



# 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).

## 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010: This Week's Headlines...

### UK energy lines to receive £32m upgrade

[BBC](#) - [Independent](#) - [Guardian](#) - [Telegraph](#) - [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

### Oliver Letwin offers hope for government's green agenda

[Guardian](#)

### Port cuts 'to cost 60,000 green jobs'

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

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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, Department of Energy and Climate Change;  
Caroline Lucas MP;  
Date: Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> 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  
Date: 7th December 2010  
Time: 15:00 - 17:00  
Location: Portcullis House, Boothroyd Room

## **PRASEG Seminar** **Planning reform: implications for renewables**

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 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



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



Speaker: Charles Hendry MP, Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change  
Sponsored by Eaga

## 2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES

### *Headline news*

UK energy lines to receive £32m upgrade - Mon, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010



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Ofgem has paved the way for a £32 billion upgrade the pipes and wires that carry Britain's gas and electricity by introducing a new framework designed to encourage investment without triggering a spike in consumer prices, [BBC - Independent](#) - [Guardian](#) - [Telegraph](#) - [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

**Oliver Letwin offers hope for government's green agenda - Mon, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Conservative party conference speech by former shadow chancellor welcomed as a sign that key government figures are still pushing the low-carbon agenda, [Guardian](#)

**Port cuts 'to cost 60,000 green jobs' - Thurs, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Plans to build three new factories to make thousands of giant offshore wind turbines that would create an estimated 60,000 jobs are set to become the latest casualty of the spending review, it has emerged, [Guardian](#)

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## *Other news*

**There's only one way to give feed-in tariff certainty on October 20 - Fri, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Dave Sowden warns that any move to change the feed-in tariff could lead to months more disruption for the industry, [BusinessGreen](#)

**CBI says burn more waste to produce energy - Fri, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

The CBI believes Britain should quadruple its use of waste incineration to produce energy, [Telegraph](#) - [BusinessGreen](#) - [NewEnergyFocus](#)

**UK solar market to reach 60 MW by year end - Fri, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Ofgem's prediction that the UK solar market is likely to reach 60 MW by the end of 2010 and 250 MW in 2011, has spurred Solar Power UK to extend its programme, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

**Bright future for social housing solar schemes - Fri, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Projects in London and Yorkshire have cut bills and generated revenue to refurbish housing stock, [BusinessGreen](#)

**South Africa to Halve Coal Use by 2030, Turn to Nuclear, Business Day Says - Fri, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

South Africa's government unveiled a plan that calls for the country's reliance on coal to be cut by almost half by 2030 and for the use of nuclear energy to be more than doubled, Business Day reported, [Bloomberg](#)

**UK to need more shipped gas in winter - Fri, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Britain is expected to import more liquefied natural gas (LNG) by ship to meet winter demand set to rise 3.8pc this year, according to National Grid, [Telegraph](#)

**EU energy chief to call for moratorium on deepwater drilling - Thurs, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Reuters obtains draft document revealing energy commissioner will step up demands for temporary ban on new wells, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Have the Conservatives gone from green to blue? - Thurs, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

The environment may not have been a central theme of the Conservative party conference, but that didn't mean it was altogether off the agenda, [Guardian](#)

**Rich nations 'slow to start climate aid flow' - Thurs, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Developing nations at China climate talks say funding promised in Copenhagen is slow to arrive and may not be 'new' money, [Guardian](#)

**Government pledges support for decentralised energy - Thurs, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Energy and climate change minister Greg Barker has pledged to "smash the glass ceiling" stopping the growth of decentralised energy, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

**RHI pledge welcome but subsidies must be higher, claims ADDBA - Thurs, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

The Anaerobic Digestion and Biogas Association (ADDBA) has issued a cautious welcome to the government's strongest



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commitment to date on the future of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), [NewEnergyFocus](#)

**Feed-in tariff promises to revolutionise UK energy market - Thurs, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Leading green energy supplier predicts domestic solar panels could make it impossible for utilities to make money providing energy alone, [BusinessGreen](#)

**GMB trade union says 1,500 jobs under threat at Sellafield plant - Thurs, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

The GMB trade union has claimed that 1,500 jobs are to go at the Sellafield nuclear plant due to Government spending cuts, [Telegraph](#)

**Gamesa and Northrop team up to build giant 5MW offshore turbine - Thurs, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Spanish wind giant reaches agreement with US naval ship builder to work on prototype offshore turbine, as EU countries move forward with plans for North Sea grid, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Gamesa nears final decision on British offshore turbine plant - Thurs, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Spanish wind turbine manufacturer hopes to reach decision on prospective UK investment by the end of October, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Without a true green investment bank there can be no environmental progress - Thurs, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

If David Cameron is to deliver his promise of a low-carbon economy, he must demonstrate the political will, [Guardian](#)

**Shell touts £40k prize for green entrepreneurs - Thurs, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Shell Springboard competition promises £320,000 prize fund for innovative low-carbon small businesses, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Concerns raised over wind farm incentive programme - Weds. 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Trade body RenewableUK has welcomed the government's plans to allow communities to keep the business rates paid by owners of new onshore wind farms but raised concern that the proposals "do not go far enough", [NewEnergyFocus](#)

**Global 2020 emissions will far exceed 'dangerous' levels - Weds. 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

WWF paper warns world is on track to break its carbon budget, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Look past China's smog and noise and you can see greener action - Weds. 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Green shoots have begun to appear in a country racing to growth through construction and manufacturing, [Guardian](#)

**Controversy over high subsidies to UK wind power - Weds. 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

A difference in opinions has become apparent as the Renewable Energy Foundation (REF) oppose RenewableUK's claims that very high subsidies to wind power are justified because the industry contributes to the UK's security of supply, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

**Desertec looks to secure route to African solar farms - Weds. 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Italian grid operator Terna becomes latest shareholder in Desertec Industrial Initiative as high profile solar project gears up for its first annual conference, [BusinessGreen](#)

**UK retailers in talks to join government's 'green deal' - Tues, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Tesco, B&Q and M&S among companies that could sell loft insulation and home energy improvements as part of the coalition's flagship energy efficiency programme, [Guardian](#)

**UK feed-in tariffs to be axed? Business leaders outraged - Tues, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Growing speculation that the UK feed-in-tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems are to be cut has forced over 60 Chief Executives to write to cabinet ministers fearing that investors will flee, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

**Three company alliance unveils hydrogen CCS plans - Tues, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Three low carbon project developers have today (October 4) signed a binding letter of intent to work together on the development of power stations with carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

**German Solar Panel Equipment Prices Fell 13% This Year on Efficiency Gains - Tues, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Prices for installed solar power equipment have fallen 13 percent this year in Germany, helped by efficiency improvements and investments in panel manufacturing, the BSW solar industry association said, [Bloomberg](#)



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**£19bn to dismantle aged North Sea oil platforms - Tues, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

The cost of dismantling North Sea oil and gas platforms is forecast to reach £19bn over the next 30 years, [BBC](#)

**Government commits to incentive for renewable heat - Tues, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

In the strongest indication to date that a Renewable Heat Incentive will be introduced, Conservative cabinet office minister Oliver Letwin has claimed that a subsidy for heat will sit within the government's "one coherent vision" for renewables, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

**Human waste turned into renewable gas to power homes - Tues, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Pilot project is first in UK to produce domestic gas from sewage, [Guardian](#)

**Norway Considers Alternatives at Mongstad Carbon Storage Amid Health Risks - Tues, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Norway is evaluating alternatives for its Mongstad carbon capture plant after results showed increased health and environmental risks linked to the amine technology, potentially delaying and raising costs at the project, [Bloomberg](#)

**China calls on rich nations to improve emission targets - Tues, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Hosts of latest round of UN climate talks say emission reduction goals of developed countries must be focus of negotiations, [Guardian](#)

**Feed-In Tariffs on target, founder claims - Tues, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

New figures released showing the government's Feed-In Tariff (FIT) scheme is on target, may place more pressure on the coalition to clarify their plans for FITs, [Edie](#)

**Heat Pump Association rejects HFC emission claims - Tues, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

The Heat Pump Association (HPA) has rejected claims that air-source heat pumps emit hydrofluorocarbons that would add 20 per cent to their carbon footprint, [H&Vnews](#)

**Waste heat market heats up as GE acquires Calnetix Power Solutions - Tues, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Deal sees GE extend its reach into expanding waste heat sector, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Energy industry demands carbon policy clarity - Tues, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Experts warn uncertainty over coalition's green plans is undermining investor confidence, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Key UN climate talks open in China - Mon, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

The final round of UN climate talks before this year's summit in Mexico, which begins at the end of November, has got under way in China, [BBC](#)

**Tinkering with climate policies will backfire, investors warn - Mon, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Institutional investors have warned European countries that repeated policy changes across the continent are discouraging investment in low-carbon technologies, [EurActiv](#)

**Brussels finalising EU energy infrastructure plan - Mon, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

The European Commission is planning to introduce a fast-track procedure for permitting energy infrastructure projects of European interest, according to a draft proposal seen by [EurActiv](#), [EurActiv](#)

**AD finance obstacles to be tackled in Action Plan - Mon, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

The government has revealed that the AD Action Plan, due to be published in draft form next month, will address planning obstacles and financing for anaerobic digestion plants in the UK, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

**Covanta plans large-scale Scottish EfW facility - Mon, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

US energy-from-waste specialist Covanta Energy have unveiled plans to develop a large-scale EfW facility using combined heat and power (CHP) technology at Drumshangie, to the east of Glasgow, [LetsRecycle](#)

**AD finance obstacles to be tackled in Action Plan - Mon, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

The government has revealed that the AD Action Plan, due to be published in draft form next month, will address planning obstacles and financing for anaerobic digestion plants in the UK, [NewEnergyFocus](#)



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**10,000 Birmingham council homes to get solar panels - Sun, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2010**

City agrees £100m scheme, partly funded by banks and energy suppliers, to meet target for cutting carbon emissions, [Guardian](#)

**British engineers pitch for Saudi nuclear programme - Fri, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010**

Saudi Arabia moved closer to a hugely controversial civil nuclear programme this weekend, after UK and US engineers pitched to draw up its atomic energy plans, [Independent](#)

**U.S. aims to end China's rare earth metals monopoly - Fri, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010**

The United States wants more countries to boost production of so-called rare earth metals used in clean energy technology products to break China's monopoly on the supplies, a top Energy Department official told Congress on Thursday, [Reuters](#)

**North America's risky race to exploit oil sands and shales - Fri, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010**

Yale Environment 360: Energy companies are rushing to exploit new sources of oil in Canada and the western US - but government officials don't seem concerned about the environmental consequences, [Guardian](#)

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## 3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

### *Parliamentary Report - Commons*

Parliament is in recess

The Energy and Climate Change Committee will hold the first evidence session on the Emissions Performance Standard inquiry on Tuesday 12 October. Click [here](#) for further information.

### Reports

**CBI report: Going to waste: Making the case for energy from waste, Fri 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

This report encourages the government to look into use of non-recyclable waste to meet the UK's energy needs. Going to waste: Making the case for energy from waste highlights the important role that energy from waste could play in a broad-based energy mix, which improves energy security. With strong leadership from the Government on planning, financing and procurement, the UK could quadruple the proportion of energy it generates from waste from 1.5% to 6% by 2015. The report focuses on the family of energy from waste technologies, which can be broadly divided into biological and thermal types. Anaerobic digestion can be used on-site to produce heat and electricity, or injected into the National Grid after being purified. Thermal treatments include technologies, such as gasification and pyrolysis, which involve heating waste to produce gas, as well as incineration. The CBI argues that non-recyclable waste should be incinerated, and emphasises that it is cleaner, more efficient, and environmentally sounder than burning fossil fuels or relying on landfill.

Click [here](#) to access the report

**WWF report: *Plugging the Gap* - Mon, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Based on recent science, WWF's Plugging The Gap paper outlines that global emissions in 2020 should not exceed emissions of greenhouse gases 40 Gigatonnes in order to stay clear of dangerous warming levels. However, current promises by the world's governments will result in approximately 10 Gigatonnes more, up to 30% off the safety track. Click [here](#) to access the report

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## 4. EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

### Heat pump seminars

Event: Take advantage of the heat pump market

Date: 4th November 2010: Harrogate; 3rd February 2011: Daventry; 28th April 2011: Basingstoke

Further details: [click here](#)

### Solar Power UK 2010 Conference

Event: Enabling the UK Solar Market for 2011

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Location: IET LONDON

Description: This comprehensive 2-day conference including a mini exhibition will provide exclusive UK PV industry insights. Challenges of supply, cost and the rapid growth in demand from the UK have created the need for an accelerated maturation of the solar power industry. Solar Power UK 2010 will be the first step in ensuring that all the major players in the UK market can come together as one industry to make sure that the 250MW target is achievable. An exclusive Gala Networking Dinner, sponsored by Trina Solar, will be held as an accompanying event to the conference, thus opening the opportunity for further networking and business development in an elite environment.

Further details: [click here](#)

### EAS Annual Conference 2010

Date: 3 - 5 November 2010

Description: Prioritising the Fuel Poor. The Energy Action Scotland Annual Conference will focus on why addressing fuel poverty is a matter of urgency as the 2016 target to end it approaches.

Further details: [www.eas.org.uk](http://www.eas.org.uk)

### National Energy Foundation courses

Wood Fuel Heating & CHP, November 8<sup>th</sup>, Milton Keynes

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

### RenewableUK event

Event: RenewableUK 2010

Date: Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

### The Rushlight Awards Clean Technologies Show and Gala Dinner

Host organisation: Rushlight Awards

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Location: Church House, Westminster

More information: Click [here](#)

The Rushlight Awards promote and celebrate the leading energy, resource and environmental technologies



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and innovations by organizations throughout UK and Ireland.

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

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

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

## Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy

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

**Further information:** [click here](#)

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