



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.

2010: This Week's Headlines...

Renewables grid competition sparks investor gold rush

[BusinessGreen](#) - [NewEnergyFocus](#) - [Builder and Engineer](#)

Four companies awarded offshore wind demonstration sites

[NewEnergyFocus](#) - [Energy Efficiency News](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Recharge](#)

U.N. climate deal retreats as Bonn talks end

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

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Upcoming PRASEG Events

Date for the Diary!

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

Date: 7th December 2010

Time: 15:00 - 17:00

Location: Portcullis House, Boothroyd Room



Date for the Diary!

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



2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES

Headline news

Renewables grid competition sparks investor gold rush - Thurs, 5th August 2010

Ofgem announces preferred bidders to own and operate 2GW offshore wind energy transmission links, [BusinessGreen](#) - [NewEnergyFocus](#) - [Builder and Engineer](#)

Four companies awarded offshore wind demonstration sites - Thurs, 5th August 2010

The Crown Estate has today (August 5) announced that four companies have been awarded offshore wind demonstration sites in England and Scotland to test new turbines and other technologies in the marine environment, [NewEnergyFocus](#) - [Energy Efficiency News](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [Recharge](#)

U.N. climate deal retreats as Bonn talks end - Fri, 6th August 2010

U.N. climate talks have moved backward rather than forward toward a hoped-for deal later this year as nations make slow progress on pledges to cut greenhouse gas emissions and add more proposals to the working document, [Reuters](#) - [Guardian](#) - [BusinessGreen](#)

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Other news

Vince Cable visits North East to announce Low Carbon Investment - Thurs, 5th August 2010

Business Secretary Vince Cable will visit the North East today to see how investment in low carbon



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technology is creating jobs and promoting growth in the region, [BIS](#)

Gasification plant remains closed after re-testing - Thurs, 5th August 2010

Energos has expressed hopes that its gasification facility on the Isle of Wight will reopen in mid-August after it was shut down following more tests in June due to a continuing breach of dioxins emissions limits, [Let's Recycle](#)

UN incineration plans rejected by world's rubbish-dump workers - Thurs, 5th August 2010

Pickers say waste-to-energy incineration plants increase emissions and take away their only means of survival, [Guardian](#)

High street stores to advise government on energy and emissions - Thurs, 5th August 2010

After the easyCouncil and John Lewis local authority, comes the Marks & Spencer ministry. The high-street giant, along with Tesco, B&Q owners Kingfisher and HSBC, has been asked to advise national government on saving money, [BusinessGreen](#)

Construction of 71.75MW Caithness wind farm begins - Thurs, 5th August 2010

Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) has started the initial construction work on its 71.75MW onshore wind farm near Brora, in Caithness, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Government: Too many firms ignoring climate risks - Thurs, 5th August 2010

Caroline Spelman unveils new research showing that less than a quarter of UK firms have started to address rising climate risks, [BusinessGreen](#)

Government allocates £1.3m for CCS in North East - Thurs, 5th August 2010

Business secretary Vince Cable today (August 5) visited the North East to see how investment in low carbon technology is creating jobs and promoting growth in the region, [BusinessGreen](#)

Passivhaus method used for Wales' first zero carbon home - Thurs, 5th August 2010

New ultra low carbon homes could become a 'catalyst' for major changes to the way Wales builds homes, according to the country's environment minister, [Edie](#)

Academics call for climate insurance role at Mexico Summit - Thurs, 5th August 2010

Policy brief calls for increased focus on insurance industry's ability to help manage climate risks, [BusinessGreen](#)

Pacific leaders call for 'legally binding' COP16 agreement - Thurs, 5th August 2010

A meeting of Pacific leaders has called on fellow heads of state to come to a 'legally binding' agreement at the 16th Conference of Parties (COP16) meeting in Mexico later this year, [Edie](#)

Could global climate deal deliver three treaties? - Thurs, 5th August 2010

Mexican diplomat hints that countries are looking at a number of options to break negotiating deadlock, [BusinessGreen](#)

Whitehall debuts online energy meters for all departments - Thurs, 5th August 2010

New web site to provide real-time energy use data for all central government departments, [BusinessGreen](#)

UK business not prepared for climate change challenges - Thurs, 5th August 2010

A survey of UK businesses and other organisations carried out for Defra by Ipsos MORI has found companies are not prepared for the impacts of climate change, [Edie](#)

UK to trial cutting-edge offshore wind turbine demonstrations - Thurs, 5th August 2010



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Four renewable energy developers awarded rights to test next-generation technology in UK waters, [BusinessGreen](#)

UK Government reveals real-time energy use to boost efficiency - Thurs, 5th August 2010

The UK Government has started publishing its energy use in real-time across all of its 18 Whitehall departments after admitting it has been guilty of “preaching and not acting on efficiency”, [Click Green](#)

US regulator shrugs off climate deniers - Thurs, 5th August 2010

America's environmental watchdog has rebuffed challenges to a scientific study it published declaring climate change real, man-made and a threat to human health and the natural world, [Edie](#)

UK launches energy storage demonstration programme - Weds, 4th August 2010

Energy Technology Institutes invites proposals for large-scale energy storage pilot projects, [BusinessGreen](#)

Vestas to supply turbines for 66MW Devon wind farm - Weds, 4th August 2010

Devon Wind Power Ltd has ordered 22 V90 turbines from wind turbine manufacturer Vestas for its 66MW Fullabrook wind farm project in North Devon, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

UK Govt tells businesses to prepare for climate change challenges - Weds, 4th August 2010

UK businesses need to be ready to face the risks and benefit from the opportunities that climate change could bring, according to Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman, [Click Green](#)

Breakaway clean energy coalition splits US Chamber of Commerce - Weds, 4th August 2010

The US Chamber of Commerce is seeking to discredit a new coalition in its ranks, which will push for stronger action on climate change, [Guardian](#)

Government to buck global trend for ban on deep-sea oil drilling - Weds, 4th August 2010

Ministers faced demands last night to block plans by BP to launch a deep-sea drilling operation in the North Sea, [Telegraph](#)

Climate deal loopholes 'make farce' of rich nations' pledges - Weds, 4th August 2010

New research reveals carbon emissions from rich nations could actually rise under loopholes in the proposed UN climate deal, [Guardian](#)

Study taps into ocean heat to generate renewable energy - Weds, 4th August 2010

Researchers at the University of Hawaii at Manoa say that the Leeward side of Hawaiian Islands may be ideal for future ocean-based renewable energy plants that would use seawater from the oceans' depths to drive massive heat engines and produce steady amounts of renewable energy, [Click Green](#)

Republicans block Senate energy bill yet again - Weds, 4th August 2010

Republicans thwart watered down Democrat plans to tackle offshore oil risks and boost green jobs, [BusinessGreen](#)

Wave Hub project surges forward - Weds, 4th August 2010

Fresh from securing additional government funding, work has begun this week to connect Cornwall's pioneering Wave Hub facility to the grid, [BusinessGreen](#)

Report urges UN talks to close Kyoto loopholes - Weds, 4th August 2010

New study calculates that industrialised nations could use loopholes to increase greenhouse gas emissions, [BusinessGreen](#)

Fresh report confirms soaring clean tech VC investment - Weds, 4th August 2010



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Ernst & Young analysis shows US venture capital investment in clean tech firms soared to \$1.5bn during the second quarter of the year, [BusinessGreen](#)

Drax delays biomass plans as harsh winter boosts profits - Weds, 4th August 2010

Drax, the coal-fired power station company, has delayed its £2bn plan to build three biomass plants amid concerns about their profitability, [Telegraph](#)

GT Solar turns on to LED manufacturing opportunity - Tues, 3rd August 2010

Solar firm buys its way into energy-efficient lighting sector with \$58m purchase of Crystal Systems, [BusinessGreen](#)

UK to work with India on low-carbon growth - Tues, 3rd August 2010

Britain and India plan to build on their 'special relationship' by working together to help the Indian economy grow in a more energy efficient way, according to a UK trade party, [Edie](#)

Wind energy to power solar factory in Wales - Tues, 3rd August 2010

Ecotricity is set to site a 2.3MW wind turbine at a solar manufacturing facility in Cardiff in an "almost perpetual motion" of using renewable energy to make devices which themselves harness more renewable energy, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

US reassures Bonn climate talks that it stands by carbon target - Tues, 3rd August 2010

Top diplomat insists US will honour goal of cutting carbon emissions 17 per cent by 2020, [BusinessGreen](#)

UK's largest coal-fired power plant could switch to biomass within 10 years - Tues, 3rd August 2010

Drax will only go ahead if the government agrees to grant renewable subsidies to such converted coal plants, [Guardian](#)

£1.5m boost for Cornish wave power - Tues, 3rd August 2010

Cornwall's growing reputation for harnessing the power of the sea may swell thanks to an injection of cash into its Wave Hub project, [Edie](#)

Fossil fuel subsidies "dwarf" support for renewables - Tues, 3rd August 2010

New analysis shows that government support for fossil fuel industry is about 10 times that offered to renewable energy firms, [BusinessGreen](#)

DECC responds to public's suggestions for renewables - Tues, 3rd August 2010

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has today (August 2) responded to the consultation on the coalition's Programme for Government, highlighting some of the suggestions made by the public with regards to boosting renewable energy generation, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Cardiff solar firm pioneers 'green from green' energy loop - Tues, 3rd August 2010

Launch of new thin-film solar firm follows Sharp commitment to expand UK panel manufacturing plant, [BusinessGreen](#)

Smart Meters Will Be Hacked, Warn Researchers - Tues, 3rd August 2010

The actual meters are a weak point between home networks and smart grid infrastructure that will be exploited, experts warn, [eWeek](#)

Fuel pellet plant for power station may be cash generator for farmers - Tues, 3rd August 2010

This is [Lincolnshire](#)

Sharp launches \$128m Italian solar joint venture - Tues, 3rd August 2010



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Launch of new thin-film solar firm follows Sharp commitment to expand UK panel manufacturing plant, [BusinessGreen](#)

UN steps up carbon offsetting investigation - Mon, 2nd August 2010

CDM Executive Board orders further research into allegations that producers of HFC gases have been 'gaming' the system, [BusinessGreen](#)

Opportunities for smaller waste contractors "never greater" - Mon, 2nd August 2010

Daniel Leaver, senior waste & resources manager at engineering and environmental consultancy Wardell Armstrong, discusses the benefits for waste contractors of Scotland's 'largest ever' anaerobic digestion being given planning permission, [Let's Recycle](#)

Assembly Government welcomes Sharp Solar expansion - Mon, 2nd August 2010

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) has welcomed the announcement by solar cell manufacturer Sharp Solar that it will invest around £29 million in increasing its production base in Wales to a capacity of 500MW, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Academics warn of failing international carbon targets - Mon, 2nd August 2010

Diplomats gathering in Bonn told that pledged emission targets fall well short of that required to stabilise temperatures, [BusinessGreen](#)

Power industry faces skills gap - Mon, 2nd August 2010

The UK power industry needs to train twice as many people if it is to meet demand for 65,000 new workers by 2024, [Independent](#)

Report: Chinese wind turbine firm seeks \$500m IPO - Mon, 2nd August 2010

Mingyang Electric reportedly seeking US listing, [BusinessGreen](#)

E.ON's wave energy device arrives at EMEC - Mon, 2nd August 2010

E.ON's P2 wave energy convertor, designed and constructed by Pelamis Wave Power, has arrived at the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) in Orkney for testing and development, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Climate target 'could cost £8bn' - Mon, 2nd August 2010

The cost to the taxpayer of meeting Scotland's climate change target has been put at about £8bn by 2020, [BBC](#)

OPINION: Scotland's largest AD facility an 'inspiration' - Mon, 2nd August 2010

Daniel Leaver, senior waste & resources manager at engineering and environmental consultancy Wardell Armstrong, discusses the benefits for smaller contractors of Scotland's 'largest ever' anaerobic digestion plant being given the go-ahead, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

North East appeals to businesses to provide charging points for electric vehicles - Mon, 2nd August 2010

Bid to build charging network rapidly, [BusinessGreen](#)

Smart meter roll-out: consumer behaviour and data management questioned - Mon, 2nd August 2010

Analysts question intent and wisdom of accelerated smart meter deployment but empirical experience is favourable, [BusinessGreen](#)

Cable laying begins for Wave Hub project - Mon, 2nd August 2010

The cable laying operation for the Wave Hub marine energy project has today (August 2) got underway, marking the first stage in the installation process, [NewEnergyFocus](#)



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Defra joins Whitehall's carbon reporting drive - Mon, 2nd August 2010

London headquarters latest to provide five-second updates on energy use and carbon emissions, [BusinessGreen](#)

Scuppered US climate bill overshadows launch of UN climate talks - Mon, 2nd August 2010

Scrapped US carbon legislation and toiletgate scandal contribute to tense atmosphere at latest round of Bonn climate talks, [BusinessGreen](#)

Eco-quarters the new trend in city design - Mon, 2nd August 2010

The planned eco-quarter in the southeast of Paris got a boost with the development of one of France's first low-energy, solar-powered buildings, making the 13th arrondissement (or district) the latest in a line of eco-quarters from Copenhagen to Abu Dhabi, [Independent](#)

Spain proposes deep cuts to solar PV support - Mon, 2nd August 2010

Industry ministry announces plans to cut feed-in tariffs for photovoltaic installations by up to 45 per cent, [BusinessGreen](#)

76 months and counting ... - Sun, 1st August 2010

Why is the 'greenest government ever' slashing environmental bodies instead of pursuing tax avoiders to raise funds? [Guardian](#)

Minister says private sector will build nuclear plants - Sun, 1st August 2010

New nuclear plants will be built in the UK as part of the move towards a green economy, Energy Secretary Chris Huhne has said, [BBC](#)

Li Ka-Shing, Asia's richest man, buys EDF's UK power grids for £5.8bn - Fri, 30th July 2010

Li Ka-Shing, Asia's richest man, has bought EDF's British electricity network business for £5.8bn in a deal that will see its £500m pension deficit for UK workers reduced by a quarter, [Telegraph](#)

Efficiency drive - Thurs. 29th July 2010

Cutting carbon is appallingly complex as well as costly, [Economist](#)

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3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

Parliament is now in recess. The Commons will return on 6 September 2010, the Lords on 5 October 2010.

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4. EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

National Energy Foundation courses



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[Wood Fuel Heating & CHP](#), November 8th, Milton Keynes

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

Upcoming RenewableUK events

Event: [RenewableUK 2010](#)

Date: Tuesday 2nd November - Thursday 4th November 2010

Location: Glasgow

Description: Over 4,000 people will attend RenewableUK's 32nd annual conference and exhibition, to be held over 2nd - 4th November 2010 at the SECC, Glasgow. Delegates will include senior government officials, investors, financiers, manufacturers, developers and all others with an interest in wind and marine energy. Over 200 companies will be on display at the exhibition, which is open to industry and the wider public alike.

Further details: Click [here](#)

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