



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.

9th July 2010: This Week's Headlines...

DECC announces £10m in offshore wind grants

[NewEnergyFocus](#) - [New Civil Engineer](#)

Government invites discussion on the future of energy from waste

[DECC](#) - [NewEnergyFocus](#)

£13m cash boost for marine energy

[Herald Scotland](#) - [Scotsman](#) - [The Scottish Government](#) - [NewEnergyFocus](#)

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2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES

Headline news:

DECC announces £10m in offshore wind grants - Mon, 5th July 2010

Energy secretary Chris Huhne has today (July 5) announced the first round of grants since the Budget for developing next-generation offshore wind technology, making £10 million of funding available for the UK supply chain, [NewEnergyFocus](#) - [New Civil Engineer](#)

Government invites discussion on the future of energy from waste - Tues, 6th July 2010

Climate Change Minister Greg Barker and Environment Minister Lord Henley are today jointly chairing an Anaerobic Digestion Round Table with industry, [DECC](#) - [NewEnergyFocus](#)

£13m cash boost for marine energy - Tues, 6th July 2010

A £6 million cash boost has been announced to help construction of one of the world's biggest wave energy stations, The funding for the 10-turbine Siadar project off the Western Isles is part of £13 million in grants announced on Tuesday for five marine energy projects across Scotland, [Herald Scotland](#) - [Scotsman](#) - [The Scottish Government](#) - [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Other news:

Renewable energy joint venture - Weds, 7th July 2010

First Minister Alex Salmond has welcomed a strategic co-operation agreement signed between SeaEnergy Renewables and Nantong COSCO Ship Steel Structure Company (NCSC) to develop and market steel structures for the offshore wind industry, [The Scottish Government](#)

Investors 'like RO structure' for offshore wind - Weds, 7th July 2010

Once the Renewables Obligation (RO) has been explained to investors with regard to offshore wind financing they understand and like the structure of the scheme and perceive that with market risk there can be a market return, the head of offshore business & asset management at RWE Innogy has revealed, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Has the Green Investment Bank selected the right target? - Weds, 7th July 2010

The Green Investment Bank should boost struggling independents not hand public money to multinational utilities, argues Jo Butlin of Smartest Energy, [BusinessGreen](#)

North Sea investment to top £16bn on oil industry bounce - Weds, 7th July 2010

A bumper £16 billion in potential investment in the North Sea could be "kick started" this year by a resurgent oil and gas industry, it was revealed yesterday, [Scotsman](#)

China Plans New Resource Tax on Coal, Oil, Gas in Western Areas - Weds, 7th July 2010

China plans to impose a tax on coal, oil and gas extraction in western provinces, raising funds to develop its most restive region in a move that will reduce profits for PetroChina Co. and rival resource producers, [Bloomberg](#)

Budget cuts caution on UK nuclear waste plan - Weds, 7th July 2010

The UK's deep store for nuclear waste should open for business around 2040 - but spending cuts could delay the plans, and community support is vital, [BBC](#)



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Two thirds of HCA funding black hole to be filled by government - Tues, 6th July 2010

The Homes and Communities Agency has been granted £390 million to fill a £610 million funding black hole identified when the Coalition government came to power which threatened to bring social housing schemes to a standstill and halt the Kickstart programme, [Public Sector and Local Government](#)

New report to drive energy efficiency - Tues, 6th July 2010

The drive to improve energy efficiency in current housing stock has stepped up a gear with the launch of guidance targeting the sector. [Public Sector and Local Government](#)

Electric cars must be taxed to pay for more power stations 'or National Grid could fail' - Tues, 6th July 2010

Electric cars must be taxed to pay for more power stations or they could drain the National Grid and even contribute to power cuts, an energy firm has warned, [Telegraph](#)

Renewables make up 62% of new EU electricity in 2009 - Tues, 6th July 2010

Renewable energy sources accounted for 62% of new electricity generation capacity installed in the EU27 in 2009, a 5% rise on 2008 levels, according to a report published by the European Commission, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Groundbreaking district heating scheme moves a step closer - Tues, 6th July 2010

Work to deliver a groundbreaking district heating scheme for two major new developments in East Devon is now close to becoming a reality, thanks to the collaborative efforts of developers and local authority partners, [Public Sector and Local Government](#)

Vindicated scientists warn against rising climate risks - Tues, 6th July 2010

Dutch review concludes that handful of errors in IPCC report do not undermine central conclusions about the origins and scale of climate change, [BusinessGreen](#)

Scottish funds flow into marine energy projects - Tues, 6th July 2010

Oysters and doughnuts among the big winners as Scottish government awards £13m in marine energy grants, [BusinessGreen](#)

Government aims to spark anaerobic digestion boom - Tues, 6th July 2010

Ministers meet with industry to identify barriers to adoption of waste-to-energy technology, [BusinessGreen](#)

Spanish renewables industry breathes sigh of relief at modest incentive cuts - Tues, 6th July 2010

Shares in leading wind and solar farm operators climb following announcement of subsidy deal between industry and government, [BusinessGreen](#)

Businesses push for decisions on EU carbon scheme - Tues, 6th July 2010

- Industry groups want clarity on scheme uncertainties
- EU to publish absolute annual Phase 3 cap details Friday
- Carbon permit auction plan vote set for July 14
- Other decisions on opt-ins, aviation cap seen in autumn, [Reuters](#)

Scottish Government awards £13m to marine energy projects - Tues, 6th July 2010

The Scottish Government has today (July 6) awarded £13 million to five marine energy projects under its Wave and Tidal Energy: Research, Development and Demonstration Support (WATERS) fund, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

EDF's EPR Reactor at Flamanville Is Delayed by 24 Months, Le Figaro Says - Tues, 6th July 2010

Construction of Electricite de France SA's EPR nuclear reactor at Flamanville in Normandy is running about



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24 months later, Le Figaro reported, citing an unidentified person, [Bloomberg](#)

BP shares rise on rumour of Middle East investment - Tues, 6th July 2010

Shares in BP jumped 3.5 per cent yesterday amid reports it may turn to Middle East investors to ward off any takeover approach, [Scotsman](#)

£10 million grants for UK offshore wind technology announced - Tues, 6th July 2010

The first round of grants since the UK's Budget for developing next-generation offshore wind technology have been announced by the UK's Department of Energy and Climate Change, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

GE, Statoil, Lyse and Gothenburg Energy team up on offshore wind - Tues, 6th July 2010

GE plans to install up to five offshore demonstration wind turbines in Norway and Sweden through two separate partnerships, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

German Feed-in Tariff (FiT) to reduce in two phases? - Tues, 6th July 2010

Following weeks of discussion between the German Parliament and the Federal States on the funding of Solar Photovoltaic (PV), the mediation committee seems to be heading towards an agreement, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

10:10 - progress on our pledges - Tues, 6th July 2010

We asked some of the celebrities, companies and families who signed up to 10:10 how they are cutting their carbon emissions, [Guardian](#)

Global emissions targets will lead to 4C temperature rise, say studies - Mon, 5th July 2010

Studies predict major extinctions and collapse of Greenland ice sheet with temperatures rising well above UN targets, [Guardian](#)

German committee proposes reducing solar cuts - Mon, 5th July 2010

A German parliamentary mediation committee on Monday recommended slightly reducing proposed cuts to solar incentives over a three-month transition period in order to resolve a political impasse over the plans, [Reuters](#)

Progress remains elusive as Rome climate talks close - Mon, 5th July 2010

Next meeting of Major Economies Forum will take place later this month and focus on energy efficiency and clean technology, [BusinessGreen](#)

Is large-scale biomass threatening 8700 UK jobs? - Mon, 5th July 2010

Study reveal that the increasing development of large-scale wood fired biomass energy plants in the UK could put 8700 jobs at risk and risk a 1% increase in UK carbon emissions, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

No link between wind turbines and health: report - Mon, 5th July 2010

There is no evidence that wind turbines have a direct adverse effect on human health, according to an independent study by Australia's National Health & Medical Research Council, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

IRENA celebrates first year anniversary - Mon, 5th July 2010

As of July, 8, 2010, the International Renewable Energy Association (IRENA) will be a fully fledged international organisation, [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

Chris Huhne and Vince Cable: The green economy is still viable - Mon, 5th July 2010

A Green Investment Bank would be commercially independent, with clear goals for investment in new technologies using innovative financial products, [Independent](#)



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Review of questioned IPCC report says conclusions 'well-founded' - Mon, 5th July 2010

Dutch government finds minor inaccuracies in contested paper, but reasserts that 'climate change poses "substantial risks" to most parts of the world', [Guardian](#)

DECC: Marine energy technology will be sourced from UK - Mon, 5th July 2010

The government is committed to harnessing the "tremendous benefits" of a successful wave and tidal renewable energy sector and is considering putting policy in place to ensure technology and jobs do not go overseas, energy minister Greg Barker has claimed, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

US climate scientists receive hate mail barrage in wake of UEA scandal - Mon, 5th July 2010

Vitriolic campaign targets American scientists following leak of climate unit emails, [Guardian](#)

Carbon Trust steps up regional energy-saving initiative - Mon, 5th July 2010

East Anglia latest target for Best Advice carbon-cutting campaign, [Bloomberg](#)

Spanish Utilities to Appeal Electricity Rate Reduction, Cinco Dias Reports - Mon, 5th July 2010

Spanish power companies plan to appeal the government's decision to reduce the electricity rates paid by consumers, [Cinco Dias](#) reported, without saying who provided the information, [Bloomberg](#)

DECC: Marine energy technology will be sourced from UK - Mon, 5th July 2010

The government is committed to harnessing the "tremendous benefits" of a successful wave and tidal renewable energy sector and is considering putting policy in place to ensure technology and jobs do not go overseas, energy minister Greg Barker has claimed, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Renewable energy generation in South West rises by 8% - Mon, 5th July 2010

The South West has seen a huge increase in the number of small-scale renewable energy projects, but a significant lack of large-scale schemes being developed in the past year, according to figures released by Regen SW, [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Michael Grätzel: Give people access to cheap solar power - Sun, 4th July 2010

The prize-winning inventor says his low-cost solar cell has the potential to form a major part of an energy revolution, [Guardian](#)

EU clashes with China over trade 'barriers' to rival firms - Sun, 4th July 2010

China and Europe are entering into a destructive trade war as EU officials vow to "get tough" over China's bureaucratic barriers against foreign investment and trade, [Telegraph](#)

Obama hands \$2bn to solar energy firms - Sun, 4th July 2010

Subsidies for green companies aimed at creating 5,000 jobs, [Guardian](#)

Experts warn of power cuts as warm, dry weather creates a blow for wind turbine energy - Sun, 4th July 2010

Power cuts could hit Scotland this summer because of dry weather, experts have warned, [Scotsman](#)

EU Carbon Permits May Rise to 16 Euros After 'Harami': Technical Analysis - Sun, 4th July 2010

European Union carbon permits may climb to 16 euros (\$20.15) a metric ton after the contract for delivery in December generated a so-called harami pattern on a candlestick chart at the end of last week, [Bloomberg](#)

Obama commits nearly \$2 billion to solar companies - Sat, 3rd July 2010

President Barack Obama, under pressure to spur job growth, said today that two solar energy companies will get nearly \$2 billion in US loan guarantees to create as many as 5,000 green jobs, [Independent](#)



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Bob Wigley says green funding 'can be much better spent' - Sat, 3rd July 2010

The report by the chairman of the Green Investment Bank Commission on a green future for Britain has ignited a debate about how the UK can lead on energy, [Telegraph](#)

EDF and Scottish Power under scrutiny over high energy bills - Sat, 3rd July 2010

EDF and Scottish Power are the two companies under scrutiny by the energy regulator over "serious concerns" that some customers are paying too much on their energy bills, [Telegraph](#)

The EU's response to global warming is a costly mistake - Fri, 2nd July 2010

Europe's 20/20/20 policy will cost billions of pounds, but yield only tiny results, writes Bjorn Lomborg, [Telegraph](#)

Shortage in parts for solar panels - Fri, 2nd July 2010

It might be sunny but solar panels around Britain are failing to generate any electricity because of a shortage of parts, [Telegraph](#)

Green tech investment surges - Fri, 2nd July 2010

Global investments in clean energy companies rose 43% in Q2 on last year, says new Cleantech Group and Deloitte report, [Guardian](#)

Renewables must generate 50% of global electricity: IEA - Fri, 2nd July 2010

Renewable energies must generate almost half of the world's power by 2050, up from the current level of 18%, says the International Energy Agency (IEA), [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

UK's 2020 targets are achievable, claims Renewable Action Plan - Fri, 2nd July 2010

The UK can meet its 15% renewable energy target for 2020 with domestic action and financial support for technologies, according to the UK's National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP), [NewEnergyFocus](#)

Renewables industry urges planning body to fix broken system - Fri, 2nd July 2010

Renewables industry cautiously optimistic about new ministerial planning unit, but warns system needs urgent streamlining, [BusinessGreen](#)

Carbon Trust touts low-energy datacentre design - Fri, 2nd July 2010

Facility in Scotland will be a blueprint for green-minded enterprises, [BusinessGreen](#)

3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

Select Committees

The Committees still await the nomination of members - activity is not expected from the reformed Committees until after the summer recess.

Bills and debates

On Wednesday morning there was a Westminster Hall debate on fuel poverty in rural Britain, led by the new MP for Suffolk Coastal Dr Thérèse Coffey, who highlighted the high levels of fuel poverty in rural communities, which is on average 25% of households in these areas. Issues raised included Warm Front, solid wall insulation, off-grid homes and micro-CHP units. To read the write-up, click [here](#).



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To mark DECC's 'market sounding' exercise on Thursday, the Westminster Hall debate was on **energy security**, opened by the Minister of State at DECC, Charles Hendry MP. Hendry made many points on energy security and the need to tackle climate change alongside securing supply. He confirmed his belief that (unsubsidised) nuclear power should be part of the energy mix, alongside gas, abated coal and renewables, which he argued was an 'uncomfortable issue' due to the UK being the second worst renewables generator in the EU27. He went on to speak about the centrality of offshore wind and biomass and other technologies such as marine parks, alongside energy infrastructure requirements. To read the rest of the debate, click [here](#), or to watch it on Parliament TV, [here](#). PRASEG's chairman, Alan Whitehead MP, made a lengthy contribution highlighting the research in a recent report which evaluated the UK's offshore resources.

Looking forward, provisional business of the House includes a debate on the construction of new nuclear power stations on Tuesday 13th July, led by Ian Liddell-Grainger MP, and on Wednesday 14th July, a debate on community ownership of renewable energy products, led by John Woodcock MP.

Early Day Motions

There were no motions tabled this week related to renewable and sustainable energy.

Private Members' Bills

Ones to watch:

- Robert Ffello MP's **Sustainable Livestock Bill**: Second Reading: 12th November
- Rebecca Harris MP's **Daylight Saving Bill**: Second Reading: 3rd December
- Joan Walley's **Public Bodies (Sustainable Food) Bill**: Second Reading: 12th November
- Nigel Adam's **Protection of Local Services (Planning) Bill**: Second Reading: 21st January 2011

Written Statements

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government made a statement this week on the revoking of regional strategies. The government's planning reforms will replace the imposition of central targets with 'powerful incentives' to Local Authorities to build new homes. Included in the statement was the assurance that the revisions to the planning system "will also support renewable energy and a low-carbon economy". Read the statement [here](#).

Parliamentary Questions

Julie Hilling MP asked an oral question to the Department for International Development on funding for international assistance to tackle climate change - read it [here](#).

In topical questions to the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, Karl Tuner MP asked a question on government support for green energy production in Hull. Adrian Bailey MP asked a question on the abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission and the likely effect on renewable energy projects. Read the answers in the topical questions report in Hansard [here](#).



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The next oral questions in the House to DECC and DEFRA are likely to fall after recess, however DCLG will answer questions on Thursday 15th July.

Written Questions

Written questions that have received answers from DECC and other government departments in the last week are summarised below in date order.

[Monday](#)'s DECC answers included topics such as a carbon market, climate change negotiations, security of energy (and electricity) supplies, energy subsidy reform, fuel poverty, the Green investment Bank, energy efficiency, the Redfern nuclear enquiry and Warm Front delays.

Defra answered a question on the impact of offshore wind on the fishing industry ([here](#)), whilst DCLG answered a question on the planning and local consultation considerations involved with wind energy ([here](#)).

DfT answered a question on biofuels ([here](#)).

[Tuesday](#)'s DECC answers included topics such as the boiler scrappage scheme, EU emissions targets, the Green Investment Bank, cavity wall insulation, FiTs, environmental impacts of wind turbines, and the possibility of linking planning permission for energy projects with global environmental impact assessments.

[Wednesday](#)'s DECC answers included topics such as a legally binding emissions treaty, the IPCC, the Green Investment Bank, Feed-in-Tariffs rates payable for different technologies, the 2010 Budget and wind farms policy.

DCLG answered a question on the Infrastructure Planning Commission ([here](#)).

[Thursday](#)'s DECC answers included topics such as (cancer patients in) fuel poverty, the Green Investment Bank timetable, The Renewable Heat Incentive, heat loss from inefficient windows and the inclusion of energy efficient windows in the Green Deal.

House of Lords highlights

Parliamentary written and oral questions that have received answers this week in the House of Lords include:

- Lord James of Blackheath's oral question on the Renewable Energy Directive ([here](#));
- Lord Haskel's oral question on the Climate Change Committee ([here](#));
- Lord Roberts of Conwy's written question on gas storage ([here](#)); and
- Lord Jenkin of Roding's written question on government support for biomass plants ([here](#)).

Reports

Sustainable Development Commission Report: The Future is Local: Empowering communities to improve their neighbourhoods - 6th July 2010

The physical infrastructure in our villages, towns and cities requires significant upgrading and in doing so we have the opportunity to tackle climate change, deliver reliable and efficient transport networks, improve health and well being, secure a healthy natural environment, improve long-term housing supply, maximise



employment opportunities and take our communities safer and more cohesive. Whilst these opportunities are recognised at a national level for major infrastructure projects, they are not realised for local physical infrastructure. By local physical infrastructure we mean buildings (domestic and non-domestic - including derelict buildings), roads, pedestrian routes and cycle paths, public space, green infrastructure (parks, gardens, playing fields, trees etc.), blue infrastructure (canals, lakes, rivers, etc.), underused land, waste and recycling facilities, underground utilities of electricity (including recharging points), gas, water, Information and Communication Technology (including superfast broadband), and heat networks. Click [here](#) to access the report

4. EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

National Energy Foundation courses

[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](#)

LowCVP event

LowCVP Low Carbon Champions Awards 2010 - call for nominations.

Nominations are invited for the LowCVP's inaugural Low Carbon Champions Awards to be presented during an Awards Dinner at Twickenham Stadium during the [LowCVP Annual Conference](#) on July 14th. The deadline for nominations to the LowCV is Thursday 24 June. For more information including a nomination form please visit www.lowcvp.org.uk

Event: [Annual Conference and Awards Dinner](#)

Date: 14 - 15 July 2010

Time: 14:00 - 17:30 (14th) 9:30 - 17:00 (15th)

Location: Twickenham Stadium, West London

Description: The conference will take place on July 14-15 at Twickenham Stadium in west London. The event will, for the first time, include an Awards Dinner featuring the third WhatCar? Green Awards and the inaugural LowCVP Low Carbon Champions Awards in the evening of 14 July. The LowCVP conference has become a leading event on the environmental transport calendar, regularly attracting leading speakers and 200 or more high level delegates. This year's expanded event will offer more opportunities for delegates, exhibitors and sponsors.

Further details: Click [here](#)



BRE event

Event: [Opportunities for Social Housing Providers from Feed-in Tariffs](#)

Date: Friday 9 July,

Location: BRE, Watford

£195 + VAT

Description: FITs have given householders and all types of organisations an opportunity to become electricity generators, benefiting financially from long-term income streams.

Social Housing providers are well-placed to take advantage of the FITs scheme and provide significant benefits to their tenants, for example, reducing fuel poverty.

This half-day awareness seminar, delivered by independent experts with first-hand knowledge of FITs, will equip Social Housing providers with a full understanding of the benefits of the scheme

Further details: [click here](#)

Event: [Part L 2010 Explained](#)

Date: Wednesday 14 July

Location: BRE, Watford

£115 + VAT

Description: One-day conference providing a detailed overview of the new Part L, F & J requirements, effective from October 2010.

- Hear directly from CLG about the new Government's policy for regulations and the move to zero carbon buildings understand the revised 2010 energy and CO2 targets for dwellings and other buildings and the typical construction and servicing strategies to meet these targets
- Hear about the use of accredited details in delivering quality buildings
- Learn about improved calculation methods and software tools - SAP 2009 and SBEM
- Understand the link between energy efficiency and adequate ventilation (Part F) in maintaining air quality and avoiding over-heating
- Have the opportunity to question the speakers

Further details: [click here](#)

National Heat Pump Awards

Date: 23rd June, 2011

Location: International Convention Centre (ICC), Birmingham

Description: The awards will act as a focus of excellence, to show what the latest technology can achieve and highlight outstanding work by the people and organisations driving developments forward.

The event takes place on 23rd June, 2011, at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in the heart of Birmingham. The gala black-tie evening at only £145 plus VAT will include a pre-dinner drinks reception, a sumptuous four-course dinner, wine at table plus top flight professional presentation with celebrity entertainment. There are ten award categories, and organisations and individuals are now invited to enter:

- Installation of the year:
 - Domestic, air source
 - Domestic, ground/water source
 - Commercial, air source
 - Commercial, ground/water source
- Product innovation of the year
- Training excellence award;
- Public sector project of the year
- Installer of the year;
- Consultant of the year;



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- Heat pump champion.

The closing date for entries is 4th March, 2011.

Further details: To register and for further details go to www.national-heat-pump-awards.co.uk

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