



## **CLA Editorial – published in the September 2010 issue**

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Landowners across the UK are waking up to the fact that they can benefit from the growing demand for green power and the recent government incentives, which are aimed at encouraging more investment in micro generation. The new Tory-Lib-Dem Coalition says it is committed to various forms of renewable energy, including wind, solar and anaerobic digestion (biogas). It is already working with landowners and farmers, as well as the burgeoning renewable energy industry, to investigate opportunities to produce green energy, whether through hydropower, or wind, or by growing biomass in the form of short-term coppice, or miscanthus.

A growing lobby of farmers and industrialists are also promoting the use of alternative bio-energy crops to produce biofuel at major facilities that are opening up on the Teeside.

Researchers at Aberystwyth University in Wales are working hand-in-hand with the farming industry and technology companies to see how they can increase sugar levels in ryegrass to develop sustainable sources of biofuel using different varieties of the perennial ryegrass as a raw material to produce bio-ethanol. All these initiatives offer exciting new opportunities for British landowners to develop alternative sources of on-farm income. It will also help them reduce fuel bills for their estates and cut their carbon footprints, while at the same time helping the UK lower its greenhouse gas emissions to meet its international commitments and improving the environment.

The CLA is already working hard on behalf of its members to obtain improved government incentives for those contemplating investments to harness renewable resources, such as wind, water and sunshine.

Landowners who want to find out more about all the opportunities and look into the various renewable energy options that are currently available should make sure they attend the Energy Now Expo 2011 at the Malvern Showground in Worcestershire on February 16 and 17 next year.

This exhibition, which includes a two-day conference, is being organised by Renewable Energy Events Ltd in association with the CLA and the NFU and is supported by several industry organisations, including the Renewable Energy Association (REA), the Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE), the Three Counties Agricultural Society, the British Hydropower Association, the Solar Trade Association and the National Non-Food Crops Centre (NNFCC).

It is being specially designed to provide farmers and landowners with all the latest information about renewable energy technologies, with up-to-date consultancy advice and follows a hugely successful inaugural event earlier this year.

The 2011 exhibition will feature some 80 suppliers with exhibits showcasing the various different types of equipment, how they work and how they can be deployed on farms.

Speakers at the conference will include the CLA's own Oliver Harwood, Cameron Doig of Clydesdale Bank, Lucy Hopwood from the NNFCC, Adrian Lea from Green Cornwall, Mark Newton from Fisher German, Ray Noble from the Renewable Energy Association and Richard Collins from Countrywide Farmer. They will focus on all aspects of renewable energy for farmers and landowners, including grants, funding and planning and there will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and discuss the challenges you may be facing on your property. They are also certain to discuss the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), which is due to be introduced into the UK in April next year and will provide generators of renewable energy with fixed amounts for each unit of heat they produce and are expected to provide further encouragement for farmers and landowners to invest in renewable energy plants.

For full details about the Energy Now Expo 2011 and to register for the conference log on to [www.energynowexpo.co.uk](http://www.energynowexpo.co.uk) now, or call 01293 854405. Special discounts are available for members of the NFU, CLA, RASE, TCAS and customers of Countrywide.