

headline news

durban

in the media

decc at work

in the spotlight

news bites

WELCOME

This is the second edition of the DECC Review highlighting the biggest DECC related news stories.

We open with Big Energy Week. Citizens Advice coordinated this advice campaign (16-21 Jan), which saw thousands of people across the country get practical help and advice to cut their fuel bills and find out what financial support they are entitled to. You can see how Secretary of State Chris Huhne and Energy Minister Charles Hendry lent their support.

We see how the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is managing our nuclear legacy. This month also sees a new item called: Performance Matters. A regular report on interesting performance and delivery metrics across DECC. Alongside this we feature the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment team behind the figures.

We received lots of feedback from the first edition and are always happy to hear your [comments](#) so keep them coming in.

Big Energy Week

Highlighting the help available for consumers struggling with high energy bills

Big Energy Week (16-21 January 2012) saw advisers from Citizens Advice, Age UK, accredited switching sites and energy suppliers help people across the country spend less on heating and powering their homes.

The week was a chance for consumers to get face to face practical advice and is supported by Consumer Focus, Which?, Energy UK, energy companies, charities, accredited switching sites, Ofgem and the Government.

Energy and Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne said:

“We know that a lot of households are struggling to cope with high energy costs. Many people could cut their gas and electricity bills by moving to a better deal with their existing supplier, switching to another supplier altogether, or by taking up home insulation offers. But we need

to make sure consumers are aware of this and make it easier for them to take action to save money. That is why I am backing Big Energy Week. We want to get the advice and information out to as many consumers across the country as possible.”

Last October’s energy summit saw a range of actions agreed to help consumers during the winter. Government, consumer groups, the Regulator and suppliers are working together to help consumers [‘Check, Switch, Insulate to Save’](#) money.

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Chris Huhne talking to staff on the Big Energy Week stand at Westfield Shopping Centre, London



forward

Outcome of Durban Climate Conference



Negotiators, with DECC's own Pete Betts, at the COP17 Climate Conference in Durban work late into the night to reach agreement on a roadmap to a legally binding deal, 10 December 2011.

The United Nations climate conference in Durban took place from Monday 28 November 2011 to the very early hours of Sunday 11 December, 36 hours after they were meant to finish.

The outcome was at the top end of what the Government had hoped for going into the conference and was in no small credit due to the European Union (EU) adopting a strong and unified negotiating position and building support from over 120 countries for a high ambition outcome. Many African and Latin American states, the group of least developed countries, and the Alliance of Small Island States vulnerable to rising sea levels joined with the EU to argue for the proposal for a new agreement.

In the end, the talks resulted in:

- the adoption of a roadmap – the 'Durban Platform' – to a global legally binding agreement applicable to all countries. Negotiations will begin early in 2012 and conclude as early as possible and not later than 2015. The commitments contained in the new agreement are to take effect from 2020;
- recognition that there is a global gap in ambition between existing emissions reduction pledges for the period to 2020 and the minimum necessary to stay below a global temperature increase of 2°C. A work programme was launched to enhance mitigation ambition and explore options to close the gap. This will begin immediately and the first step is for countries have been invited to submit options for increasing the ambition of pledges by the end of February 2012. This process will be reinforced by the outcomes of the review of the scientific evidence to be conducted from 2013 to 2015;
- agreement to adopt, next year, the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. This will preserve the 'Kyoto architecture' – the sets of rules and legal frameworks for managing emissions – which can be built on in the future. However, many details remain to be worked out over the coming months, including the specific emissions reduction targets, the length of the commitment period and a process for resolving the problem of carry over into a second commitment period of surplus emissions allowances;
- operationalisation of the Green Climate Fund to support mitigation and adaptation policies and activities in developing countries, following a successful process over the last year of designing its structure and operation. While a couple of countries have already pledged resources to the Fund, the UK will make an announcement on this issue in due course.

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That was the month that was

A monthly round-up of DECC news that has been hitting the headlines and what our Ministers have been up to.



On Tuesday 17 January the Public Accounts Committee published a report on smart meters saying that the energy suppliers will benefit more from the roll-out than consumers. The publication of the report received widespread coverage in the print media and was reported on the BBC's Today programme.

On Wednesday 25 January there was widespread media coverage as the Court of Appeal upheld the High Court's ruling against the government's proposed cuts to solar feed-in tariffs (FITs). The Secretary of State said he would seek permission to appeal to the Supreme Court. He said:



"We want to maximise the number of installations that are possible within the available budget rather than use available money to pay a higher tariff to half the number of installations. Solar PV can have strong and vibrant future in UK and we want a lasting FITs scheme to support that future and jobs in the industry."

On Monday 23 January Climate Change Minister Greg Barker announced that the South West of England is to be given the status of a "marine energy park", stretching from Bristol to Cornwall and as far as the Isles of Scilly. He said, in a visit to Bristol: "This is a real milestone for the marine industry and for the South West region in securing its place in renewables history as the first official marine energy park. The South West can build on its existing unique mix of renewable energy resource and home-grown academic, technical and industrial expertise." During his visit, the Minister launched the South West Marine Energy Park Prospectus which outlines how the region's public and private sector will work together with the government and other key national bodies such as the Crown Estate. The announcement was reported on Sky News and in the Sun, Telegraph, and the Independent as well as the front page of both the Western Morning News and the Western Daily Press. The Minister also appeared on both BBC Radio Bristol and BBC Radio Somerset. You can read more about this story in the DECC [press release](#).



Greg Barker pictured with a model turbine as he announced the South West of England is to be a "marine energy park."



Tackling the highest hazards

Cleaning up the nuclear legacy

Welcome to Sellafield: Europe's most complex and challenging nuclear site.

Sellafield is Europe's most challenging nuclear site, occupying two square miles but home to 1,000-plus facilities, some of which date back to the 1940s and contain a range of extremely hazardous liabilities.

The UK's early legacy of nuclear experimentation left 11 Magnox-design power stations, a range of research sites, fuel manufacturing and enrichment plants plus reprocessing facilities.

Responsibility for the clean-up programme lies with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) which provides strategic direction and manages performance of a range of contracts let to international companies for site management and operations. The introduction of private-sector expertise, through competitive procurement, aims to drive the mission forward, while delivering value for money and ensuring environmental safety is an ever-present priority.

With a funding allocation from DECC averaging around £3 billion a year, set under the last Spending Review, a key requirement for the NDA is to prioritise resources towards the most pressing tasks and deliver accelerated decommissioning progress where possible. Commercial

activities will generate upwards of £0.7 billion towards next year's budget which includes revenue from the remaining Magnox plant that will still be generating electricity, and income from reprocessing.

The NDA's latest annual Business Plan outlines objectives for 2012/13 with a clear focus on Sellafield's oldest facilities, known as Legacy Ponds and Silos, where radioactive waste has accumulated over decades and where, before decommissioning can begin, vital improvements are required to the ageing infrastructure to maintain safety.

Expenditure in this priority area has risen considerably, with technological innovation and engineering ingenuity both critical to solving many of the issues. Following the publication last year of a new, robust Sellafield Plan, confidence is increasing that good progress will be made.

A new approach across the Magnox fleet will be taken forward, based on the selection of two lead sites where innovations and new technologies will be comprehensively tested, and subsequent learning applied at remaining sites. The savings are anticipated to be a total of 30 years off timeframes and around £1 billion in costs. A similar approach at Harwell and Winfrith research sites is also being explored which could secure reduced decommissioning costs and timescales.

Bird's eye view: Sellafield from the air shows how vast yet compact the site is



DECC Ministers lend support for Big Energy Week

As part of Big Energy Week, Energy Minister **Charles Hendry** met local residents in Cambridge's Grand Arcade shopping centre on Monday 16 January.



Charles Hendry visits Cambridge for Big Energy Week and meets with the Grand Arcade shopping centre's Energy Efficiency manager, and Nigel Brown OBE, Chairman of Cambridge & District CAB.

Citizens Advice Bureau ran a public awareness event signposting householders to ways to save money on their energy bills.

The Minister said: "We are launching our new 'green deal' programme next year to help provide people with effective roof insulation, cavity wall insulation and new boilers without people having to pay anything upfront for it. But for this winter the best system is for people to get in touch with their existing provider and look to see if they are offering any deals that will benefit them. Many households can save £200 a year by shopping around."

Chris Huhne visited Leeds and East Yorkshire on Friday 20 January as Big Energy week came to a close.

The Secretary of State started off at the Reginald Centre in Leeds where he visited stalls giving advice. Each of them looked at one specific area of energy saving advice such as insulation, switching, benefits entitlement and even food that can keep you warm.

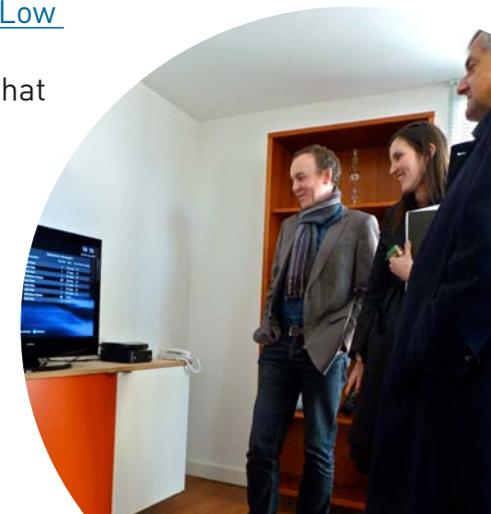
He then met Leeds Council Chief Executive, Tom Riordan where they talked about '[The Economics of Low Carbon Cities](#)' a paper looking at return on investment of low carbon options. It states that for every £1 billion invested there would be estimated returns of £220 million and 1000 jobs created.

Next on the agenda was a visit to Greenhouse, a mixed-use sustainable development, winners of the Yorkshire Post Environmental Awards in 2011. It offered the perfect example of an integrated approach to deliver a low carbon and sustainable way of living. The overall project consists of a collection of distinctive homes and offices powered by sustainable energy. Using pioneering technology, they create clean energy to support everyday living and working, without compromising on design, function or quality.

The homes at Greenhouse will save the average resident around £600 a year on their energy bills.

Finally he paid a visit to GWE Biogas who are another company who won one of the Yorkshire Post Environmental Awards. The visit consisted of a tour of the facility, where the Secretary of State was shown through the whole process from beginning to end.

GWE Biogas Ltd is a privately owned company formed by Tom Megginson and Mathew Girking in early 2008 to develop an Anaerobic Digestion plant designed to treat 50,000 tonnes of food waste.



One feature of the Greenhouse flats is a ground-breaking Internet Protocol TV system that displays energy and water usage through resident televisions encouraging energy considerate behaviour.



Deploying and investing in renewable energy

Office for Renewable Energy Deployment

Understanding how much and where progress is being made in deployment and investments is central to the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment's (ORED) aim is to rapidly increase implementation of renewable energy in the UK as cost effectively as possible.



The ORED Programme Office coordinates a range of data sources to produce the most up-to-date view of deployment on the ground. To do this, the team works closely with ORED policy teams who regularly engage with a broad range of stakeholders, DECC statisticians and economists, as well as drawing on information from the Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD) which tracks renewable electricity projects from planning to operation. We are now expanding the REPD data collection to monitor renewable heat and as more data comes forwards on the deployment of small-scale electricity installations as well, our overall knowledge

base of the development pipelines of these technologies will become more and more comprehensive too.

At last count, the REPD captured over 2200 live, predominantly large scale, renewable electricity projects. The ORED Land-based and Offshore teams are supplementing this database with even more

detailed data collection – working across fifteen specific renewable electricity technologies to contact hundreds of renewables developers.

Through this ORED is able to gather information on individual projects, including ones which are still at scoping stages and not yet in the planning system. The teams collate in-depth information on hundreds of individual projects - from construction timescales, to likely capital costs, to possible barriers affecting potential delays or difficulties. Using this data the Programme Office monitors near-term forecasts of large-scale renewable electricity to support the 2020 modelling by DECC economists. Latest indicator information predicts that the UK could have 11.7GW of operational large-scale electricity by March 2012.

To demonstrate the benefits of renewables in the green economy, the Programme Office began gathering publically available data on individual contracts and projects in April 2011; so far we have collected almost 200 records of contracts and projects. Last month we worked with Press Office to issue a widely reported [good news story](#) on renewables with the headline that, between April and November 2011 alone, the industry had announced investments worth £2.5bn and with the potential to create 11,600 jobs.

The team will shortly to be contacting developers and supply chain companies directly to gather additional information to supplement our current knowledge. If you would like to contribute to this, please contact [ORED](#) for more details.

See our new feature *Performance Matters* on [page 7](#). Read how the ORED team are helping the Department deliver on renewables.

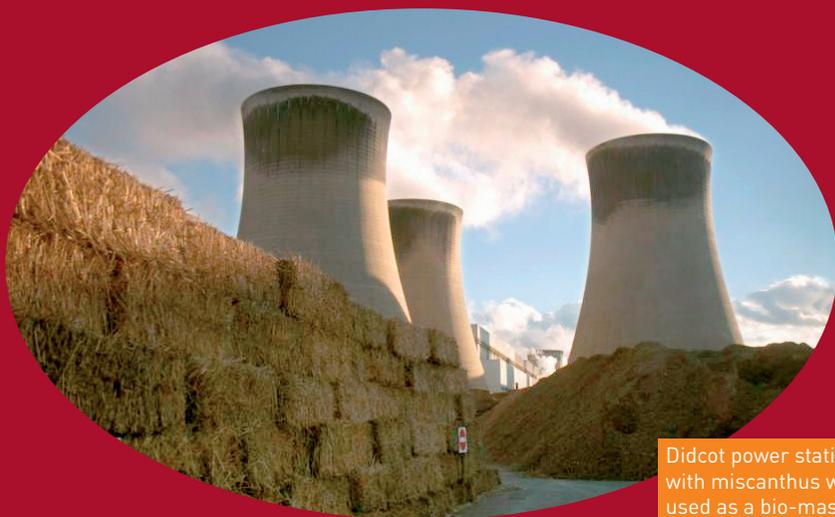


PERFORMANCE MATTERS.

A regular report on interesting performance and delivery metrics across DECC.

This month: Strong levels of large-scale deployment in UK renewable electricity set to continue.

Around 1.0 gigawatt of large scale renewable electricity generating capacity has already been deployed between March and October 2011 and a further 1.5 GW was expected by the end of 2011. This would give a total capacity installed in the UK of 11.7 GW ahead of the 11.2 GW by March 2012, which we had forecast when planning at the start of 2011. Most of this capacity will be delivered under the Renewables Obligation, with some delivered under the Feed-In Tariff.



Didcot power station pictured with miscanthus which can be used as a bio-mass fuel

OUTCOME OF DURBAN

continued

- (operationalisation of the Green Climate Fund continued). However, we are already one of the few countries to have pledged climate finance beyond the initial fast-start period of 2010–12;
- establishment of a work programme to look at sources of long-term finance for developing countries (including, but not limited to, the Green Climate Fund), with the aim of mobilising at least \$100 billion per year by 2020;
- progress on several other components of the international climate regime, including reporting guidelines for developed and developing countries; the operationalisation of the Adaptation Committee, which will provide advice and ensure coherence of action on adaptation; the establishment of the Technology Executive Committee in 2012 to facilitate the development of low-carbon technologies; further details of the framework for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD plus); and a process for establishing new market-based mechanisms to deliver effective reductions in emissions at least cost.

While a very good outcome, we did not make as much progress on all areas as we would have liked, and we will look to progress these over the next year. But the continuation of the Kyoto regime, and the promise of a new and wider international climate agreement, will help to provide greater certainty to investors in low-carbon and energy efficiency infrastructure and technology. In turn this will provide greater employment, exports and energy security, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.





£4 million boost for 82 local energy schemes

Chris Huhne announced on 16 January the first 82 local energy projects to win funding from the new £10m Local Energy Assessment Fund.

Winning bids include opening show homes to demonstrate solid wall insulation to the public, schemes to check the energy efficiency of homes and invest in renewable energy, and events to promote the uptake of energy efficiency in local communities.

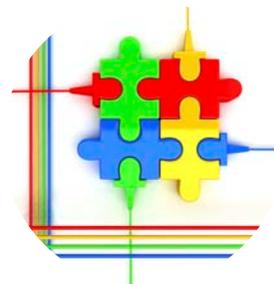
Read the [full press notice](#)



Energy statistics

Energy Trends and Quarterly Energy Prices publications were published on 22 December 2011 by the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

See the [DECC Website](#) for more.



Electricity Market Reform moves ahead

Reforms to the UK's electricity market to drive low carbon investment and boost energy security took another step forward with the announcement of key decisions to help shape the future energy landscape.

Read the [full press notice](#).



Greg Barker key note speech at launch of Green Deal Skills Alliance

Greg Barker gave a speech to the Green Deal Skills Alliance at an event, which formally launched their partnership to help deliver the skills needed to support the Coalition's Green Deal programme. In it he said: "Energy efficiency is pivotal to helping the government achieve our climate change targets and ensuring the UK is able to reduce reliance on imported energy."

Read the full speech on the [DECC website](#).

[Read more news stories on the DECC Website](#)



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Consultations

1. [Consultation on the Transmission Constraint Licence Condition \(TCLC\)](#) - Closes 01/03/2012

2. [Consultation on changes to the Standard Assessment Procedure \(SAP\)](#) - Closes 28/03/2012

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