



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.

5th November 2010: This Week's Headlines...

Home efficiency plan announced

[Edie](#) - [Guardian](#) - [Telegraph](#) - [DECC](#) - [Liberal Democrats](#) - [Bloomberg](#)

Oil lobby in legal threat to North Sea wind farms

[Guardian](#) - [Scotsman](#)

Scotland launches £70m ports fund to trigger renewables revolution

[BusinessGreen](#) - [Business7](#) - [Guardian](#) - [Herald Scotland](#)

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Upcoming PRASEG Events

PRASEG and Green Alliance Seminar **Renewables and energy security in an age of austerity**

Speakers: Charles Hendry MP, Minister of State, DECC; Caroline Lucas MP; Meg Hillier MP, Shadow Secretary of State, DECC

Date: Monday, 8th November 2010

Time: 18:00 - 20:00

Location: Grand Committee Room

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 Seminar **Planning reform: implications for renewables**

Date: 25th January 2010

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 Mitesh Dhanak, Director of Carbon and Business Development, Eaga
Sponsored by Eaga

2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES



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Headline news

Home efficiency plan announced - Tues, 2nd November 2010

The government has announced an initiative to improve the green credentials of homes and businesses across England, [Edie](#) - [Guardian](#) - [Telegraph](#) - [DECC](#) - [Liberal Democrats](#) - [Bloomberg](#)

Oil lobby in legal threat to North Sea wind farms - Sun, 21st November 2010

Trade body Oil and Gas UK claims energy policy must uphold drilling rights over offshore wind farms, [Guardian](#) - [Scotsman](#)

Scotland launches £70m ports fund to trigger renewables revolution - Tues, 2nd November 2010

Alex Salmond invites companies to bid for finance to expand manufacturing infrastructure and testing facilities, [BusinessGreen](#) - [Business7](#) - [Guardian](#) - [Herald Scotland](#)

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Other news

Arctic ice melted by climate change - Fri, 5th November 2010

A dramatic manifestation of climate change is the reduction of ice cover in the Arctic. The extent of the ice has always varied with the seasons and from year to year, creating a challenge for cartographers, [Guardian](#)

RenewableUK 2010: Anti wind farm campaigners could cost England over £1.3bn - Fri, 5th November 2010

Anti wind farm campaigners could cost local and regional communities across England £1.3 billion in lost investment, jobs, community activities and increased business rates for local authorities, according to RenewableUK, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

Has Vattenfall been charmed by Pelamis sea snakes? - Fri, 5th November 2010

Swedish utility is expected to sign deal to buy an undisclosed number of Pelamis wave energy units by the end of the year, [BusinessGreen](#)

Renewables industry puts economic value on wind farm benefits - Fri, 5th November 2010

Trade body tries to debunk myth that most onshore wind farm investment goes abroad, [BusinessGreen](#)

Commission adopts €4bn plan for renewables, CCS - Thurs, 4th November 2010

The European Commission adopted a proposal on Wednesday (3 November) to give four billion euros of funding to cutting-edge climate technologies such as renewable energies and carbon capture and storage (CCS), [EurActiv](#)

US clean tech venture capital plunges 55 per cent - Thurs, 4th November 2010

Third-quarter falls paint a worrying picture of fewer deals and shrinking investment after strong start to the year, but analysts claim volatility is to be expected, [BusinessGreen](#)

Tim Yeo attacks Treasury's £1bn green tax grab - Thurs, 4th November 2010

The Government's £1bn green tax grab on business energy bills is "a great pity" and will be "very negative", according to Tim Yeo, the chairman of the energy select committee, [Telegraph](#)

IEA fears oil price escalation without global climate deal - Thurs, 4th November 2010

Per-barrel prices could top \$135 within 25 years if current carbon targets are not strengthened, International Energy Agency report says, [BusinessGreen](#)



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RES achieves financial close for North Ayrshire wind scheme - Thurs, 4th November 2010

Wind farm developer RES has reached financial close for its 28MW Kelburn wind farm in North Ayrshire, Scotland, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Microgeneration support network launched in Wales - Thurs, 4th November 2010

Welsh environment minister Jane Davidson has today launched a Welsh Microgen Network to provide installers of small-scale renewables with an opportunity to regularly discuss the issues and challenges facing the sector, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Obama vows to work with resurgent Republicans on energy policy overhaul - Thurs, 4th November 2010

President puts himself on collision course with newly elected Republicans who "ignore the science" on climate change, [BusinessGreen](#)

Foresight and Solarcentury build UK solar PV plants - Weds, 3rd November 2010

Foresight Group and Solarcentury have agreed a financing and installation package to roll-out commercial scale rooftop solar photovoltaics (PV) in the UK, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

Shepherd Offshore plans to turn Fife plant into renewable energy hub - Weds, 3rd November 2010

Scotland's biggest white elephant, an empty microchip factory in Gordon Brown's East Dunfermline constituency, may finally have found a future after it was acquired by the former chairman of Newcastle United, [Telegraph](#)

RenewableUK: £70m to build Scotland's offshore green economy - Weds, 3rd November 2010

An investment fund to help Scotland develop its global offshore wind industry has been announced by First Minister Alex Salmond, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

Gulf countries should invest in renewables, says expert - Weds, 3rd November 2010

Jeroen van der Veer, former CEO of Royal Dutch Shell, said that investment in renewables or alternate sources of energy is essential from a long-term energy security perspective, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

Report calls for fairer way to calculate differential cost of PV - Weds, 3rd November 2010

Phoenix Solar has released a new report - "The True Value of Photovoltaics in Germany", which investigates the differential cost of photovoltaic electricity, as well as its costs and benefits, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

Wave Hub announces it is "open for business" - Weds, 3rd November 2010

Cornish testing site for marine energy devices successfully completes grid testing, but future ownership rights remain far from watertight, [BusinessGreen](#)

DEFRA announces £12.6m emissions project - Weds, 3rd November 2010

DEFRA has commissioned a £12.6m research project to investigate how agriculture contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, [FWI](#)

Governments urged to make themselves 'CCS ready' - Weds, 3rd November 2010

Global CCS Institute sets out standardised policy to help governments improve investor confidence in the technology and increase its deployment, [BusinessGreen](#)

Europe: 50% electricity from marine renewables by 2050 - Tues, 2nd November 2010

By 2050 Europe could get up to 50% of its electricity needs from renewable marine sources, according to a report by the Marine Board of the European Science Foundation, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

Report: spending must double on renewable energy projects in developing countries - Tues, 2nd November 2010



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Think-tank suggests that richer nations should provide upfront cash if environmental targets are to be met, [BusinessGreen](#)

Biofuel power stations in planning pipeline - Tues, 2nd November 2010

Two plants in the south of England would run on palm oil, a crop critics say contributes to deforestation and drives up food prices, [Guardian](#)

South Korea Plans to Invest \$8.2 Billion in Offshore Wind Power by 2019 - Tues, 2nd November 2010

South Korea, Asia's fourth-biggest crude oil importer, plans to invest 9.2 trillion won (\$8.2 billion) in offshore wind power farms by 2019 to meet growing demand for clean energy, [Bloomberg](#)

Korea braces for carbon trading system - Tues, 2nd November 2010

The government is pushing to introduce a cap-and-trade system for carbon dioxide as early as next year, [KoreaHerald](#)

Earth will take 100,000 years to recover from global warming say geologists - Tues, 2nd November 2010

The Earth will take 100,000 years to recover from global warming if mankind continues to pump greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, geologists have warned., [Telegraph](#)

Businesses offered greater access to solar - Tues, 2nd November 2010

Foresight and SolarCentury to help companies finance large-scale rooftop solar PV installations, [BusinessGreen](#)

Total to Invest \$7 Billion to Boost Efficiency, Cut Emissions - Mon, 1st November 2010

Total SA, Europe's third-biggest oil company, plans to invest about \$7 billion on research and development in 2010-2015 to improve efficiency and reduce emissions, its head of exploration and production said, [BusinessWeek](#)

Oil price jumps \$2 as Saudi Arabian energy minister fuels inflation fears - Mon, 1st November 2010

The Saudi Arabian energy minister pushed up oil futures by \$2 per barrel, after implying the powerful nation will not do anything to stop prices rising to \$90, [Telegraph](#)

Clean tech fund predicts China-fuelled bull run - Mon, 1st November 2010

WHEB Asset Management fund manager argues undervalued clean tech sector represents great investment opportunity, [BusinessGreen](#)

Carbon Price Must Rise to \$175 a Ton to Halve Emissions, IEA's Tanaka Says - Mon, 1st November 2010

The price of carbon dioxide must rise to \$175 a metric ton in order to halve global emissions by 2050, the head of the International Energy Agency said, [Bloomberg](#)

ICE's Sprecher Says China Sees Carbon Trading in its Future - Mon, 1st November 2010

China is showing interest in starting cap-and-trade programs for greenhouse gases amid a "very uncertain" outlook for a national carbon market in the U.S., according to the chief of the Intercontinental Exchange Inc, [BusinessWeek](#)

Alberta to assume liability for long-term carbon storage - Mon, 1st November 2010

The Alberta government introduced legislation Monday that would see the province assume long-term liability for any carbon dioxide pumped underground here, [VancouverSun](#)

Campaign to scrap daylight saving gathers pace - Mon, 1st November 2010

MPs tell Cameron to trial extending British Summer Time to ease the transition to a low-carbon economy, [BusinessGreen](#)



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Carbon Disclosure Project paves way for cities to report carbon emissions - Mon, 1st November 2010

The Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) today announced the launch of the new CDP Cities program, which will provide a system for cities worldwide to report on their greenhouse gas emissions and climate-related strategies, [CDproject](#)

RES submits planning application for 25.3 MW Scottish wind farm - Mon, 1st November 2010

RES has submitted a planning application for the 25.3 MW Glenchamber Wind Farm, located between New Luce, Kirkcowan and Glenluce, in Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

German nuclear plant extensions policy faces legal and EC challenges - Mon, 1st November 2010

Bundestag backing for the extension of German nuclear power plants' lifespan looks set to result in long legal battles before the country's highest court. The lower house of parliament has just voted to back the German government's controversial measures, [Utility Week](#)

Green group calls for low-carbon regional growth plan - Mon, 1st November 2010

Vince Cable's regional strategy should favour low-carbon growth, says Friends of the Earth, [BusinessGreen](#)

Fears infighting could stymie bid to cut emissions - Mon, 1st November 2010

Scotland may not be able to reduce emissions by 42% due to political point-scoring, say Friends of the Earth, [HeraldScotland](#)

Analysts report 30% drop in FiTs installations in October - Mon, 1st November 2010

The total capacity of Feed-in Tariff installations registered in October 2010 was 30% lower than the figures recorded for the two previous months, according to renewables incentive support company Ownenergy, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Guidelines for wind development in protected areas published - Mon, 1st November 2010

The European Commission has published guidelines on wind developments within protected natural areas to ensure renewable targets are met without harming species, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Ministers plan law to safeguard gas supply - Sunday, 31st October 2010

The Government is planning to change the law to persuade the major energy companies to build up enough gas stockpiles to last through a "supply emergency", [Telegraph](#)

Oil lobby in legal threat to North Sea wind farms - Sunday, 31st October 2010

The British oil industry has threatened to take legal action to defend its interests in the North Sea against offshore wind farm developers, [Guardian](#)

Leading environmental campaigners support nuclear and GM - Sunday, 31st October 2010

Leading environmental campaigners have performed a u-turn on two key technologies they have opposed for decades by openly calling for greater use of nuclear power and genetically modified crops to help the world tackle climate change, [Telegraph](#)

BG launches £9bn project to liquify gas from coal - Sunday, 31st October 2010

The scheme, the company's biggest investment to date, is the first of a series of 'coal seam methane' initiatives in eastern Australia, [Guardian](#)

Fierce opposition drives wind farm approvals to all-time low - Friday, 29th October 2010

RenewableUK reignites campaign for planning system overhaul after report reveals consent rates have fallen 50 per cent in England in the last year, [BusinessGreen](#)



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Green Investment Bank turf war rumbles on - Friday, 29th October 2010

Business leaders have welcomed government plans to launch the new institution, but fears remain that the Treasury is trying to limit its ability to raise private finance, [BusinessGreen](#)

South London councils to continue procurement - Friday, 29th October 2010

The South London Waste Partnership has today (October 29) vowed to continue with its waste procurement process despite having its £112.9 million PFI funding award withdrawn in last week's Spending Review, [LetsRecycle](#)

Green Investment Bank turf war rumbles on - Friday, 29th October 2010

Business leaders have welcomed government plans to launch the new institution, but fears remain that the Treasury is trying to limit its ability to raise private finance, [BusinessGreen](#)

Meri-Pori CCS too risky, says Fortum - Friday, 29th October 2010

Fortum has decided to discontinue work on the Finncap carbon capture and storage (CCS) project, citing technological and financial risks related to the scheme, [UtilityWeek](#)

£200m investment to commercialise UK research - Friday, 29th October 2010

A network of Technology and Innovation Centres will be created to drive growth and bridge the gap between universities and businesses, helping to commercialise the outputs of Britain's research base, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

New legislation introduced to enable Quango reforms - Friday, 29th October 2010

The Public Bodies Bill, which will ensure the necessary legal framework is in place for the Government to carry out its public bodies reforms, has been published in Parliament today, [CabinetOffice](#)

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3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

Parliamentary Report - Commons

Select Committees

The **Energy and Climate Change Committee** heard from Charles Hendry MP on Tuesday 2nd November on UK deepwater drilling - implications of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Click [here](#) to watch the session.

ECC membership: On the 2nd November it was ordered that Gemma Doyle and Tom Greatrex be discharged from the Energy and Climate Change Committee and Barry Gardiner and Ian Lavery be added.

The **Environmental Audit Committee** heard from Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Cabinet Office on Wednesday 3rd November on embedding sustainable development across government. Click [here](#) to watch the session.

The **Communities and Local Government Committee** will hold its third evidence session for its inquiry into the Government's decision to revoke and abolish regional spatial strategies on Monday 8 November at 16:30. Click [here](#) for further information.

CLG membership: On the 2nd November it was ordered that Toby Perkins and Chris Williamson be discharged from the Communities and Local Government Committee and Simon Danczuk and David Heyes be



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added.

Environment Food and Rural Affairs Committee membership: on the 2nd November it was ordered that Nigel Adams be discharged from the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee and Richard Drax be added.

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: Carbon Reduction Commitment ([here](#)); carbon floor price ([here](#)); international climate change ([here](#)); energy efficiency ([here](#)); home energy efficiency ([here](#)); fuel poverty ([here](#)); wind and the 15% renewables target ([here](#)); Warm Front ([here](#)); and the cost of curtailing wind output ([here](#)).

CLG answered a question on planning permission for wind power - read it [here](#).

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

Topics included: low carbon technologies ([here](#)); energy imports ([here](#)); energy tariffs ([here](#)); fossil fuel subsidies ([here](#)); gas storage ([here](#)); nuclear power ([here](#)); nuclear power and carbon emissions ([here](#)); renewables target ([here](#)); renewable heat ([here](#)); and wind power noise ([here](#)).

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

Topics included: manufacturing enterprises and the renewables target ([here](#)).

DCLG answered a question on planning permission for wind power ([here](#)).

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

Topics included: micro CHP ([here](#)); nuclear fuels transport ([here](#)); and the cost of renewables and nuclear power ([here](#)).

Parliamentary Report - Lords

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

- **Lord Stoddart of Swindon** asked a question on additional energy costs arising from the EU renewable energy target ([here](#)).
- Lords debate on energy and climate change ([here](#)).

Reports

Phoenix Solar report: The True Value of Photovoltaics in Germany - 3rd November 2010

Phoenix Solar requires changes to be made in the calculation of cost allocation under the German Renewable Energies Act (EEG) to reduce the charges passed on to electricity consumers. Stock exchange prices are not suitable benchmark for calculating photovoltaic electricity. In 2010, the macro-economic benefits of photovoltaics will exceed the cost of feed-in tariffs for the first time

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

IPPR Report: Investing in Clean Energy: How can developed countries best help developing countries finance climate-friendly energy investments? - 2nd November 2010



This Global Climate Network report encompasses findings from a two-stage study of climate change financing, focused on mitigation and specifically clean energy. Stage one examines in detail the costs of installing clean energy capacity in four major developing countries, according to existing or anticipated government plans, and proposes a range of financial leveraging mechanisms to help ensure the required levels of investment are available. Stage two includes findings from a series of national dialogues in GCN member countries with policymakers, affected firms, banks and finance professionals and other experts. Participants were asked for their views on real-world barriers to financing and to respond to the outcomes and proposals from stage one of the study.

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

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4. EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

CHPA Annual Conference and Awards

Event: Annual Conference: Integrating Energy 2010; and Annual Awards and Gala Dinner

Date: Wednesday 25th November 2010

Location:

Conference: One Great George St, Westminster, Central London.

Awards and Gala Dinner: Gibson Hall, City of London

Description:

This one day event looks at the innovative approaches used to deliver energy locally for the benefit of business, industry, consumers and communities across the UK. The conference will look at the specific role and future of community energy, CHP, district heating and pioneering models for their delivery, all of which help deliver a highly efficient, cost and environmentally friendly approach to energy delivery. Attendees will learn about the commercial, social and policy opportunities and challenges that currently face the sector.

Further details: click [here](#)

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

Regen SW

Event: Renewable Futures 2010 'Pioneering the decade of delivery'

Date: 23 - 24 November

Location: Bath

Description: This event will focus on the lessons learnt from pioneering renewable energy schemes and how we can scale up delivery to meet the huge growth needed.

Further details: click [here](#)

PRASEG members 10% off the delegate rate (enter the code PARTNERS when registering online).

Regen SW

Event: Green Energy Awards 2010

Date: 23rd November

Location: Assembly Rooms, Bath.

Event to celebrate the success of the south west sustainable energy industry and announce the winners of the South West Green Energy Awards 2010.



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Further information: click [here](#)

PRASEG members 10% off the delegate rate (enter the code PARTNERS when registering online).

Energy Institute event

Event: Countdown to 2020 - 2010: A decade for a British Renewable Energy Revolution

Date: 29 November 2010

Location: Deloitte

Description: The UK has signed up to a legally-binding European treaty requiring it to supply 15% of all primary energy from renewable sources by 2020. This is a huge task and the bulk of the burden will fall to the power generation sector, but heat and transport fuels will also have to make a quantum leap in capacities.

Further details: click [here](#)

Heat pump seminars

Event: Take advantage of the heat pump market

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

Further details: [click here](#)

National Energy Foundation courses

Wood Fuel Heating & CHP, November 8th, Milton Keynes

For further information, click [here](#).

The Rushlight Awards Clean Technologies Show and Gala Dinner

Host organisation: Rushlight Awards

Date: 27th January 2011

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



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awards will be presented at a VIP ceremony in London in June 2011. Entries needed by 26 October 2010

Further information: [click here](#)

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