



# 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).

## 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011: This Week's Headlines...

### Greg Barker clashes with building industry over coalition's Green Deal plans

[BusinessGreen](#)

### Nervous marine industry knows budget decisions could mean sink or swim

[BusinessGreen](#) - [Virgin Media](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Click Green](#) - [Guardian](#) - [The Mirror](#) - [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

### Chris Huhne fears \$160 oil shock like 1970s

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

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# Upcoming PRASEG Events

## **PRASEG and FPEEG Seminar**

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

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> 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:** 7<sup>th</sup> 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***

**Greg Barker clashes with building industry over coalition's Green Deal plans - Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**  
Minister rejects accusations flagship scheme is overly complex and struggling to secure business buy-in, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Nervous marine industry knows budget decisions could mean sink or swim - Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011**  
The UK is on the cusp of creating a world-beating marine energy industry, but experts fear policy uncertainty could undermine long-term prospects, [BusinessGreen](#) - [Virgin Media](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Click Green](#) - [Guardian](#) - [The Mirror](#) - [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

**Chris Huhne fears \$160 oil shock like 1970s - Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011**  
The threat of an oil shock like that of the 1970s caused by prices at \$160 per barrel can no longer be ignored, according to Chris Huhne, Britain's energy secretary, [Telegraph](#) - [Guardian](#) - [DECC](#)

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## **Other news**

### **Green light for new South Derbyshire power station - Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Energy Minister Charles Hendry today gave the go-ahead for RWE npower proposals to construct a new gas power plant at Willington, South Derbyshire, [DECC](#)

### **UK businesses to receive £550m in green loans - Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Three-year deal between Siemens and the Carbon Trust will provide funding for energy efficiency measures and equipment, [Guardian](#)

### **Good Energy refits Delabole wind farm - Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

The UK's first commercial onshore wind farm has reopened following a £11.8 million investment, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

### **Flexible French FiTs: Higher biogas - lower PV tariffs coming - Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

In late February, the French Government proposed to substantially raise feed-in tariffs for biogas, while dropping tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV) by an equivalent amount, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

### **Renewable industry launches Green Gas Certification Scheme - Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Scheme will provide certainty for customers and bolster UK biomethane capacity, founders say, [BusinessGreen](#) - [ADBA](#)

### **SSE, Dong, Eneco, Statkraft Want EU to Toughen CO2 Target - Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Scottish & Southern Energy Plc (SSE), Dong Energy A/S, Eneco Holding NV and Statkraft AS are calling on the European Union to set a tougher carbon-dioxide target to help promote cleaner energy, [Bloomberg](#)

### **Chris Huhne: A blueprint for our energy future - Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011**

In autumn 2000, more rain fell on England and Wales than at any time for 230 years. 10,000 homes and businesses were flooded, [DECC](#)

### **New 2050 simulation puts power in public hands - Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011**

A new online simulation going live today will give the public the chance to take the big decisions about the nation's energy future, [DECC](#)

### **Scotland divides forests for turbines - Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011**

All land belonging to the Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) has been divided into lots to be explored for windfarm development, [Utility Week](#)

### **MCS blows away doubts over small wind - Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011**

The small wind market has needed a standard benchmark for quality for sometime. The reasons are simple; turbines are placed on schools and business sites, as well as at residential properties so safety and reliability is paramount; rigorous testing improves product standards and gives consumers security, [BusinessGreen](#)

### **Why the BBC's 'impartial' stance on climate science is irresponsible**

Sceptics too often go unchallenged when they make inaccurate and misleading statements on BBC programmes, [Guardian](#)

### **EU experts focus on renewable heating and cooling - Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011**

The Smart Cities initiative emphasises the importance of heating and cooling with renewable energy in Europe, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)



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**Background: What caused the 1970s oil price shock? - Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011**

The 1970s oil crisis knocked the wind out of the global economy and helped trigger a stock market crash, soaring inflation and high unemployment - ultimately leading to the fall of a UK government, [Guardian](#)

**'People's watchdog' touted to keep UK green - Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011**

Sustainability experts are planning to set up a "people's watchdog" on green government when the spending axe falls on the official body next month, [BBC](#)

**E.ON exec: Council budget cuts harming sustainability efforts - Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011**

Expert warns green social housing projects are at risk from funding cuts, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Revamped solar industry body prepares for subsidy scrap - Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011**

Re-jigged Solar Trade Association brings together 400 members from PV and solar thermal sectors, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Greg Barker speech to the RUK Wave and Tidal Conference - Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011**

I am delighted to be here to address you today and would like to thank Maria [McCaffery] for the invitation to speak to you. Many of you in this room will already be aware that I have long been a champion for the potential of wave and tidal energy, [DECC](#)

**Commercial buildings must disclose their energy ratings - Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011**

Commercial buildings contribute 17% of the UK's emissions, yet have no obligation to improve efficiency - hopefully the Ecobuild exhibition will encourage businesses to make the first move, [Guardian](#)

**Work begins on first PassivHaus social housing project - Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011**

Work has begun on the UK's first social housing development to be built to the PassivHaus standard, [Energy Saving Trust](#)

**MP hints at lifeline for solar farm feed-in tariffs - Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011**

Influential Tory backbencher predicts incentives for solar farms will remain, but at reduced level, [BusinessGreen](#)

**British Sea Power calls on British SeaPower - Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011**

The Sceptic Tank's new favourite band is British Sea Power, purveyors of honest-to-goodness Brit rock and proud supporters of British Sea Power, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Energy giant scraps plan for windfarm - Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011**

ONE of Scotland's largest energy firms has bowed to local opposition and abandoned plans for an offshore windfarm near Kintyre, [Herald Scotland](#)

**Sparks fly over failed heating scheme that cost ratepayers £13m - Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011**

A LOCAL authority has been strongly criticised over the handling of a renewable energy project to provide heating to hundreds of homes, which has so far cost £13.8 million but has never worked, [Scotsman](#)

**Survey reveals fluctuating carbon market confidence**

Annual Point Carbon survey reveals growing confidence in EU ETS and ongoing concerns about CDM, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Community regeneration specialist delivers eco facelift thanks to Welsh Assembly scheme - Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011**

Construction firm Frank Haslam Milan (FHM) has cemented the success of a green home improvement programme in Bridgend by opening the doors to its first eco-refurbishment, [24 Dash](#)



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## **Brussels weighs legal action on internal energy market - Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

EU Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger yesterday (28 February) gave governments more breathing space to pass energy liberalisation directives into national law as a 3 March deadline approaches. A month ago, not a single country had yet done so, [EurActiv](#)

## **Minesto gets Carbon Trust grant for tidal kite - Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

Minesto UK Ltd is receiving a grant of up to £350,000 from the Carbon Trust for testing of a prototype tidal energy kite, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

## **Innovative tidal power technology given Carbon Trust funding - Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

The Carbon Trust has awarded £350,000 funding for Minesto UK to carry out operational testing for its tidal power technology in Northern Ireland, [Low Carbon Economy](#)

## **Northern Ireland Selected For 'Deep Green' Tidal Technology Test - Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

MATRIX, the Northern Ireland Science Industry Panel, has announced that the Global Maritime Alliance (GMA) has secured its first technology client, [eGov](#)

## **Biofuel boom could follow oil price spike - Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

When biofuels match oil on price, production could boom in the developing countries that also have the greatest need to boost food supply, [Guardian](#)

## **SSE ditches plans for Kintyre offshore wind farm - Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

Power company Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) has abandoned plans for a windfarm in the sea off Kintyre, [BBC](#)

## **Our addiction to oil is draining every last drop - Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

Having taken oil for granted for decades, the global economy has failed to prepare for its absence. A bleak future awaits, [Guardian](#)

## **Coalition is waving the white flag on green ambitions - Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

Shadow Energy Minister Huw Irranca-Davies says the government must step up its ambitions for green jobs, growth and the environment, [BusinessGreen](#)

## **Sainsbury's rolls out 'dynamic demand' heating - Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

Retailer moves quickly from successful trial with plans to install demand management equipment in 200 stores, [Guardian](#)

## **National Grid chief says 2011 is 'pivotal' year for UK energy market - Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

Power market reforms will determine whether the UK can meet its energy and emission targets, warns Steve Holliday, [Guardian](#)

## **PPL to buy E.ON networks for \$5.6 bln cash - Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

PPL agrees deal for No. 2 UK electricity network, [Reuters](#) - [Telegraph](#)

## **National Grid chief says 2011 is 'pivotal' year for UK energy market - Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

Power market reforms will determine whether the UK can meet its energy and emission targets, warns Steve Holliday, [Guardian](#)

## **Aerial maps: A way to ID heat loss, solar potential - Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

Like the time-lapse photographs that climate-change-watchers have taken of melting ice caps and retreating glaciers, the images of nighttime Britain snapped by aerial mapping company Bluesky have a



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disturbing beauty, [Greenbang](#)

## **BP oil spill fund sued for fraud and negligence - Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

A \$20bn (£12.4bn) fund to compensate victims of BP's Gulf of Mexico oil spill has been hit with further damaging accusations - this time in a lawsuit alleging "negligence and fraud", [Telegraph](#)

## **Coalition unveils over-arching sustainable government strategy - Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Ministers promise stretching new environmental targets and "sustainability-proofed" policies, [BusinessGreen](#)

## **Alstom delivers grid booster to accommodate UK wind - Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Alstom Grid will design, supply and commission two 400 kV, 2750 MVA Quadrature Boosters valued at £18 million to the UK National Grid, which could help accommodate more wind into the UK grid, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

## **US grants first deepwater drill permit since Gulf spill - Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

The US has granted the first new permit for deepwater oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico since last year's spill at a BP-owned oil well there, [BBC](#)

## **Sustainable development: The UK's 'vision' looks weak - Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

With little fanfare, and minimal formatting, the UK government has released its plan for "Mainstreaming sustainable development" in government, [Guardian](#)

## **Superconductor for hydropower - and potentially wind - Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Converteam has developed a high temperature superconducting hydropower generator that could also be transferred for wind power applications, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

## **Study says green sector costs more jobs than it creates - Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Government support for the renewable sector in Scotland is costing more jobs than it creates, a report has claimed, [BBC](#)

## **Further investment funds shelve solar plans following feed-in tariff review - Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

At least four investment firms have now been suspended while awaiting government decision on feed-in tariffs, [BusinessGreen](#)

## **Danish 2050 energy strategy focuses on wind and bioenergy - Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

The Energy Strategy 2050 looks at how Denmark could become independent from coal, oil and gas by 2050 and significantly reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, using more renewable energy, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

## **Iceland Channels Volcanoes in Europe's Energy-Supply Race - Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Europeans left stranded at airports last year as an Icelandic volcano spewed ash across the continent may soon benefit from the power that seethes beneath the remote north Atlantic island, [Bloomberg](#)

## **Solar 'Gold Rush' in U.K. May Die With Fastest Price Roll-Back - Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Cornwall, the poorest county in England, said five months ago it expected a "gold rush" of \$1.6 billion in solar energy investments. Now, the U.K. government may get in the way, [Bloomberg](#)

## **Iceland Wants Volcanoes to Power Europe's Homes Through Longest-Ever Cable - Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Europeans left stranded at airports last year as an Icelandic volcano spewed ash across the continent may soon benefit from the power that seethes beneath the remote north Atlantic island, [Bloomberg](#)



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**Ernst & Young: Government cuts hamper renewable energy transition - Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

China cements position as most attractive renewables market as UK takes fifth place in global rankings, [BusinessGreen](#)

**University fund backs wind power start-up - Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

A WIND power technology company created at Edinburgh University will be the first to benefit from a new funding initiative, [Scotsman](#)

**Wind turbines threat to idyllic Lake District - Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

A beauty spot in one of England's most scenic regions faces being ruined for ever after a Government official ignored the concerns of thousands of people and gave the go-ahead to a wind farm, [Daily Express](#)

**BP makes £300m claim for tax it paid 'by mistake' - Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

BP is suing the Government for almost £300m plus compensation, claiming it is owed tax paid "by mistake" more than a decade ago, [Telegraph](#)

**The hi-tech solution to soaring energy costs bills - Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

New technology will help households slash their gas bills, reports Gary Jones, [Independent](#)

**Communities near Hinkley Point C to get £20m - Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Communities living near the planned Hinkley Point C nuclear power station in Somerset are to get £20m, [BBC](#)

**Energy MPs foresee terrible future of clean, cheap energy - Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

New techniques of unlocking gas from rock thousands of feet beneath the earth's surface have potentially opened up huge amounts of cheap energy; the International Energy Authority recently ripped up its previous estimates of global gas reserves to predict that there was sufficient gas from shale reserves to meet the next 250 years of demand, [The Register](#)

**Feed-in Tariffs and social housing: 'Act now to secure best returns' - Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

David Hawes (pictured), Senior Relationship Manager, Triodos Bank explains the impacts of the Government's Feed-in Tariff review on the social housing sector, [24Dash](#)

**UK investigates impact of tidal energy devices - Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

The UK Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) is developing a model of the UK's tidal energy resources to look at interactions between extraction systems and the effect energy availability, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

**Saudi Arabia pledges to fill oil supply gap amid Libyan unrest - Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Seeing is believing. That was the first that thought came to my mind when I visited the onshore Khurais oil field in Saudi Arabia's vast desert this week, [Platts](#)

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## 3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

### *Parliamentary Report - Commons*

#### Select Committees

The Energy and Climate Change Committee will held an evidence session on its inquiry into shale gas.



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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: The Green Deal and Carbon Emissions ([here](#)); CCS ([here](#)); EMR and demand side measures ([here](#)); European Council meeting ([here](#)); Green Deal ([here](#)); the Low Carbon Innovation Fund ([here](#)); the construction of nuclear power stations ([here](#)); power station security ([here](#)); FITs ([here](#)); the Renewables Obligation ([here](#)); smart grid ([here](#)); solar power and the FIT review ([here](#)); syngas ([here](#)); the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund ([here](#)); marine renewables finance ([here](#)); non fossil fuels obligation scheme and wind power ([here](#)); offshore wind planning application ([here](#));

Treasury answered a question on finance for biofuels ([here](#)); the Climate Change Levy ([here](#)); BIS answered a question on low carbon technology exports ([here](#)); and smart grid impacts on business ([here](#));

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

Topics included: budget reductions of Carbon Trust and EST ([here](#)); the Committee on Climate Change ([here](#)); carbon price support ([here](#)); fuel oil ([here](#)); inquiry - heating oil prices ([here](#)); power stations - fossil fuels ([here](#));

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

Topics included: the European Union Third Package ([here](#)); Green Climate Fund ([here](#)); Greenhouse Gas Emissions, biofuels ([here](#)); wind farms - power ([here](#));

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

Topics included: the independence of the Committee on Climate Change ([here](#)); consumer attitudes to energy costs ([here](#)); effects for energy intensive industries of Carbon Price Support and EMR ([here](#)); UN report - towards a green economy ([here](#)); fuel poverty([here](#)); smart grid ([here](#));

## Ministerial Statements:

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change announced the launch of the updated 2050 pathways calculator ([here](#));

## Parliamentary Report - Lords

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

- Lord Pearson of Rannoch asked a question on the Stern Review ([here](#));
- Lord Laird asked a question on fuel poverty([here](#));
- Lord Laird asked a question on fuel VAT ([here](#));
- Lord Stoddart of Swindon asked a question on security of supply ([here](#));
- Baroness Kramer asked a question on green growth and the 2011 Budget ([here](#));
- Lord Laird asked a question on Winter Fuel Payments ([here](#));
- Lord Bradshaw asked a question on biofuels ([here](#));

The Energy Bill - report stage ([here](#))



## Reports

### Aldersgate Group report: A strategy for growth, jobs and success - Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011

This report urges the Chancellor to set out a comprehensive green growth strategy in the upcoming Budget. It finds that governments around the world are implementing plans to attract global investment in environmental technologies and the UK economy risks being left behind. The green growth strategy must include a strong policy framework to address market failures across the economy, combined with a concerted push to support those sectors that have competitive advantages. This must extend beyond traditional environmental industries to sectors such as automotive and construction.

Click [here](#) for the report.

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## 4. EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

### 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](http://www.aepuk.com) or email [conference@aepuk.com](mailto:conference@aepuk.com).

### All Party Group for Intelligent Energy

**Event:** Installers are King: Why installers are the key to a low carbon home

**Date:** Tuesday 22 March, 2011.

**Time:** 6.00-8.00pm

**Location:** Committee Room 8, House of Commons

**Speakers:** Roger Webb, Director, HHIC; British Gas Training Academy (tbc); Neil Schofield, Head of Sustainable Development, Worcester Bosch; Tim Pollard, Head of Sustainability, *Wolseley* UK; Geoffrey Lean, Daily Telegraph - as a consumer; Andy Buchan, Managing Director, Cotswold Efficient Energy Centre

To register, contact [jane.vaus@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.vaus@btinternet.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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