



5. UK becomes world leader in offshore wind power

In October this year the UK overtook Denmark to become the world's number one for wind farms built offshore, following the completion of work at the Lynn and Inner Dowsing wind farms near Skegness. Offshore wind farms now have the potential to power the equivalent of around 300,000 UK homes.

6. Clean, green international energy deals

Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Ed Miliband visited the Gulf states in November, where the UK signed an agreement to help secure our energy supplies, and pump millions of pounds into the green revolution. This includes a Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and Masdar (the Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company) to develop renewable and low-carbon energy such as wind, solar and marine, as well as a new £250 million partnership with Qatar to help British companies develop groundbreaking clean green technology.

7. Diversifying the UK gas supply

This year saw the first shipment of Liquefied Natural Gas arrive at the Isle of Grain in a tanker the size of two football pitches, and consent granted for a huge offshore gas storage project where gas can be kept in tardis-like pods. Gas storage and LNG are both important to ensure we maintain secure diverse gas supplies.



First LNG tanker to visit the new Isle of Grain gas terminal - Berge Arzew

8. Smart meters to be rolled out

Households and small businesses will benefit from the decision to go ahead with a full roll-out of smart meters for both electricity and gas meters. This will mean the end of estimated bills for millions of energy customers, giving consumers more information about, and control over, their energy use. Smart meters will also help the UK meet its emissions targets through cutting carbon emissions and making homes and buildings more energy efficient.

9. Helping householders keep warm and bringing down energy bills

Vulnerable and elderly householders will benefit after the government took steps this year to increase funding to fuel poverty programmes. Funding to the Warm Front scheme was increased by a total of £174 million (£74 million in September, and £100 million in November) while a further £50 million in spending was brought forward - giving heating and energy efficiency help to an extra 60,000 householders. The Government also announced a £1 billion programme of energy efficiency measures.

The Government also worked with Ofgem to monitor the cost of energy to consumers and bring an end to unfair pricing differentials, such as higher tariffs for customers on prepayment meters. While some progress has been made, we will continue to press for fair price setting and will legislate if necessary.

10. More people opting to ACT ON CO2 and reduce their carbon footprint.

In June 2007 the Government launched the Act on CO2 Carbon Calculator to help people who wanted to actively engage in cutting their emissions work out their personal carbon footprint. Just one year on, in June 2008, the calculator received its 1 millionth unique visitor. As well as helping people work out their carbon footprint, the calculator also provides an action plan for people to make simple savings in their own lives, such as turning down their thermostat by one degree or using low energy light bulbs.