



DrumBeat: December 17, 2006

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Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Update by Leanan on 12/17/06 at 8:56 AM EDT]

[Slow Going for Alt Vehicles](#)

According to the EIA, hybrids will constitute 10 percent of new light-duty vehicles by 2030, and the same amount (2 million per year) will be flex fuel vehicles. In both cases those numbers indicate slow growth that won't do much to reduce vehicles emissions or petroleum consumption. The number of diesel vehicles sold will increase to 1.2 million annually.

Even though the fuel cell car has received the most hype and funding of any of the Bush Administration initiatives for alternative propulsion, the EIA says the combined market share of fuel cell, natural gas, and electric vehicles will be just 8 percent in 2030.

[Energy supplies: Abundant - and off-limits](#)

At least part of the solution to high oil and natural gas prices lies right under our feet, but Congress has failed to change the laws and regulations that keep this domestic energy locked up.

New Zealand: [The politics of energy](#)

Even if you don't believe in climate change, believe in the energy crunch. The days of cheap, easy, secure energy supplies are over for the world. That's a massive challenge to NZ industry. Large chunks of it have depended for generations on abundant, cheap power to process low-value commodities.

[Shell exec makes case for market decisions](#)

Shell Oil Co. President John Hofmeister has led his company to 16 U.S. cities this year as part of a 50-city tour at a time of high oil-company profits and relatively high prices at the pump.

The tour, which could take as long as two years, is a way for Shell to listen to Americans'

concerns about the industry, he said. And the talks give Shell a chance to talk about why it believes it should be able to drill offshore in areas that are now off limits.

[Iran offers to share nuke know-how with neighbors](#)

TEHRAN, Iran - President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Saturday his country was ready to transfer nuclear technology to neighboring countries, nearly a week after Arab states on the Persian Gulf announced plans to consider a joint nuclear program.

[China looks to develop more domestic energy sources](#)

BEIJING - China will look to develop domestic sources of energy in the years ahead, with conservation at the heart of the energy agenda, said Ma Kai, chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission.

[India, China sign key MoU on oil & gas exploration](#)

Beijing: India and China today further cemented their friendship and strategic ties by inking a major pact envisaging joint exploration, production and acquisition of oil assets in third countries which could substantially reduce their energy costs.

[Saudi Government goes ahead with oil refinery at Jizan with private participation](#)

Saudi Aramco will supply the refinery with crude through a tanker, as experts consider that building a pipeline from oil wells to the refinery is not economical. The refinery aims at serving foreign clients in Europe, the United States and Asia by supplying products of high specifications.

[Russian oil output up 2.2%, export down 0.5% in first 10 months of 2006](#)

[Carmakers fight global warming lawsuit](#)

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - The six largest automakers asked a federal judge to toss out a lawsuit by California that accuses them of harming human health and the environment by producing vehicles that contribute to global warming.

[Climate change melts Kilimanjaro's snows](#)

The total loss of ice masses ringing Africa's three highest peaks, projected by scientists

to happen sometime in the next two to five decades, fits a global pattern playing out in South America's Andes Mountains, in Europe's Alps, in the Himalayas and beyond.

Almost every one of more than 300 large glaciers studied worldwide is in retreat, international glaciologists reported in October in the journal Geophysical Research Letters. This is "essentially a response to post-1970 global warming," they said.

[Renewable Energy in America, Part 1: A Changing Climate](#)

Broadbased - from the grass roots up - calls have been building for the U.S. to focus efforts and resources on the development of renewable energy sources and infrastructure, following the latest steep and sustained run-up in petroleum and fossil fuel prices.

[Bay Localize & Green Roofs: An Interview with Ingrid Severson](#) - transcript and podcast.

This is in response to global warming and peak oil. I don't know if people know what peak oil is, but it is basically just the phenomenon that refers to petroleum depletion. It has massive impacts on the economy and the stability of our resources, etc. It affects the whole world. We're working on a local level which is why we're called Bay Localize because we are striving to bring production of our goods and services more on a local level within the Bay Area.

[Let them wear hats](#)

It made me realize where we were as a country. After all, if installing a programmable thermostat was supposed to be the best way to become more energy efficient and here we had cut our bill by 20% by uninstalling one, that means that we are using way more energy than really needed and are not paying attention to energy use at all.

Colorado: [Democrats lay out energy bills](#)

Democratic lawmakers will introduce a slew of bills in the 2007 General Assembly to propel Colorado into becoming the "renewable energy capital of the world."

[The top gift for science geeks](#): It's a nuclear-powered toy. Really.



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