, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) said, [Telegraph](#)

UK economic recovery 'poses threat to environment' - Tues, 30th November 2010
Any emergence from recession may erode shift towards more sustainable lifestyles, warns EU report, [Guardian](#)

UK awards £62m to smart grid projects - Tues, 30th November 2010
The UK energy regulator Ofgem has awarded £62 million to four smart grid projects as part of the low-carbon networks fund competition, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

Electric Cars to Reach 20% of U.K. Vehicle Sales by 2016, Grid Chief Says - Tues, 30th November 2010
Electric cars will make up 20 percent of U.K. auto sales by 2016 as drivers take advantage of government subsidies and lower fuel costs, according to National Grid Plc Chief Executive Officer Steve Holliday, [Bloomberg](#)

DECC statistical release: estimates of home insulation levels in Great Britain, July 2010 - Tues, 30th November 2010
DECC is publishing estimates of the number of homes in Great Britain with loft and cavity wall insulation, [DECC](#)

Costain in talks over Belvedere power plant after key contractor files for insolvency - Tues, 30th November 2010
Construction group Costain has entered into talks about the financing of the Belvedere power plant in London after one of its key contractors filed for insolvency, [Telegraph](#)

Hedge Funds Raise Natural Gas Wagers to Four-Month High: Energy Markets - Tues, 30th November 2010
Hedge funds increased bullish bets on natural gas to the highest level in four months on speculation that lower-than-normal temperatures will bolster heating demand and trigger withdrawals from record stockpiles, [Bloomberg](#)

£54m smart grid project approved - Tues, 30th November 2010
PLANS to run Britain's biggest "smart grid", a £54m scheme to test green technology on thousands of homes and businesses in the North, have been approved, [TheNorthernEcho](#)



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Retrofit could suffer as CRC faces delay - Tues, 30th November 2010

Senior industry figures have questioned the government's commitment to green initiatives after energy secretary Chris Huhne delayed the implementation of the carbon reduction commitment energy efficiency scheme, [H&Vnews](#)

Scottish & Southern, GDF Suez and Iberdrola form NuGeneration consortium to build UK nuclear power plant - Tues, 30th November 2010

Three more energy companies have officially joined the race to build nuclear plants in Britain, forming a consortium called NuGeneration, [Telegraph](#)

Rising Seas Portend 'End of History' for Islands as UN Climate Goals Slip - Tues, 30th November 2010

The Maldives, Kiribati and Tuvalu risk extinction from rising seas because nations aren't stepping up commitments to cut greenhouse gases, a bloc of 43 island countries said as United Nations climate talks began in Mexico, [Bloomberg](#)

New research shows reporting greenhouse gas emissions benefits business - Tues, 30th November 2010

New research has found that British businesses voluntarily reporting their greenhouse gas emissions experience benefits such as cost savings, improved green credentials, and better relations with investors and customers, [Defra](#)

"Ground-breaking" study gets underway into waste heat storage - Mon, 29th November 2010

A group of experts are to begin a study into the feasibility of capturing and using waste heat from power stations for warming homes and offices, [GreenwiseBusiness](#)

RWE examines spoil heap potential - Mon, 29th November 2010

Spoil heaps could prove to be valuable sites for integrated renewable energy schemes, according to RWE, [UtilityWeek](#)

Climate change scientists warn of 4C global temperature rise - Mon, 29th November 2010

Team of experts say such an increase would cause severe droughts and see millions of migrants seeking refuge, [Guardian](#)

Carbon Trust identifies energy saving opportunities - Mon, 29th November 2010

The Carbon Trust claims to have identified immediate opportunities for the public sector to achieve net savings of £1 billion through energy efficiency projects, [H&Vnews](#)

Brussels tables alternative funding plan for ITER - Mon, 29th November 2010

Faced with a deadlock over the EU's 2011 budget, the European Commission will present today (26 November) "an alternative approach" to fund the bloc's multi-billion euro ITER project for nuclear fusion, [EurActiv](#)

Putin warns EU energy laws hurt business - Mon, 29th November 2010

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin warned yesterday (25 November) that European legislation aimed at liberalising energy markets could hinder investment and undermine future cooperation with the European Union, [EurActiv](#)

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3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY



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Parliamentary Report - Commons

Select Committees

The **Environmental Audit Committee** held an evidence session on its inquiry into the Green Investment Bank on Wednesday 1st December. Click [here](#) to watch the session.

The **Energy and Climate Change Committee** held an evidence session on its inquiry into the revised draft national policy statements on energy on Tuesday 30th November. Click [here](#) to watch the session.

The **Energy and Climate Change Committee** announced a one-off evidence session with the 'Big Six' energy companies on Tuesday 7 December 2010 in Committee room 15, Palace of Westminster. Click [here](#) for further information.

The **Communities and Local Government Committee** held an evidence session on its inquiry into localism on Monday 29th November. Click [here](#) to watch the session.

The **Business Innovation and Skills Committee** held an evidence session on its inquiry into government assistance to industry. Click [here](#) for further information.

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: EU ETS ([here](#)); RHI ([here](#));

BIS answered a question on the expansion of the EU ETS ([here](#)).

DfID answered a question on fossil fuel aid ([here](#)); and energy export credit guarantee ([here](#)).

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

Topics included: biofuels ([here](#)); coal mining ([here](#)); the Climate Change Act ([here](#)); the pan European Supergrid ([here](#)); the accreditation of builders for retrofitting ([here](#)); energy bill transparency ([here](#)); minimum energy efficiency for rented housing ([here](#)); fuel poverty ([here](#)); renewable energy funding ([here](#)); renewable energy FIT ([here](#)); Renewables Obligation ([here](#)); warm front ([here](#)); planning permission for wind power ([here](#)).

CLG answered questions on CHP ([here](#)); and home insulation ([here](#)).

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

Topics included: the Carbon Reduction Commitment ([here](#)); natural gas ([here](#)); and energy prices ([here](#)).

Defra answered questions on biofuels ([here](#)); and business carbon emissions ([here](#)).

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

Topics included: assumptions on global carbon prices for 2030 ([here](#)); energy supply costs ([here](#)); heat pumps and fluorocarbons ([here](#)); the construction of nuclear power stations ([here](#)); renewable energy ([here](#)); and renewable energy finance ([here](#)).



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On Thursday the Secretary of State for Scotland answered **oral answers** to MPs questions on energy ([here](#)).

Written Statements

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government made a statement on London reforms and the Localism Bill ([here](#)).

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change made a statement on the Warm Home Discount Scheme ([here](#)).

EDMs

Stephen Gilbert MP tabled **EDM 1100** on Monday 29th November entitled *Deep Geothermal Heat and Power*.

Alex Cunningham MP tabled **EDM 1129** on Thursday 2nd December entitled *Safety in the UK Offshore Oil and Gas Industry*.

Parliamentary Report - Lords

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

- **Lord Barnett** asked a question on the Green Investment Bank([here](#));
- **Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke** asked a question compensation for the National Coal Board([here](#));
- **Baroness Smith of Basildon** asked a question on forestry land in the UK and carbon emissions ([here](#));
- **Lord Stoddart of Swindon** asked a question on subsidies for the German Coal Industry ([here](#));
- **Baroness Smith of Basildon** asked a question on the role of Ofgem ([here](#));
- **Lord Stoddart of Swindon** asked a question on biofuels ([here](#));
- **Lord Berkeley** asked a question on the Carbon Reduction Commitment ([here](#));
- **Lord Taylor of Warwick** asked a question on the priorities at the Cancun negotiations ([here](#));

Reports

Energy and Climate Change Committee report: *Emissions Performance Standard* - Wednesday 1st December 2010

Coalition plans to introduce an Emissions Performance Standard (EPS) - to limit emissions from power stations - are necessary to meet the UK's carbon budgets and develop new technology, but are likely to increase energy prices, according to a new report by MPs on the Energy and Climate Change Committee. The Committee warn that existing policies will not deliver adequate investment in new low-carbon electricity generating capacity for the 2020s -2030s - and risk locking us into a costly high-carbon energy system

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

Government Response to Energy and Climate Change Committee report: *The Future of Britain's Electricity Networks: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report of Session* - Monday 29th November 2010

The Government welcomes the Select Committee's report on "The future of Britain's electricity networks". The report identifies the vital role of the underlying electricity network infrastructure in delivering our energy and climate change targets, and the importance of greater and more strategic investment and the transition towards a smarter grid.

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



Defra report: *Developing an AD Framework* - Wednesday 1st December 2010

A Combined Heat & Power Association (CHPA), LDA Design and Town & Country Planning Association (TCPA) guide, outlines a straightforward step-by-step approach to the challenge of creating a successful and efficient community energy scheme.

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

CHPA report: *Community Energy - planning, development and delivery* - November 2010

An anaerobic digestion framework document was today published by the Government that sets out the steps it believes are needed to increase energy from waste in England through anaerobic digestion (AD). This document is an invitation to work with Government on the strategy and the deadline for expressing interest in participating is 12 December 2010. AD has the potential to meet several major challenges by reducing greenhouse gases from manure and waste management, and producing renewable energy without causing significant adverse land-use change, as well as diverting waste from landfill.

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

Association for the Conservation of Energy report: *A Fair Green Deal* - November 2010

This paper examines the potential for ensuring Green Deal finance is flexible enough to be accessible and beneficial to fuel poor and low income households. Based on what is currently proposed, the Green Deal risks being neither. We have applied the principle of fairness to the Green Deal, and developed a concept for Green Deal finance repayments to be uniquely adjusted and supported where necessary to ensure that every household might genuinely consider a Green Deal offer as attractive and stand to gain from it. We have assessed how this stacks up financially across all fuel poor households and addressed searching questions on comfort-taking, the costs of delivery and administration, information requirements and changing household circumstances under such a scheme. We conclude that it is crucial to ensure that the legislation which enables the Green Deal is designed flexibly enough to encourage and facilitate modifications to the scheme such as those we put forward in this paper. We cannot afford to miss our fuel poverty targets, and as such we cannot afford to miss the opportunity to extend the Green Deal's reach to those less well off.

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

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4. EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

All Party Ports and Maritime Group

Event: Renewable energy: the challenges and opportunities for UK ports

Date: 7 December at 17-18:00

Speakers: Peter Jones, CEO of ABP Ports, and either Charles Hammond or Derek McGlashan from Forth Ports

Further information: John.Stevenson@freshwater-uk.com

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



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Location: Church House, Westminster

More information: [Click here](#)

The Rushlight Awards promote and celebrate the leading energy, resource and environmental technologies and innovations by organizations throughout UK and Ireland.

With 24 separate categories covering renewable energy, clean fuels, energy efficiency, power generation, green products and services, water, waste and environmental monitoring and management, these awards will highlight the technologies and innovations that are shaping the energy, transport, environment and industry sectors in the future. If you have developed a technology or innovation that is pertinent to one of these categories, then do not hesitate to enter as you have so much to gain:

- There are over £100,000 worth of prizes to be won
- As an RSA accredited event, all group category winners will automatically be nominated for the UK entries for the European Business Awards for the Environment and all entrants.
- All entrants can be included in the Book of Entries published each year
- All entrants are eligible for a significant discount on the price of a stand at the Rushlight Clean Technologies Show on 27 January 2011 at Central Hall Westminster, London

The Rushlight Awards 2010 are now open for entries. The closing date for entries is 31 October 2010 and the Gala Awards Dinner will follow on 27 January 2011 at Church House Westminster, London.

Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy

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

Further information: [click here](#)

Energy Institute Event

Event: Oil supply and energy security'

Date: 7 December 2010

Speakers: (Chair) Professor Martin Fry CEng FEI, Visiting Professor of City University; (Speakers) Dieter Helm CBE FEI, Professor of Energy Policy, The University of Oxford; Richard de Caux, Oil Demand Analyst, Group Economics, BP; Graham Smith OBE, Managing Director, Toyota Motor Europe London Office; Melissa Stark, Senior Executive, Accenture; Jeff Jupp, Acting Chairman, RAeS Greener By Design Executive; Dr Roger Bentley MEI, Visiting Research Fellow, Department of Cybernetics, University of Reading; Andrew Dobbie, DECC; Hugh Ebbutt, Vice President, CRA International; John Hemming MP, Chair, APPGOPO; Paul Huggins, Head of Enhanced Capital Allowance Team; and Chris Skrebowski FEI, Consulting Editor, Petroleum Review.

Further information: [Gemma Wilkinson](#)

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