



Drumbeat: August 3, 2013

Posted by [Leanan](#) on August 3, 2013 - 9:42am

[A Republican Case for Climate Action](#) by *William D. Ruckelshaus, Lee M. Thomas, William K. Reilly, and Christine Todd Whitman*

EACH of us took turns over the past 43 years running the Environmental Protection Agency. We served Republican presidents, but we have a message that transcends political affiliation: the United States must move now on substantive steps to curb climate change, at home and internationally.

There is no longer any credible scientific debate about the basic facts: our world continues to warm, with the last decade the hottest in modern records, and the deep ocean warming faster than the earth's atmosphere. Sea level is rising. Arctic Sea ice is melting years faster than projected.

The costs of inaction are undeniable. The lines of scientific evidence grow only stronger and more numerous. And the window of time remaining to act is growing smaller: delay could mean that warming becomes "locked in."

[WTI Falls as Employers Add Fewer Workers Than Expected](#)

West Texas Intermediate crude dropped, paring a weekly advance, after U.S. employers added fewer workers than anticipated last month.

Futures fell 0.9 percent on Labor Department figures showing that payrolls rose 162,000 in July, the smallest gain in four months. A 185,000 increase was the median forecast of 93 economists surveyed by Bloomberg. Brent earlier exceeded \$110 for the first time since April after Libya's head of oil security quit as protests shut export terminals in the country.

"The disappointing employment numbers are weighing on the market," said John Kilduff, a partner at Again Capital LLC, a New York hedge fund that focuses on energy. "A lot of the rally this week was based on the prospect for an improving economy and the prospect for demand growth in the U.S. Oil is taking today's report pretty hard."

[Ethanol Advances Versus Gasoline as Output Slumps to 15-Week Low](#)

Ethanol gained against gasoline after production of the biofuel tumbled to the lowest level in more than three months.

[Los Angeles Diesel Gains to Three-Week High After Supplies Slide](#)

Spot diesel in Los Angeles advanced to the highest level against futures in more than three weeks after stockpiles of the fuel tumbled to the lowest level for this time of year since 2006.

[Russia's Oil Output Rises to Near Most Since Soviet Era](#)

Russia, the world's biggest oil producer, increased crude and condensate production by 1 percent in July from a year earlier to 10.43 million barrels a day, near a post-Soviet record.

[Caspian CPC Crude August Exports to Be Stable, Final Plan Shows](#)

The Caspian Pipeline Consortium, operator of the only oil-export link in Russia that has shared foreign ownership, will keep daily crude exports from the Black Sea in August little changed from July, a final loading program obtained by Bloomberg News showed.

[The 10 most oil-rich states](#)

Ten states accounted for roughly 94% of all onshore U.S. reserves as of the end of 2011, with roughly a third of this in Texas alone — just over 7 billion barrels. In many of these states, the oil industry is a major part of their economies. Based on the U.S. Energy Information Administration's data on proved oil reserves by states, these are the most oil-rich states in the country.

[Peak Oil, EROEI and the Muffled Drum](#)

Much more important is the concept of EROEI - energy return on energy invested, which has been another Drum favourite. And this concept really does bear careful consideration. Declining EROEI could be the end of civilisation as we know it for, in the immortal words of James Lovelock - "*civilisation is energy-intensive*". Better believe it.

So - no more drum-beat. But you'll not stop hearing about EROEI.

[Iran to increase offshore crude production by water injection](#)

Iran is to enhance oil recovery from its offshore fields by injecting 25 percent more water into them, a senior Iranian oil official said, Press TV reported.

Water injection is a method of improved oil recovery (IOR) applied to offshore reservoirs, said Managing Director of the Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC)

Mahmoud Zirakchianzadeh.

[Qatar sends first gas shipment to Egypt](#)

Qatar sent a liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipment as a grant to Egypt, Qatar News Agency (QNA) said on Friday.

This is the first of five shipmentz Doha has pledged to Cairo.

[Mexico's Leader Tackles Historic Oil Law](#)

MEXICO CITY—President Enrique Peña Nieto is set to unveil a long-awaited proposal next week to change the constitution to try to lure back major private oil companies to Mexican oil fields for the first time since the country's 1938 nationalization, a move that could attract billions of dollars in investment and boost Mexico's image as an emerging economy.

[Mexico: methane gas accumulation, spark likely caused explosion at Pemex headquarters](#)

MEXICO CITY — Gas could have built up for decades before an explosion caused three floors of the headquarters of the national oil company to collapse, killing 37 people, Mexican federal prosecutors said Friday.

[BP Says Loss on Spill Claims Appeals Could Scuttle Settlement](#)

The settlement BP Plc reached last year with most private parties over the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill could be scuttled if a U.S. appeals court doesn't throw out the interpretation of payments being used by the claims administrator, the company said.

[Huge leak of tritium feared in Fukushima](#)

Tokyo Electric Power Co. said Friday that an estimated 20 trillion to 40 trillion becquerels of tritium from the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear plant may have flowed into the Pacific Ocean since May 2011.

The utility reported the estimate Friday to the Nuclear Regulation Authority after recently admitting that toxic water from the emergency cooling system set up after the nuclear crisis began on March 11, 2011, is leaking into the sea.

[Richmond, California sues Chevron over massive oil refinery fire that sent thousands of people to hospitals](#)

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) – The Northern California city of Richmond on Friday sued Chevron Corp, saying the company was willfully negligent in a massive refinery fire and a smoke cloud last year that sent thousands of people to hospitals.

[A Hankering for Hybrids](#)

About 298,000 hybrids, or cars that run on batteries and gasoline, have been sold this year while only 36,000 battery-powered vehicles have sold.

[Fuel-saving idle elimination coming to the masses](#)

GM's move to make start/stop technology standard on the 2014 Chevy Malibu is the first ripple of the wave of U.S. vehicles that will be outfitted with the technology as automakers search for more ways to improve gas mileage.

It comes with a variety of names, including a start-stop system, idle elimination, idle-stop-go and micro-hybrid.

[Cars banned as Rome moves to protect Coliseum](#)

ROME -- The Coliseum in Rome was arguably the most beautiful traffic circle in the world. For decades, thousands of cars and vespas zipped around the ancient amphitheater every day. But from Saturday, all that is history.

Exhaust fumes slowly blackened the amphitheater's once shiny marble, and experts worried the tremors caused by traffic could threaten the fragile monument.

Part of Via dei Fori Imperiali -- the spectacular cobblestone avenue that leads to the Coliseum -- was closed to traffic apart from public transport Saturday and turned into the "most stunningly beautiful boulevard in the world."

[Russian man accused of stealing an entire road](#)

While it's unusual for an entire road to vanish, Russia's recent history is filled with thefts of other infrastructure, especially bridges, which are valued for their metal.

Most recently, a bridge over the Nozma River in the village of Frolovo, northeast of Vologda, was stolen in June — with a trail of tractor tracks leading to the culprit's home, the Interior Ministry reported.

[US Solar Targets Could Save Americans \\$20 Billion Annually By 2050](#)

Solar energy could supply one-third of all electricity demand in the Western US by 2050 while and massively cutting emissions – if the Department of Energy's (DOE) SunShot Initiative succeeds.

[Mobile homes as lower-cost housing](#)

New or used, the biggest upside of mobile homes is affordability. As Margonelli reports, they're even greener and, on average, use far less energy and water than conventional homes. The combined cost of electricity, gas and water can be well below \$1,000 a year.

[Why we're working less than our parents did](#)

Some people, especially those at the higher end of the earnings spectrum, report working more hours than they want to. This is particularly true for professionals who are now tied to their work by smartphones and email.

Also, many Americans are working part time not because they want to, but because their jobs have been replaced by automation, outsourced, or otherwise eliminated.

"The promise of technology is that we'd all get to work less," said Linda Barrington, head of the Institute for Compensation Studies at Cornell University's school of Industrial and Labor Relations. "But it's playing out differently for different people at different income levels."

[I'm working as hard as I can': For the poor, the costs of life can be higher](#)

The 28 hours a week, spent waiting for, or riding, the bus, have become another part-time job. Because the agency that employs her requires she pick up her paycheck in person, she takes another two-hour, round-trip, bus ride every two weeks.

"I pretty much spend most of my time on the bus," Williams said.

[Big Brother declares war on consumption](#)

The simple fact is that poverty reduces the scope of choice. If an added tax drives up the cost of a Big Mac, it doesn't necessarily make economic sense for someone on a limited budget to spend the time and money to travel to the nearest "organic" grocery store and then prepare a meal at home. Many will pay the penalty for their dietary choice because it's still the most viable option available. They'll have to spend more to buy the same unhealthy meal. The only one benefiting is the tax collector.

When healthy alternatives are harder to find, the tax burden on the poor is compounded, and social policy that seeks to engineer consumer choice often ignores the ease of access—or lack thereof—for the poor. So, according to a new study, among the most important advice doctors could prescribe for patients is to avoid poverty.

[With Arrests, Signs of Justice in Slaying of Costa Rican Turtle Guardian](#)

Two months after the murder of Jairo Mora Sandoval, a 26-year-old environmental worker trying to prevent egg poaching from leatherback turtle nests in Costa Rica, authorities made the first arrests on Wednesday in a series of raids in and around Limón, on the Caribbean coast.

The arrests came as both domestic and international pressure for action grew.

[Analysis: Natural Gas Use Must Peak in 2030 to Ensure Climate Safety](#)

A new report from the Center for American Progress finds that the practice of using natural gas for electricity generation must peak before 2030 in order to ensure climate stabilization.

[Flaring Lights Up North Dakota](#)

LONDON—Flaring of gas associated with oil production has long been a contentious issue: it not only releases millions of tons of harmful greenhouse gas into the atmosphere but it's also a chronic waste of a valuable energy resource.

[This gamble on carbon and the climate could trigger a new financial crisis](#)

If you want to see market irrationality in action, look no further than current stock market valuations for the world's major oil, gas and coal companies.

At a time when governments are supposedly preparing for a global climate change deal that will cut carbon emissions, energy multinationals are investing in carbon assets like there's no tomorrow.

Put bluntly, either we're heading for a climate catastrophe, or the carbon asset bubble will go the way of sub-prime mortgage stock.

[World food security more vulnerable than ever to climate change](#)

A new study, published today in Science, has called for a 'climate-smart food system' to prevent climate change from slowing progress in eradicating global hunger.

The researchers carried out a review of key scientific papers on food security and climate change since 1990. It confirmed a robust and coherent global pattern of climate change impacts on crop productivity that could have consequences for food availability.

[Greenhouse gas emissions explained, in seven balloons](#)

The biggest emitters were China (23 percent), the U.S. (14 percent), Europe (10 percent), India (5 percent), and Russia (5 percent).

And the primary sources of emissions were energy (35 percent), industry (18 percent), transport (13 percent), agriculture (11 percent), forestry (11 percent), buildings (8 percent), and waste (4 percent). The sources are explained in more detail in the balloons below:

[NASA Visualizes 130 Years of Climate Change in 30 Seconds](#)

Collecting surface temperature records from more than 1,000 weather stations dating back to 1880, NASA has compiled a video visualizing 130 years of climate change.

[How hot will the United States get because of global warming?](#)

Average temperatures in the U.S. have risen about 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit since 1895, and more than 80 percent of this rise has happened since 1980. The decade of the 2000s was the warmest on record, according to the National Climate Assessment Development Advisory Committee. Just how warm it will get depends on how many fossil fuels we keep burning, and how much carbon dioxide this emits into the atmosphere.

[Climate change: Lessons from the Vikings and ancient cliff dwellers](#)

For years archaeologists and New Mexico tour guides talked about the mysterious, sudden “disappearance” of the Anasazi Indians, the people who built magnificent cliff dwellings in the Southwestern United States. That kind of talk irritated modern tribes such as the Hopi and Zuni no end; they knew the Anasazi never disappeared but were in fact their ancestors.

But the ancient people did suddenly abandon these ancient sites, and archaeologists now believe the trigger for this was climate change, specifically the Great Drought, from about 1276 to 1279. According to some recent research, the problem wasn't so much because the people no longer had enough water for their crops; a relatively small expansion of their agricultural territory would have provided enough food. But the sudden climate change, these researchers theorize, led to a disruption in their beliefs and a loss of faith in their political structure. The people did not disappear, but their way of life collapsed as they scattered, forming much smaller and less formal village units.



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