



DrumBeat: March 11, 2007

Posted by [Leanan](#) on March 11, 2007 - 9:24am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Climate report warns of drought, disease](#)

The harmful effects of global warming on daily life are already showing up, and within a couple of decades hundreds of millions of people won't have enough water, top scientists will say next month at a meeting in Belgium.

At the same time, tens of millions of others will be flooded out of their homes each year as the Earth reels from rising temperatures and sea levels, according to portions of a draft of an international scientific report obtained by The Associated Press.

[Report cites risk of offshore gas terminal near Malibu](#)

A comprehensive study released Friday on a natural gas processing plant that would be built in the ocean about 20 miles from Malibu concludes that the project poses substantial environmental and safety concerns for the California coast.

[This oil is worth its salt](#)

Layers of the substance in the Gulf of Mexico have hidden the crude below but energy companies are finding ways to get at it in the deepest waters.

[Biofuels boom raises tough questions](#)

The problem is, ethanol really isn't ready for prime time. The only economical way to make ethanol right now is with corn, which means the burgeoning industry is literally eating America's lunch, not to mention its breakfast and dinner. And though ethanol from corn may have some minor benefits with regard to energy independence, most analysts conclude its environmental benefits are questionable at best.

[Challenges, Threats and Opportunities for Sustainable Agriculture, Part II](#)

But are these new organic farmers and associated industry following the original

precepts of the pioneers? Or is organic farming being incorporated into the systems of intensified production, finance, management and distribution typical of conventional agriculture? Is organic agriculture replicating the conventional model that it so fiercely opposed?

[Germans urged to give foreign travel a rest to curb global warming](#)

"In the near future, people are going to become increasingly aware that aircraft emit vast amounts of greenhouse gases, far more than cars or trains," said Manfred Stock, a researcher at the climate research centre in Potsdam outside Berlin.

[Iranians lose access to unlimited cheap fuel](#)

Iran's parliament this week set May 22 as the day when the country's 15m motorists lose access to unlimited cheap fuel.

Pump prices, frozen for three years at 80 tomans (or 9 cents) a litre, have boosted consumption far beyond the capacity of Iran's oil refineries and meant that 40 per cent of petrol has had to be imported.

[Russia to Get Oil-and-Gas-Free Budget in 2008](#)

Russia will adopt its first budget which would not rely on oil and gas revenues in 2008, Finance Minister Alexey Kudrin told reporters on Friday.

[Global-warming lecture offered free at UH-Manoa](#)

[Richard] Alley, the Evan Pugh Professor of Geosciences at Penn St. University, has spent numerous field seasons in both Antarctica and Greenland studying the waxing and waning of ice sheets. His lecture presentation is titled, "Get Rich and Save the World: Global Warming, Peak Oil, and Our Future."

[The past, present and future of Idaho's geothermal power](#)

But perhaps Idaho's most lucrative green energy source has been under our feet the whole time: geothermal power. It's relatively inexpensive, plentiful, environmentally friendly to the extreme, and it may just be the key to staving off a potential energy crisis.

Pakistan: [New alternative energy projects soon](#)

Sindh Governor, Dr Ishratul Ibad Khan has said that new projects of alternate energy will soon start functioning in Sindh to help overcome energy crisis.

He said 64 wind turbines would be installed at Thatta, Jhumpir and other places in the interior of Sindh by Sindh Government's Department of Alternate Energy in coordination with Alternate Energy Development Board through which 15000 MW energy will be produced.

[XAND Joins Energy Reduction Incentive Program](#)

Operation Save New York serves as a type of insurance program for the electric grid. When demand on the grid is forecast to be at or above the available level of supply, members are called on to reduce electric usage. Xand is a prime candidate for the program with the ability to curtail 100% of demand from the grid within 5 minutes notice by switching to generator power. The facility can be powered by the onsite twin 1.25 megawatt generators, running on a bi-fuel mixture of diesel and natural gas. Xand's ability to self-power with the industrial grade Caterpillar generators is a key component to its value proposition as a mission critical Data Center in Westchester County.

[A New Battery Takes Off in a Race to Electric Cars](#)

VROOOOM! Or, rather, much more softly: brmmm.

A123Systems, a start-up in Watertown, Mass., says it has created a powerful, safe, long-lived battery. If the cell fulfills the ambitions of its maker, that softer sound will be the future of automobiles.

[Electricity from the sea](#)

Dreams of converting ocean energy into electricity move closer to commercial reality.

[Viet Nam: Energy experts look to biofuel to solve Asian emission woes](#)

Making energy from biomass is of critical importance to ensure a sustainable future, international environment and energy experts told a workshop held in HCM City this week.

[World Web Of Electricity Charged Up](#)

The key to fighting climate change is for the U.S. to take a leadership role in promoting a "new world wide web of electricity," according to Michael Powers, board member and

spokesman for Global Energy Network Institute, a non-profit research and education group based in San Diego.

..."By connecting regional electricity grids around the world into a global network, it will be possible to tap new renewable resources and phase out our worst polluting coal-fired power plants," Powers said.

[Qatar caught in cycle of rising prices, risks](#)

Qatar appears to be caught in a cycle of soaring asset prices, putting the private sector under pressure, exposing banks and insurers to greater risks and forcing the state to keep up expenditure.

The rising petrodollar-induced liquidity and the limited avenues for financial investments led to excessive funds being diverted to other forms of investment like the stock market and real estate, bankers said.



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