



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.

4th February 2011: This Week's Headlines...

Statistical release: UK greenhouse gas emissions 2009

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

UK emissions trading system reopens after £100M loss

[Edie](#) - [DECC](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [The Engineer](#)

Wind of change - renewables industry reveals jobs 'bonanza'

[BusinessGreen](#) - [Energy Saving Trust](#) - [Green Wise](#) - [Bloomberg](#) - [Click Green](#)

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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: 17th 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) or Piya Malik, FPEEG (Malikp@parliament.uk)

PRASEG Seminar Planning reform: implications for renewables

Date: 16th 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



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; and Meg Hillier MP, Shadow Secretary of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change. *Other speakers TBC.*

2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES

Headline news



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Statistical release: UK greenhouse gas emissions 2009 - Tues, 1st February 2011

Responding to the publication, Chris Huhne said: "Yes, emissions were down in 2009 but so was the economy so this is no time for back slapping. A low carbon approach has to be a vital part of kick starting and future proofing our economy, getting us off the oil hook and onto long term green growth. That's why we're wasting no time in reforming the electricity market, setting up the Green Investment Bank, and legislating for the Green Deal.", [DECC](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Guardian](#)

UK emissions trading system reopens after £100M loss - Friday, 4th February 2011

The UK's emissions trading system reopened this morning after a Europe-wide shut down which cost business at estimated £100 million, [Edie](#) - [DECC](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [The Engineer](#)

Wind of change - renewables industry reveals jobs 'bonanza' - Tues, 1st February 2011

New figures show employment in the wind and marine energy industry has almost doubled over last three years, [BusinessGreen](#) - [Energy Saving Trust](#) - [Green Wise](#) - [Bloomberg](#) - [Click Green](#)

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Other news

When it comes to wind farms, I don't feel bad about nimbyism - Fri, 4th February 2011

Whatever the government may say, wind turbines are not necessarily a good thing, [Guardian](#)

CSP market set for 2011 solar boom - Thurs, 3rd February 2011

The market for concentrated solar power (CSP) will reach gigawatt scale this year, according to Lux Research, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

EU needs €2.2 trillion to meet carbon targets - Thurs, 3rd February 2011

Europe must bridge a €2.2trillion (£1.9trn) "carbon capital chasm" if it is to meet 2020 carbon emissions reduction targets, [Independent](#)

Gas demand falls as insulation rates rise - Thurs, 3rd February 2011

British Gas figures show 22 per cent drop in household demand for gas as energy efficiency measures take effect, [BusinessGreen](#)

GE Will Start Making Wind Power Equipment in Turkey, Vice Chairman Says - Thurs, 3rd February 2011

General Electric Co. will start making wind power equipment in Turkey, vice chairman John Krenicki said, [Bloomberg](#)

Oil industry gushing as deals soar on rising price of crude - Thurs, 3rd February 2011

ACTIVITY in the global oil and gas sector looks set to continue rising after a surge in the value and volume of deals last year, according to a report published today, [Scotsman](#)

Shell profits double to \$18.6bn, boosted by high oil prices - Thurs, 3rd February 2011

Higher oil prices have helped doubled profits at Royal Dutch Shell this year, allowing it to steam ahead of rival energy giant BP, [Telegraph](#)

Exclusive: Vestas poised for Isle of Wight recruitment drive - Thurs, 3rd February 2011

New R&D centre on track to open this summer, potentially creating 100 new jobs, [BusinessGreen](#)

World Energy Can Be 95% Renewable by 2050, WWF Report Says - Thurs, 3rd February 2011

Almost all of the world's demand for energy for electricity, transportation and heating could be met from renewable sources such as wind, solar and geothermal power by 2050, WWF International and Ecofys said,



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Bloomberg

Obama to Back New Steps Encouraging Energy-Efficient Buildings in the U.S - Thurs, 3rd February 2011
President Barack Obama will back new tax incentives and government financing to make buildings more energy efficient as a way to cut energy costs and encourage job growth, according to an administration statement, [Bloomberg](#)

Solar industry concern about EU energy finance model - Weds, 2nd February 2011
The solar photovoltaic (PV) industry has expressed concern about the European Commission's latest proposals to finance renewable energy, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

Global solar PV investment could double to €70bn by 2015 - Weds, 2nd February 2011
Global investment in solar photovoltaic (PV) technology could more than double to €70bn (£59.7bn) a year by 2015, provided that governments deliver the financial incentives and policies required to achieve grid parity, [BusinessGreen](#)

Electricity from waste heat - Weds, 2nd February 2011
Turning waste heat from buildings, and even vehicles, into electricity is being explored by researchers at Denmark's Risø DTU, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

U.K. Power Contracts Will Undermine Market Importance, SSE Says - Weds, 2nd February 2011
Long-term contracts between the U.K. government and energy companies to drive investment into nuclear power will "fundamentally undermine the importance of the market," according to Scottish & Southern Energy Plc, [Bloomberg](#)

EU subsidies fuel controversial coal plant in Slovenia - Weds, 2nd February 2011
Environmentalists are warning that a new coal plant which has secured €770 million of loans from European financial institutions risks turning the EU's 2050 climate goals into a "laughing stock", [EurActiv](#)

BP faces US investigation into gas market manipulation - Weds, 2nd February 2011
BP, the oil company struggling to restore its image in the United States following the Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster, may face charges relating to manipulation of the US gas market, [Telegraph](#)

Zero Carbon Hub success secures future funding - Weds, 2nd February 2011
Speaking to a packed audience of more than 330 delegates at the Zero Carbon Hub's Inaugural Annual Conference yesterday, Chairman Paul King announced funding for the Zero Carbon Hub had been secured for the next financial year, to March 2012, [UKGBC](#)

Fear councils putting green targets at risk - Weds, 2nd February 2011
SCOTLAND risks missing its green targets because councils lack clear environmental policies, a study of local authorities has found, [HeraldScotland](#)

UK wind energy employment rises 91% - Weds, 2nd February 2011
The number of people employed in the wind energy industry in the UK has risen by 91%, according to a study by RenewableUK, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

BP posts \$4.9bn loss but resumes dividend - Tues, 1st February 2011
BP, Europe's second largest oil company, reported its first annual loss since 1992 on Tuesday as it resumed dividend payments for the first time since they were suspended at the height of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster, [Telegraph](#)

We will convert waste heat into electricity - Tues, 1st February 2011



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The Danish Council for Strategic Research has granted nearly 18 million to the project OTE POWER (Oxide thermoelectrics for effective power generation from waste heat) for a period of 4 years, [FirstScience](#)

World's most efficient solar cells ready for use in the UK - Tues, 1st February 2011

A manufacturer of what is believed to be the world's most efficient solar units announced on February 1 that the cells have achieved MCS accreditation and are now ready for use in the UK, [Independent](#)

French Terms for Offshore Wind-Energy Projects to Be Published in May - Tues, 1st February 2011

France will published in May the terms for tenders for 3,000 megawatts of offshore wind energy, Industry Minister Eric Besson told a conference in Paris today, [Bloomberg](#)

Prime ministers to seal North-South gas corridor - Tues, 1st February 2011

On the eve of the 4 February EU energy summit, several prime ministers will gather in Brussels to mark their agreement for the North-South gas corridor, a project aimed at removing internal bottlenecks for gas transport, [EurActiv](#)

CCC advise Scotland to cut emissions by 3.5% a year - Tues, 1st February 2011

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) today advised the Scottish Government to cut emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 3.5% each year from 2020 to 2050, as a 'fair and safe' contribution to tackling climate change, [CCC](#)

Republicans launch all-out assault on Obama's climate strategy - Tues, 1st February 2011

New bill would cripple EPA if passed, but president secures key Senate ally in fight for clean-energy standards, [BusinessGreen](#)

Vattenfall, SSE join with three partners to explore UK-Norway link - Tues, 1st February 2011

Five north European energy companies have signed a cooperation agreement to plan and build an electrical interconnector between the UK and Norway, [UtilityWeek](#)

'Substantial investment' in Scottish refinery - Tues, 1st February 2011

GRANGEMOUTH is expected to receive a substantial investment after it was revealed that Petro-China's deal with Ineos for a 50 per cent stake in its refineries was worth \$1 billion (£630m), [Scotsman](#)

Oliver Letwin could break deadlock over green investment bank - Tues, 1st February 2011

Minister of state is proposing to set up the beleaguered bank 'off balance sheet', allowing it to trade in far bigger sums, [Guardian](#)

NHS SDU launching new 'route map' for sustainability - Tues, 1st February 2011

Health service 'route map' sets out measures to meet greenhouse gas targets, [Guardian](#)

U.K. Wind Energy Employment Surges 91 Percent, Lobby Group Says - Tues, 1st February 2011

Employment in the U.K. wind power industry has surged 91 percent in three years, the RenewableUK lobby group said today, [Bloomberg](#)

Trade talks could wreck climate change measures, campaigners warn - Tues, 1st February 2011

Protests staged in London during attempt to promote Canadian tar sands as energy source, [BusinessGreen](#)

Barker floats plan for South West marine energy park - Tues, 1st February 2011

Minister supports proposals for marine energy innovation hub, [BusinessGreen](#)

Green deal extended to new homes - Tues, 1st February 2011

The government is extending its green deal programme for energy efficiency improvements to new build



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homes, the housing minister announced today, [InsideHousing](#)

Report: Germany mulling further cuts to solar subsidy - Mon, 31st January 2011

The German government is considering further cuts to its popular solar power feed-in tariff incentive scheme, according to reports late last week, [BusinessGreen](#)

Public belief in climate change weathers storm, poll shows - Mon, 31st January 2011

Events of past 18 months have little effect on Britons' opinion, as 83% view climate change as a current or imminent threat, [Guardian](#)

GE, ConocoPhillips and NRG team up in \$300m clean tech push - Mon, 31st January 2011

Newly formed Energy Technology Ventures to invest in 30 early-stage firms over the next four years, [BusinessGreen](#)

Commission gives approval to GDF Suez-International Power deal - Mon, 31st January 2011

The proposed merger between International Power of the UK and the international operations of GDF Suez has won the approval of the European Commission, [UtilityWeek](#)

EU Energy Commissioner Calls For 70 Billion Euro Investment In Renewable Energy To Meet EU 2020 Targets - Mon, 31st January 2011

EU member states need to double their investment to 70 Billion Euros in renewable energy each year, EU Energy commissioner Günther Oettinger said earlier today, [eGov](#)

Europe's renewable boom dampened by onshore wind slowdown - Mon, 31st January 2011

New figures show renewable energy sector is continuing to grow, as European Commission calls for unified subsidy regime, [BusinessGreen](#)

Expiration of Kyoto Would Mean Little for CO2 Markets, EU Says - Mon, 31st January 2011

The possible expiration of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012 would mean "very little" for carbon markets because they are driven by national targets, a senior European Union official said, [Bloomberg](#)

Government to develop 'Silicon Valley' for marine energy after Google guidance - Mon, 31st January 2011

The Government will today unveil its plans for Britain's first marine energy park - a multi-million pound project designed to be the "Silicon Valley" for developing the technology to produce electricity from the sea, [Telegraph](#)

BP to cut production amid impact of Deepwater Horizon spill - Sunday, 30th January 2011

Bob Dudley, BP's chief executive, will scrap the company's production targets when he lays out his vision this week for a smaller, more exploration-focused company after last April's Gulf of Mexico disaster, [Guardian](#)

Siemens Plans Record R&D Spending in 2011 to Harness Clean-Energy Demand - Fri, 28th January 2011

Siemens AG, Europe's largest engineering company, plans to raise spending on research and development to 4.5 billion euros (\$6.2 billion) in 2011 as it pours more money into its range of energy-saving equipment, [Bloomberg](#)

In Symbolic Move, Philadelphia Calls for Shale Gas Drilling Ban - Fri, 28th January 2011

As the federal government continues to study a controversial gas drilling technique and the states tinker with their own regulations, some cities and towns are trying to halt local drilling, [ProPublica](#)

Russia, ExxonMobil seal \$1bn Black Sea oil deal - Fri, 28th January 2011

US-based ExxonMobil, the biggest privately-controlled oil company in the world, will make a new



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investment in Russia for the first time in over a decade as Moscow seeks to thaw its frosty investor climate and keep its oil flowing, [EurActiv](#)

Defra's UK climate-proofing plans unveiled - Fri, 28th January 2011

Roads built to the same standards as the scorching south of France; fish moved from the overheated Lake District to cooler waters in Scotland; lighthouses threatened by rising seas, [BBC](#)

Scientists Found Chemical Dispersants Lingering in Gulf Long After Oil Flow Stopped - Thurs, 27th January 2011

Chemical compounds from the oil dispersants applied to the Gulf of Mexico didn't break down as expected, according to a study released this week, [ProPublica](#)

Growth in German wind capacity 20% below forecast - Thurs, 27th January 2011

Latest data collected by the German Wind Energy Institute showed that some 1,551 MW of capacity was built last year against an expected figure of 1,900 MW, [UtilityWeek](#)

Low gas prices may force producers to shift 'unsustainable' business model - Thurs, 27th January 2011

Despite persistently low gas prices, US gas producers have made few changes to their overall business strategies, and some believe these companies in 2011 could begin to move toward a model that focuses more on return on capital, opposed to production growth, [Platts](#)

The coal boom: What is good news for miners is bad news for the environment - Thurs, 27th January 2011

IN RICH countries, where people worry about air quality and debate ways of pricing carbon emissions, coal is deeply unfashionable. Elsewhere demand for the dirty rocks has never been stronger, [Economist](#)

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3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

Parliamentary Report - Commons

Select Committees

The **Environmental Audit Committee** held an evidence session on its inquiry into the Green Investment Bank with the Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable MP. Click [here](#) for further information.

The **Energy and Climate Change Committee** held an evidence session on its inquiry into electricity market reform. Click [here](#) for further information.

The **Energy and Climate Change Committee** will hold an evidence session on its inquiry into electricity market reform on Tuesday, 8th February 2011, in Committee Room 19. Riverstone, Citigroup Global Markets, Virgin green Fund, Climate Change Capital; RSPB, Greenpeace, WWF, and Friends of the Earth will present evidence.

The **Energy and Climate Change Committee** will hold an evidence session on its inquiry into shale gas reform on Wednesday, 9th February 2011, in Committee Room 16. Nigel Smith, British Geological Survey, and Professor Richard Selley, Imperial College London; WWF, and Tyndall Manchester will present evidence.

Parliamentary Questions



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The **written answers** to MPs' questions published this week by DECC are summarised below.

Monday: (Browse the day's printed answer [here](#))

Topics included: Biofuels - food supply ([here](#)); electricity generation costs ([here](#)); energy bills - vulnerable customers ([here](#)); fuel poverty - vulnerable customers ([here](#));

DWP answered a question on Cold Weather Payments ([here](#));

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

Topics included: Energy Saving Trust - finance ([here](#)); energy supply costs ([here](#)); Green Deal - available measures ([here](#)); fuel prices - adverse impacts ([here](#)); shale gas ([here](#));

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

Topics included: secondments to DECC from energy companies ([here](#)); domestic oil heating ([here](#)); LPG ([here](#)); shale gas ([here](#)); natural gas reserves ([here](#));

DCLG answered a question on the Localism Bill ([here](#)); and solar power on brownfield sites ([here](#)).

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

Topics included: biofuels ([here](#)); carbon emissions - EU targets ([here](#)); the CRC EE Scheme ([here](#)); the number of coal fired power stations in operation ([here](#)); electricity grid upgrade ([here](#)); energy efficiency target 2020 ([here](#)); offgrid energy supply ([here](#)); energy prices ([here](#)); fuel poverty ([here](#));

DCLG answered a question on the Localism Bill ([here](#)); and ([here](#)); public building emissions ([here](#));

DWP answered a question on Winter Fuel Payments ([here](#));

Petitions

Neil Parish MP presented a petition on Feed-in Tariffs ([here](#));

Parliamentary Report - Lords

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

- Lord Jenkin of Roding asked a question on fraud and the EU ETS ([here](#));
- Lord Stoddart of Swindon asked a question on energy saving lightbulbs ([here](#));
- Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked a question on the Localism Bill ([here](#));
- Lord Tebbit asked a question on electricity generation ([here](#));
- Lord Donoughue asked a question on offshore wind ([here](#));
- Lord Laird asked a question on Winter Fuel Payments ([here](#));
- Lord Bradshaw asked a question on fraud and the EU ETS ([here](#));
- Lord Laird asked a question on fuel poverty ([here](#));
- Lord Lawson of Blaby asked a question on low carbon energy prices ([here](#));
- Lord Donoughue asked a question on subsidies for wind turbines ([here](#));
- Lord Laird asked a question on fuel poverty ([here](#));
- Lord Lawson of Blaby asked a question on low carbon energy prices ([here](#));
- Lord Donoughue asked a question on subsidies for wind turbines ([here](#));

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



Reports

WWF report: The Energy Report - 100% renewable energy by 2050 - Thursday, 3rd February 2011

This report is a WWF and Ecofys collaborative work which shows that all of the world's energy needs could be provided cleanly, renewably and economically. It demonstrates that by 2050, power, transport, industrial and domestic energy needs could be met overwhelmingly from renewable sources vastly reducing anxieties over energy security, pollution and not least, catastrophic climate change. The report also investigates the most critically important political, economic, environmental and social choices and challenges and encourages their further debate.

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

Greenpeace report: Battle of the Grids - Tuesday, 18th January 2011

Europe's electricity grid is characterised by big, polluting power stations pumping out constant energy, regardless of consumer need. Climate policy and consumer demand are hurtling us towards a smarter, more efficient Europe-wide grid opening up vast new technological, business and consumer opportunities. Taken with Greenpeace's 2010 Energy [R]evolution report, Battle of the Grids builds on Greenpeace's earlier Renewables 24/7 study. It is a how to manual for the kind of system we need to deliver 68 percent renewable energy by 2030 and nearly 100 percent by 2050.

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

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4. EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

Heat pump seminar

Event: Take advantage of the heat pump market

Date: 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: 17th 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 for more information

Committee on Climate Change Event:

Event: Climate Change Briefing ahead of Fourth Carbon Budget Debate

Date: Tuesday 15th February 2011, 11 - 1pm

Location: Attlee Suite, Portcullis House

Further information: The Committee published their fourth Carbon Budget report covering the period 2023 - 2027 in December 2010. This report sets the Committee's advice on the fourth carbon budget, as required under Section 4 of the Climate Change Act; Parliament is due to debate the fourth carbon budget in Spring



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2011 and the Government will propose draft legislation in Summer 2011. Come to this briefing to learn more about the fourth carbon budget recommendations and other information on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the UK.
events@theccc.gsi.gov.uk

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