

## Energy Efficiency and Climate Change News: 11 - 17 Feb 2011

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### **General Policy**

#### **DOE Requests \$3.2 Billion for Renewable Energy, Efficiency in FY 2012**

The budget request presented by Obama on Tuesday includes a 44% boost in funding for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) to USD3.2 billion for 2012. The budget includes funding for various renewable and clean energy technologies and energy efficiency improvements with \$300 million in credit subsidies to support approximately USD3-4 billion in projects, in pursuit of Obama's target of generating 80% of its electricity from clean sources by 2035. Funding is being sourced through major cuts in funding for hydrogen and water power projects, although most new spending allocations are anticipated by cutting up to USD3.6 billion in subsidies for fossil-fuel industries and some USD45 million in streamlining of the department's corporate management.

[http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/news\\_detail.cfm/news\\_id=16728](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/news_detail.cfm/news_id=16728)

#### **DECC surpasses 10:10 pledge to cut emissions by 10% in 2010**

DECC has made good on a target set by David Cameron to reduce emissions by 2010, actually cutting its footprint by 20% between 2008 and 2009 and by the same again between 2009 and 2010. They have achieved all this, despite occupying a 100-year old listed building, by putting all staff on laptops rather than desktop PCs, installing a chiller in the computer server room, revamping their water heating system, and no longer heating during nights and weekends. Now leading the way, while working with other government departments to pass on their experience, DECC is experimenting with LED lighting and ceiling tiles that absorb and emit heat.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/feb/07/decc-10-10-pledge?&CMP=EMCENVEM1631>

#### **Australian Labor to impose carbon tax next year, ETS in 2015**

Australia's Prime Minister Julia Gillard is set to propose a fixed carbon price to apply from July 2012 until 2015-16, then giving way to an emissions trading scheme. However the proposal is likely to face strong opposition from the Green coalition party due to its retention of compensation for energy-intensive energy industry players, similar to measures already unsuccessful in the House when proposed in the former Prime Minister's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. Conflict is indeed likely as Greens push for advancement of the current 5% emissions reduction target below by 2020 to closer to 25-40% and will be unimpressed by the proposal to cut spending on green programs.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/labor-to-impose-carbon-tax-next-year-ets-in-2015/story-e6frg6xf-1226004719022>

## **Saudi Arabia to Save Energy Through Insulation**

Increasing energy consumption in Saudi Arabia is threatening to reduce the amount of oil available for export by 3 million barrels per day (bpd) by 2028 and is pushing government to consider energy efficiency measures. With 70-80% of Saudi Arabia's energy consumption occurring in air-conditioning, the government aims to reach a new target of reducing energy consumption by 40% through measures to support improved insulation.

<http://planetark.org/wen/61185>

## **'Bonfire of the quangos' threatens climate change committee**

It appears the UK's Committee on Climate Change established by the landmark Climate Change Act 2008 may be in the firing line under the public bodies bill which is currently under discussion with a stated goal of slashing spending by doing away with inefficient 'quangos' (quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations). Fears that the important role of the CCC as independent watchdog and advisor on the effect of government policy on climate change will be threatened are based on the inclusion of the CCC in an list of quangos that may be subject to reform without an additional act of parliament which is annexed to the bill.

<http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2026045/bonfire-quangos-threatens-climate-change-committee>

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## ***Industry, business and utilities***

### **Industry fears deep cuts will stymie innovation and competitiveness**

A cross section of industry officials, research experts and climate policy advocates have expressed their concern that the kinds of budget cuts to clean energy research proposed by Republicans last week would hinder the significant progress which has been made in recent years in making technology developments in solar and wind power, smart grids and other clean technologies increasingly viable, even without government subsidy. The balance must be drawn between applied programs and basic research, which must continue if American technology is to remain competitive in a market that is increasingly favouring clean energy.

<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2011/02/14/3/>

### **CBI: Green Deal a lame duck without business buy-in**

CBI has released a report criticising the UK government's failure to clearly map out the detail of the Green Deal which will encourage energy efficiency measures by offer low repayment loans attached to properties not people, saying without more guidance, private sector investors will not be willing to provide the financial support necessary to ensure the success of the Green Deal. While business calls for clarity on what kind of properties would be eligible and how the loans would be repaid, the

Government assures that discussions with business are will underway and the Energy Bill will provide a strong market framework to support the Green Deal measures.

<http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2026244/cbi-green-deal-lame-duck-business>

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## ***Transport***

### **Parliament backs EU deal to cut van emissions**

The European Parliament has approved a deal to limit carbon emissions from vans to 175 grams per kilometre from 2017 advancing to 147g/km from 2020. This target is less ambitious than the 135 limit proposed by Greens MEPs last week, who voted against this deal, but industry calls it a very challenging target which will require the introduction and economic viability of advance new technologies. Details of implementation of the measure, which should reduce emissions from the sector by 28%, remain to be finalised before it takes effect in 2013.

<http://www.endseurope.com/25579/eu-deal-on-van-emissions-close-to-final-adoption?referrer=bulletin&DCMP=EMC-ENDS-EUROPE-DAILY>

### **EU wants 60% transport carbon cut by 2050: draft**

Kyriakos Maniatis, responsible for biofuels in the EC has said the EC's current draft proposal will present a target to cut emissions from transport by 60% below 1990 levels by 2050, in an effort to secure chances of reaching the already established goal of reducing all emissions by 80% by 2050. Aiming for a 10% contribution of green energy to transport, this reduction target could be met by increasing use of electric vehicles and by running heavy vehicles on biofuels, although sustainability issues around biofuels are still to be resolved.

<http://www.pointcarbon.com/news/1.1506871>

### **Trust invests £1m in Acal car fuel cell**

The UK's Carbon Trust has agreed to invest GBP1 million in a small company doing groundbreaking work in hydrogen fuel cells for cars, cutting costs by up to 40%. The company will pursue development of cheaper fuel cells which convert stored hydrogen into electrical power and water with hopes of producing a commercial car engine by 2015. In order to bring in quicker returns however, the work will first deliver static fuel cells to support small power plants with back-up power.

<http://link.ft.com/r/QM42II/M9497N/AAXBS/PRX3V9/WLYJW4/HK/h?a1=2011&a2=2&a3=14>

### **Daimler to take over Smart distribution in US**

Sales of smart cars, launched by Daimler in the US in 2008, dropped by more than 50% last year, due to relatively stable fuel prices which encourage Americans to satisfy their preference for larger cars, and the withdrawal of the cash-for-clunkers scheme. While small Smart cars have flourished on the

Latin American and European markets, Daimler intends to launch Nissan's 5-door Smart car model in the hopes of tempting its American market, as they prepare for the stringent US fuel-economy standards that will take effect in 2016.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7b92688c-391e-11e0-b0f6-00144feabdc0.html?ftcamp=crm/email/2011217/nbe/Autos/product#axzz1ECIQxtU>

### **Wind-Powered Car Succeeds In Hard Australian Voyage**

A German-developed wind-powered car completed a journey across 5,000 km of Australian desert last week, powered by a lithium ion battery which was recharged at night by a mobile wind turbine, or, when the wind failed, charging from the electricity grid. The 'Wind-Explorer', with its carbon-fiber body and bicycle tires, weighs only 60 kg alone and 200 kg with batteries and ran 2,480 km on wind power, 480 km on kite power and 2,100 km on electricity at a total cost of AUD 10. Its designers are enthusiastic about what this means for the future of renewable energy cars.

<http://planetark.org/wen/61227>

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### ***Emissions trading/Carbon market***

#### **Denmark, UK want expansion of industrial gas offset ban**

The industrial offset ban agreed in January, which still needs approval by the EU parliament, only applies to the companies under the emissions trading scheme. However, given that the non-ETS emissions from Germany, France, UK, Italy and Spain alone totalled 61 per cent of all emissions in 2008, there is a strong argument that the ban should apply across the board to non-ETS sectors also, which are required deliver a 10-per cent emissions cut. Denmark has already announced this strategy, calling for other EU members to follow suit in rationalising this ban across all sectors.

<http://www.pointcarbon.com/news/1.1504808>

#### **Germany, Poland to opt out of EU auctions**

Most Member countries supported the decision to enter a third-phase of the EU-wide carbon credit exchange platform, with some debate before a final decision to allow Member states to opt out. Germany, a large supplier of credits, has already taken the opportunity to apply to opt out and Poland, the EU's biggest emitter, is expected to do the same. In anticipation of an official announcement from the UK and Spain, both of which previously expressed reservations in joining an EU-wide platform, exchanges prepare to tender for the auction platforms despite potentially reduced profitability if auctioning is to be spread across multiple state auction platforms.

<http://www.pointcarbon.com/news/1.1506823>

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### ***Climate change negotiations***

#### **EU weighs options for land use, forestry**

Emissions and removals of GHGs in LULUCF are not currently part of the EU's reduction commitments and recent consultations have been considering whether and how it should be incorporated. Near consensus was heard in support of LULUCF being included in the EU's 2020 emission target, with respondents favouring development of a separate mechanism for LULUCF with a sector target over integration of LULUCF with existing EU climate policy. NGOs opposed the integration of LULUCF as a way to exaggerate reductions, arguing that if future emissions calculations include LULUCF, they should be able to be compared with past emissions baselines. The EU will publish a communication on the subject in June, to be followed by a legislative proposal.

<http://www.pointcarbon.com/news/1.1504772>

#### **Floods Linked To Manmade Climate Change: Studies**

Two studies published on Wednesday have established the first clear evidence of the link between anthropogenic emissions and climate change with the increased evaporation of water leading to heavier rainfall and flooding. Comparing data on precipitation from 1951 to 1999 with that on GHG emissions, one study was able to establish causation of a particular extreme flood in Britain in 2000. This is a significant achievement given the difficulty of the task of extrapolating direct causation links from the various chaotic factors which contribute to a given storm however the authors warn that, in the absence of more data, they are not yet able to say how large the influence is.

<http://planetark.org/wen/61226>

#### **Figueres warns tackling climate change is critical to world peace**

The Executive secretary for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change told military representatives that climate change will put pressure on resources and community stability and may have direct consequences for widespread conflict. As the global military budget grew by 50% in the last decade, Figueres urged that military spending be directed to address adaptation low carbon technology. The US military has already demonstrated some interest in this concept.

<http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2026780/figueres-warns-tackling-climate-change-critical-world-peace>

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