



## DrumBeat: November 6, 2006

Posted by [threadbot](#) on November 6, 2006 - 9:20am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Update by Leanan on 11/06/06 at 9:17 AM EDT]

### [The Price of Climate Change](#)

Twenty-nine of 43 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, they note, experienced some kind of civil war during the 1980's or 1990's. The causes of any war are of course incredibly complex — or are they? The economists discovered that one of the most reliable predictors of civil war is lack of rain. Using monthly rainfall data from many different African countries (most of which, significantly, are largely agricultural), they found that a shortage of rain in a given growing season led inevitably to a short-term economic decline and that short-term economic declines led all too easily to civil war. The causal effect of a drought, they argue, was frighteningly strong: “a 5-percentage-point negative growth shock” — a drop in the economy, that is — “increases the likelihood of civil war the following year by nearly one-half.”

### [Idea that forests are 'carbon sinks' going down drain](#)

Forests can do little to improve the future climate or to lower the atmosphere's carbon levels. What they can do is make global warming worse.

### ['Seven out of 10 fear UK energy supplies are at risk'](#)

Public concern over possible threats to their energy supply still outranks worries over climate change, despite the publication of the Stern review

### [Italy urges central EU energy authority](#)

Italian president Romano Prodi has suggested there should be a central EU energy authority following energy blackouts over the weekend affecting millions of people in Germany, France, Spain and Italy.

### [Africa needs help to win clean energy investment](#)

[An Oil Rush in \(Yes\) Iraq](#): The Kurds may be sitting on buried treasure, and foreign firms want to do business

[Oman investing \\$4b to raise output](#)

[China not to pursue oil resources monopoly in Africa](#)

China will not pursue monopoly of oil resources in Africa, and will not exclude and affect the cooperation between Africa and other countries, said Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on Sunday in Beijing.

At a joint press conference held by Chinese, Ethiopian and Egyptian foreign ministers, Li Zhaoxing said "the criticism of China's energy policy in Africa is unreasonable."

[Kuwait to Retain \\$26 Billion Oil Expansion Plan as Prices Fall](#): Oil prices "unlikely to fall below \$40 a barrel ever again"

[Hi-tech the key to boosting oil reserves, say experts](#)

Officials and experts at an oil and gas conference in Abu Dhabi have said that advanced technology was essential in boosting oil reserves to meet increasing global demand.

"We will be soon facing a challenge of producing difficult oil. Easy oil is slipping away from our hands," Omani Oil and Gas Minister Mohammad bin Hamad al-Romhi told the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC 2006).

[Russian bear could punch our lights out](#)

With the clocks now back and the cold weather drawing in, our leaders' minds are turning to the possibility of an energy shortage this winter.

[A new diamond in the rough](#): Pennsylvania starting first plant to turn coal waste into diesel fuel

[Four-day week makes the grade in Idaho](#)

The four-day week has its origins in the energy crisis of the 1970s, which drove up costs of heating and transportation, prompting some rural districts to cut one day of school.

The concept has survived, mostly in small, rural districts. It is most popular in Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Oregon, Arizona, Louisiana and Utah. Schools in Orofino, Idaho, also use a four-day week.

## [Solar Anniversary](#)

The numbers are in. PG& E owes us \$17.89. If we lived in Seattle we would be getting a check for this amount, but here in California we are not reimbursed for power generated in excess of what we use. Technically speaking we did not generate all the power that we used from our solar panels alone. Net metering is how we managed to live within our energy budget. Because PG & E paid top price (31 cents) for the power we generated during peak hours (between noon and 6 p.m. from May to October) and sold it back to us for 8 cents at night, we only had to generate a portion of what we used.

## [Blighted by this blot on a spectacular landscape](#)

The point will be put, no doubt, that wind power holds answers in the burgeoning energy crisis. Perhaps. Yes, we need alternatives to fossil fuels; no-one disputes that. Yes, there is an argument which holds that wherever wind turbines are put, they will be unsightly. There are even those who celebrate the construction as adding some kind of spurious interest to the vista.

But there could not be a location in the land more inappropriate than the Braes of Doune. Those who proposed and approved it should be ashamed.

## [Solar Powers Up, Sans Silicon](#)

## [Waiting for Prius hybrid seen over](#)

Shortage of popular gas-electric cars eases, but demand is cooling, report says.

## [OPEC chief: Another output cut may be needed](#)

INCHON, South Korea - OPEC President Edmund Daukoru warned on Sunday that the cartel may have to cut oil production again next month because the market was still "soft".

While many other OPEC members have also said a further reduction may be in order at its December meeting, Daukoru's comments are the latest to signal that the cartel may not be satisfied until it sees prices once again above \$60 a barrel.

[UK 'failed to save gas reserves'](#) This episode of *Panorama* aired in the U.K. last night, and can now be viewed [online](#).

## [Fears over Sakhalin-2 revealed in Shell emails](#)

Shell was warned more than four years ago by one of its own senior officials that he had major reservations about safety issues inside the troubled Sakhalin-2 development in eastern Russia.

Internal Shell emails sent to the then technical director of the Shell-led Sakhalin Energy company raise fears about the size of wells, drilling in an earthquake area, and an unforgiving schedule.



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