

# Arnotes *env*

A monthly round-up of environmental & sustainability news – compiled by Arno Consulting

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**UN, climate change** A UN summit has seen China pledge for the first time to take firm action on climate change.

[BBC News](#)

**EU, nuclear** The new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point in Somerset has received final approval from European Union regulators.

[BBC News](#)

**Government, statistics** The UK's demand for electricity is falling and generation is becoming less carbon intensive, new Government statistics show.

[Carbon Brief](#)

**Government, renewable energy** Renewable electricity projects will be able to compete for £300 million in support this autumn – an increase of £95 million from the indicative budget published in July – Energy and Climate Change Secretary Ed Davey has announced.

[GreenWise](#)

**Government, solar** The Government has confirmed that the Renewables Obligation subsidy scheme will close to solar farms with more than 5MW of capacity from April 2015.

[Berwin Leighton Paisner \(law firm\)](#)

**Government, district heating** The Government has announced £9.4 million of funding for low carbon district heating initiatives. A quarter of the funding will be available to local authorities in England and Wales, while the remainder will be available to developers.

[DECC press release](#)

**Government, fuel cells** The Government has announced up to £11 million of funding to prepare for the national rollout of hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles. The investment will help establish an initial network of up to 15 hydrogen refueling stations by the end of 2015, and includes £2 million of funding for public sector hydrogen vehicles.

[Renewable Energy Focus](#)

**Government, renewable energy** The UK and Norwegian Governments have agreed to trade renewable energy via what will be the longest sub-sea electricity interconnector in the world. Expected to be in place by 2020, the cable will allow the UK to buy Norwegian hydropower or sell British windpower.

[Scottish Energy News](#)

**Commuting** Walking or cycling to work is better for people's mental health than driving to work, according to new research by health economists at the University of East Anglia and the Centre for Diet and Activity Research.

[University of East Anglia](#)

**Motorcycles** The Government should recognise the potential of electric motorcycles and make clear that they will be eligible for the latest round of Government subsidy to stimulate the uptake of electric vehicles, says the Motorcycle Industry Association.

[Bristol Post](#)

**Solar** Bold Government action to back British solar could create 60GW of generating capacity by 2030 and support almost 50,000 jobs across the British solar supply chain, concludes a new report from the Centre for Economics and Business Research.

[Cebr press release](#)

**Lorries** International biscuit and cake manufacturer United Biscuits has developed a sustainability scheme which, it says, will see the use of waste cooking oil to power 12 lorries in its fleet.

[edieWaste](#)

**Pollution** Nissan has teamed-up with graffiti artist Moose to highlight London's pollution problem, with the artist using a high-pressure hose powered by a Nissan all-electric LEAF to stencil his artwork onto a pollution-blackened wall in central London.

[GreenWise](#); [BusinessWire video of the artist at work](#)

**Flooding** Tens of thousands of small businesses in the UK are at potential risk of failure because of weak financials and increased risk of flooding, says sustainability data supplier AMEE.

[AMEE blog](#)

**Smart meters** The Government must take "swift action" to limit the costs to consumers of the rollout of smart meters, says *Which?*

[EnergyLive News](#)

Meanwhile, the Federation of Small Businesses is calling on the Government to give more support to small firms in the smart meter rollout.

[SME Web](#)

**Investments** Glasgow University has become the first academic institution in Europe to divest from the fossil fuel industry. The move comes after 12 months of campaigning, led by the Glasgow University Climate Action Society and involving over 1,300 students.

[Guardian](#)

**Energy efficiency** "Confidence in the UK's fast growing non-domestic energy efficiency market, valued at £10bn to £15bn, is at an all-time high", says a new report from EEVS Insight, Bloomberg New Energy Finance and the Green Investment Bank.

[Green Investment Bank press release](#)

**Environment** Toymaker Lego has announced that it will not renew a promotional contract with Royal Dutch Shell, following a Greenpeace campaign against Shell's Arctic drilling.

[BBC News](#)

**Housing** More than 100,000 council and housing association homes across the UK could be given a carbon neutral retrofit by 2020 if the European Union approves funding for a ground-breaking new initiative that involves wrapping houses with insulated panel-facades.

[Guardian](#)

**Fossil fuels** Coal, oil and gas companies need to wake up to the fact that "the vast majority of their reserves are unburnable," if the world is to tackle climate change effectively, says Bank of England Governor Mark Carney.

[Responding to Climate Change](#)