

The DECC Review provides a monthly roundup of news and activities from across the Department.

In June, Prime Minister David Cameron, agreed a landmark Norway-UK energy partnership, for investment and secure, sustainable, growth of our energy supplies.

Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, led the UK delegation to the Rio +20 Earth Summit, to build on the international climate change agreement.

Our £100 million Warm Front scheme is still open to applications for grants from low income and vulnerable households. You can help us spread the news.

And you'll find a roundup of what we've been doing in the last month to reduce emissions and ensure UK energy supplies.

As always we welcome your comments and suggestions so please [contact us](#).

Norway-UK Energy Partnership

Billions of pounds of new commercial investment announced

Prime Minister David Cameron and the Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg have agreed a landmark energy partnership between the two countries designed to secure affordable and sustainable long term energy supplies.

The Norway-UK **Energy Partnership for Sustainable Growth** heralds closer collaboration between the two countries across a wide range of energy activities, including safe and environmentally sensitive oil and gas extraction, long term gas supply, renewable energy investment, electricity interconnection and international climate change policy development.

Alongside this agreement, UK and Norwegian companies announced **billions of pounds of new investment** with the potential to create thousands of new jobs.



Commenting at a breakfast meeting (on 7 June) attended by ten leading energy companies from the two countries, with combined annual revenues of more than £400 billion, Prime Minister, David Cameron, said: "The jobs and investments announced today highlight how vital the strong relationship between Norway and the United Kingdom is for our energy security and economic growth.

"We look forward to strengthening our partnership further, driving investment into a diverse, sustainable energy mix that delivers affordable long term supplies for consumers."

Charles Hendry, Minister of State for Energy, added: "For many decades Norway has been one of our most trusted and valuable partners, working with us to develop North Sea resources that underpin our energy security.

"The investments and jobs announced today by British and Norwegian companies are a clear signal of the benefits of this partnership."

Find out more about these [commercial announcements](#).

What happened in Rio?

UN Conference on Sustainable Development



Rio+20 Earth Summit

concluded on 22 June with

Heads of State and Ministers from more than 190 nations signing off a plan, which will help put sustainable development back at the heart of the international agenda.

Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, led the UK delegation, setting out the UK's ambitions to build on the Rio+20 agreement.

Throughout the sometimes difficult summit, a deal was eventually agreed that delivers much of what the UK wanted and worked hard to achieve. However, whilst a deal was a positive first step, it must be backed up by action sooner rather than later.



Key points from the agreement include:

- A commitment to develop universal, aspirational **sustainable development goals (SDGs)** which cover the three main elements of sustainable development: environmental, economic and social;
 - Recognition of the importance of the green economy. At Rio, the message was delivered that the **green economy** is not only essential, it is also a huge economic opportunity for all countries to invest in adapting their economies for the future. This is a first at this level and with this breadth of global buy-in;
 - The idea of measuring national output in a broader way than simply GDP is acknowledged.
- The UK, which is already moving in this direction, has pushed hard for the concept of GDP +;
- A push to get the **world's most important companies** to report on the sustainability of their operations. The UK has recently announced that all UK-listed companies will have to report on their greenhouse gas emissions;
 - A **strengthened UN institutional architecture**, with the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** given a wider membership and bigger role in mainstreaming environmental issues.

For more information and updates on what we're doing on international climate change, follow us on Twitter: [@2degreelimit](https://twitter.com/2degreelimit).

Climate Change Survey

We hope you can spare five minutes to tell us about the aspects of the UK's climate change work that most interest you and the information sources you use to stay up to date.

Earth Observation Strategy

Our new **strategy** seeks to ensure that we have access to robust information on climate and environmental resources for the purpose of effective policy making.

AVOID programme

Read a mid-term evaluation of the **programme**, set up to conduct policy-relevant research on 'dangerous climate change'.

Learn more about international climate change on our [website](#).
You can also [subscribe](#) to a cross-government international climate action newsletter.



Warm Front

Keeping vulnerable households warm this winter

In this, the final year of the **Warm Front scheme**, we want to maximise access to the £100 million funding available.

Keeping a home warm during the winter months can be a struggle for some. And this year, the unseasonal rain and relatively cool temperatures have probably led some people to keep their heating on longer than usual. However, for some low income and vulnerable households this isn't an option.

Whether it's because of an old boiler, or a leaky and draughty house, some homes are really difficult - and therefore expensive - to heat.

Since 2000, the Warm Front scheme has helped more than two million low income and vulnerable households in England to make their home - whether owned or privately rented - easier to heat. The scheme makes a huge difference to the quality of life of the people it helps.



Unfortunately, many households most in need of this kind of support do not know it is available. If your organisation is one of the

applicants apply for the assistance available.

We urge you to help us spread the message that Warm Front is still open to applications!

Warm Front scheme grants are available for low-income families and the elderly who receive certain benefits. Warm Front grants provide

£100 million Warm Front scheme still open to applications for grants from low income and vulnerable households

many organisations that have day-to-day contact with low income and vulnerable people, you are in an ideal position - as a trusted intermediary - to encourage and help eligible

up to £3,500 for insulation and gas heating measures or up to £6,000 for homes not connected to the main gas network.

For more information about the Warm Front scheme and details of how to apply call 0800 316 2805 or visit: www.direct.gov.uk/warmfront



Applicants must live in a home that is poorly insulated or doesn't have a working heating system.

As well as providing new central heating, Warm Front grants are also available for loft and cavity wall insulation, draught-proofing and hot water tank insulation.

For eligible applicants who act soon, there will be a good chance that work can be carried out in their homes in readiness for the start of winter.



Cutting Emissions

The UK is committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions on a pathway consistent with meeting an 80% reduction on 1990 levels by 2050. Read about progress made in June towards this:



Low Carbon Heating for Social Housing

A new £10 million scheme has opened, which is aimed at helping more people in social housing to move away from expensive old heating systems to more sustainable low carbon alternatives like biomass boilers, solar hot water panels and heat pumps. Registered providers of social housing, such as local authorities and social housing associations, can **bid for up to around £175,000 each**.



SME Roundtable

A new Green Deal Roundtable is being co-convened by the Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP, Honorary President of the National Home Improvement Council, and will provide DECC ministers with recommendations on how **small businesses can “get a big slice of the action.”** The group includes membership from a number of organisations representing small companies and trades people.



New Chair for EEDO

Peter Boyd has been appointed as Expert Chair of the **Energy Efficiency Deployment Office** (EEDO). Peter will provide strategic guidance to ministers, DECC Departmental Board and officials on the government’s energy efficiency objectives. He will also strengthen connections with stakeholders and communicate and promote the work of EEDO.



Next Steps for Green Deal

On 11 June, the Government set out secondary legislation that will give industry the green light to bring the Green Deal energy efficiency market into operation, alongside measures to strengthen consumer protection, reduce industry burdens, and implement the **Energy Company Obligation (ECO)**. A **new group to advise DECC** on barriers to the take-up of Green Deal and ECO by the most vulnerable in society was also announced.

Learn more about what we’re doing to cut emissions on our [website](#).



Energy Demand

We are committed to reforming the energy market to ensure that the UK has a diverse, safe, secure and affordable energy system and low carbon investment and deployment are incentivised. Read about progress made in June towards this:



Scottish Parliament

Watch Secretary of State, Edward Davey giving evidence to the **Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee** as it conducted the final session on its inquiry into the Scottish government's renewable energy targets.

Offshore Wind

The industry-led **Offshore Wind Cost Reduction Task Force Report** sets out key actions for industry and government to cut the cost of generating electricity in the sector by over 30% to £100 per megawatt hour by 2020. The report builds on detailed evidence in a **new study by The Crown Estate**, and recommends ways of tackling the largest barriers.



World's Longest Subsea Power Cable

Statnett and National Grid have signed an agreement to develop an electricity interconnector between Norway and the UK with a goal to have it operational by 2020. **The North Sea Network (NSN) project** is key to further development of the North-European power grid, and of high priority to both companies.

Wind Farms Inquiry

A joint public inquiry will be held into two applications for **onshore wind farms in Powys, mid-Wales**: made by Vattenfall for the Llanbadarn Fynydd scheme and RWE npower renewables for the Carnedd Wen scheme.



Quarterly Energy Stats

New data for the first quarter of 2012 covers **statistics** on energy production and consumption, and shows we're on track for our 2020 target as renewable energy accounted for 3.8 per cent of energy consumption.

Powering the Nation

New DECC, EST and Defra study provides rich insight into **UK household electricity usage** and shows how much needs to be done to reduce energy use in the UK and work towards a low-carbon future.



Learn more about what we're doing to meet energy demand on our [website](#).



Out and About

Ministerial activity and regional highlights from last month



Green Deal in Action

Read the **Somerset West Home energy ECO PILOT case study**, which has been testing some of our key Green Deal mechanisms at a local level.

Green Deal Road Show Fully Booked. DECC and the **Energy Efficiency Partnership for Buildings'** (EEPb) series of supply chain breakfast briefings for small companies in Reading, Carlisle, Swansea, Birmingham and York are all now fully booked. We are considering the possibility of more events in the future.



Post-Energy Council Statement

Energy Minister, Charles Hendry, represented the UK at the **EU Energy Council in Luxembourg** on 15 June 2012. A number of Member States spoke about the need for infrastructure in order to integrate renewables in the internal energy market. And the Commission heard progress reports on negotiations of the proposal for a regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and on the proposal for a regulation on safety of offshore oil and gas.



New Solar Manufacturing Facility

A £5 million Government grant backed by Sandwell Council and the Regional Growth Fund will be added to a **£5 million company investment from SunSolar** to finance a new PV manufacturing facility in the town of Oldbury, West Midlands. Climate Change Minister, Greg Barker, said that this was a “huge vote of confidence in the outlook for the solar industry in the UK. I want to see many more UK businesses taking the lead in the growing global market for green energy.”



New Climate Programme Met Office Hadley Centre Climate Programme 2012-15

to deliver bespoke climate science to meet the evidence needs of the UK Government. Speaking at the launch Greg Barker commented on the need for UK science to continue to be world-class. “I am certain that your scientific partnerships and collaborations here and across the world will go on building stronger international capability in climate science, crucial for informing negotiations, which I take part in”.

Read more news stories on the our [website](#).



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Email: [Editorial team](#)

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Consultation on a draft licence condition relating to security risk assessments and audits in the period before the DCC provides services to Smart Meters

Close Date: 27 July 2012

Strategy and consultation on information requirements for monitoring and evaluation

Close Date: 27 July 2012

A public consultation: Transposition of EU Directive 2009/29/EC revising EU Directive 2003/87/EC

Close Date: 31 July 2012

Consultation on the proposed justification process for the reuse of plutonium

Close Date: 20 August 2012

Consultation on energy supply company administration

Close Date: 07 September 2012

Visit our website for more information on all [our consultations](#).

