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Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Chevron aims to unlock huge Mid-East reserves](#)

Chevron, the second-biggest US oil company, will in the next few months begin large-scale testing of a production technique that could unlock tens of billions of barrels of reserves across the Middle East.

The technique, for producing heavy oil that cannot be extracted using conventional methods, will be used in the partitioned neutral zone between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Chevron's plans follow its success in extending its licence from the Saudi government to operate in the neutral zone for a further 30 years.

[China flexes cash-rich muscles over oil and minerals](#)

The maxim - 'loot a burning house' - has been followed by China's military strategists for millennia. When your adversaries are in difficulty, press home your advantage to profit from their misfortune.

The country's political and economic doyens have been putting that age-old philosophy into practice again in recent weeks. They have been taking advantage of China's enormous cash reserves and the plummeting global demand for natural resources to exploit an international fire sale in oil and minerals to ease concerns about the country's long-term energy security.

[Saudi 'to expedite work on two gas fields'](#)

Top oil exporter Saudi Arabia will expedite work on two offshore gas fields in the kingdom as it seeks to meet growing domestic energy demand, a report said.

A spokesman with state oil giant Saudi Aramco declined to comment on the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) report.

[Thomas Friedman: The Inflection Is Near?](#)

Let's today step out of the normal boundaries of analysis of our economic crisis and ask a radical question: What if the crisis of 2008 represents something much more fundamental than a deep recession? What if it's telling us that the whole growth model we created over the last 50 years is simply unsustainable economically and ecologically and that 2008 was when we hit the wall — when Mother Nature and the market both said: "No more."

"We created a way of raising standards of living that we can't possibly pass on to our children," said Joe Romm, a physicist and climate expert who writes the indispensable blog climateprogress.org. We have been getting rich by depleting all our natural stocks — water, hydrocarbons, forests, rivers, fish and arable land — and not by generating renewable flows.

"You can get this burst of wealth that we have created from this rapacious behavior," added Romm. "But it has to collapse, unless adults stand up and say, 'This is a Ponzi scheme. We have not generated real wealth, and we are destroying a livable climate ...' Real wealth is something you can pass on in a way that others can enjoy."

[California And Detroit Go To War Over Gas Mileage](#)

For more than three decades Detroit's Big Three and their allies have successfully blocked or limited changes to the nation's fuel economy rules. However, with General Motors and Chrysler LLC facing bankruptcy, the carmakers are making what could be one last stand, and this one they may well lose.

[Conn. considers end to zone gasoline pricing](#)

HARTFORD, Conn.—A Connecticut legislative committee has endorsed a proposal to prohibit fuel distributors from charging varying amounts to gas stations based on their location.

The practice, known as zone pricing, has been criticized by lawmakers for the past several years as unfair to drivers and gas stations.

[Growing your own vegetables can be a garden victory](#)

Today, there's a new call to create victory gardens.

This time around, these gardens, which are typically composed of annual row crops, are seen as a solution to everything from coping with the failing economy, to a means of keeping food safe, to eliminating the energy and environmental costs of transporting produce hundreds or thousands of miles across the country and world.

[Mileage tax gains speed in Congress](#)

WASHINGTON Despite opposition from the White House, a proposal to tax motorists on the number of miles they drive each year is gathering speed on Capitol Hill.

Its popularity is increasing as Congress searches for alternatives to the federal gasoline tax, which isn't indexed to inflation and hasn't been raised since 1993.

Supporters say that a mileage tax would be a more reliable source of funding for the upkeep of the nation's roads and bridges. Many environmentalists endorse it, saying that it would lead to less driving and less pollution.

[Saudis Race All Night, Fueled by Boredom](#)

This may be the most popular sport of Saudi youth, an obsessive, semilegal competition that dominates weekend nights here. It ranges from garden variety drag racing to "drifting," an extremely dangerous practice in which drivers deliberately spin out and skid sideways at high speeds, sometimes killing themselves and spectators.

For Saudi Arabia's vast and underemployed generation of young people, these reckless night battles are a kind of collective scream of frustration, a rare outlet for exuberance in an ultraconservative country where the sexes are rigorously segregated and most public entertainment is illegal. They are, almost literally, bored out of their minds.

[Sri Lanka: Energy crisis looms nearer](#)

Although, last week Power and Energy Ministry won a major hurdle in passing the Sri Lanka Electricity Bill, which was withdrawn four times earlier, the Sri Lankan consumer would have to see power cuts if there were no rains by mid March.

"We would have to implement power cuts if the drought continues and if there are no rains by March 15." Power and Energy Minister John Seneviratne told The Nation.

[Can Biofuels Bottom?](#)

In the universe of absolutely battered "green" stocks (See: For Green Energy Investors, a Particularly Tough Ride), biofuels have been among the worst. Falling prices and oversupply led to an industry-wide slump as ethanol prices sank along with other fuels, while being squeezed at the same time by a smaller drop in prices for crops used to make the stuff.

The damage caused a few analysts to question the future of the entire ethanol industry. Happily, a few early signs are appearing that the floor might be in. Today Merrill Lynch is out with a report predicting a possible surge in ethanol prices next year as demand continues, oil prices rise and grain prices soften under the weight of a global recession.

[For Green Energy Investors, a Particularly Tough Ride](#)

If there is a lesson to be learned from the precipitous fall in "green" stocks last year, it's this: Combining greed with good intentions can make for a poor investment strategy.

[Getting to the Bottom of the Greenland Ice Sheet](#)

Greenland—the world's largest island—is also home to one of the world's largest ice sheets (after Antarctica). If Greenland's two-mile-thick ice sheet melts completely, it would ultimately raise global sea level by 23 feet, drowning significant portions of coastal regions under water.

It would also add large quantities of fresh water to the ocean, with the potential to change ocean circulation patterns that could, in turn, affect rainfall patterns, fisheries, and climate.

[This is not youthful rebellion. We see the catastrophe ahead](#)

This isn't the next fad. The naive popular narrative that "every generation has their thing" and that climate is ours - that we're the "Facebook generation" - simply does not hold. This isn't about being disaffected and rebellious without a cause. This isn't about dropping out, rejecting the norm, culture jamming and hacking the system. This isn't even about altruism. It's not just about defending the rights and lives of those who are less fortunate than us, and it certainly isn't about polar bears. This is about us. For the millennial generation the patronising cliches fall apart, because this isn't about ideals so much as hard science and the terrifying reality that what the scientists have been warning us all about for years - those sea level rises, catastrophic droughts and melting ice caps - will now happen in our lifetimes.

[Land Use and Density Affect Fires in Indonesia](#)

A study in Nature Geoscience suggests that while drought may lead to the worst incidences of burning, land use and population density also play roles.

[King Coal's reign challenged in courts, D.C.](#)

BILLINGS, Mont. - Beneath the frozen plains of eastern Montana and Wyoming lie the largest coal deposits in the world — enough to last the United States more than a century at the nation's current burn rate.

The fuel literally spills from the ground where streambanks cut into the earth, hinting at reserves estimated at 180 billion tons. But even here lawsuits over global warming and the changing political landscape in Washington are pummeling an industry that has long been the backbone of America's power supply.

In recent weeks, a group of rural Montana electric co-ops abandoned a partially built 250-megawatt coal plant, ending a four-year legal campaign by environmentalists to stop the project. The co-ops plan to instead get their electricity from a natural gas plant — more expensive for customers but also more likely to get built.

A few miles away, the U.S. Air Force dropped plans for a major coal-to-jet fuel plant once touted as the harbinger of a new market for coal. There are no signs it will be revived.

[Historical Patterns Predict This Crisis Will Last Through 2025](#)

I see this coming war taking one of two shapes. It will either be a war against Global Warming/Peak Oil/Water Shortage and other threats to our living environment, or it will be a battle against another nation or group of nations (Arab or Chinese being most likely).

[The Future of Energy](#)

There is plenty of energy for everyone.

Sure, I know all about peak oil and the dangers of nuclear energy and the high cost to produce solar and wind energy.

But those things are all trivial compared to the untapped energy sources we have all around us.

[Australia - Eco-activist spotlight: Far-north Qld campaigns for public transport](#)

Public transport usage in Cairns amounts to less than 4% of trips. The government target is for “at least 10%” of trips to be by public transport by 2036. The government is only considering an upgraded bus network to meet this target.

Svargo Freitag told GLW: “We want to see the Cairns region develop into a national model for sustainability, showcasing solutions to peak oil and global warming. Cairns stands to lose its tropical rainforests and the Great Barrier Reef and is subject to rising sea-levels, so we have a huge incentive to do the right thing.”

[Falling oil prices and Iraq](#)

Among the OPEC members who will suffer considerably from the fall in prices is of course Iraq, which needs oil revenues more than the others because of its special situation. Having achieved a lot last year in terms of security and stability, Iraq needs more money to sustain its growing security forces, whose number has soared close to 609,000 from 250,000 only two years ago. In addition to sustaining the security forces, Iraq has to continue with reconstruction projects and also modernize the oil industry's infrastructure.

[Iran refineries' capacity to reach 3.2 million b/d, minister](#)

LONDON, March 8 (IranMania) - Oil Minister Gholam-Hossein Nozari said on Saturday that the capacity of the country's refineries will reach 3.2 million barrels a day from the current 1.7 million, IRNA reported.

He added that the objective will be materialized by the completion of eight refineries under construction in different parts of the country.

[China to import more LNG from Qatar](#)

Fu Chengyu, general manager of China National Offshore Oil Company (CNOOC), said in the opening ceremony for CNOOC's office in Doha that his company has secured LNG supply of 13 million tons a year up to date coming from the locally produced and import from Russia and Kazakhstan.

"But this can't satisfy the market demand. We plan to import 60million tons of LNG each year by the year of 2020. We hope part of this additional volume come from Qatar."

[Iran inflation hits 25.9%: reports](#)

TEHRAN (AFP) – Inflation -- one of the biggest challenges facing oil-rich Iran -- has hit 25.9 percent in February, local news agencies reported on Sunday.

Inflation rose to 25.9 percent in the Iranian calendar month of Bahman ending February 18 from the previous month's figure of 24 percent, the ISNA news agency quoted the central bank as saying.

[Iran calls for cooperation with non-Opec](#)

Iran's oil minister called for cooperation between crude producers inside and outside Opec, saying it was necessary in view of the global economic downturn, the official Irna news agency reported.

[Expert: No oil off coast](#)

Q: Congress let the ban on offshore drilling expire last year, and some are pushing Congress and President Barack Obama to reinstate the ban. If they're unsuccessful and the ban expires, what can South Carolina expect?

A: "Indifference. I really don't think there's any oil out there. ... To be able to find oil and drill for offshore oil requires a great deal of money. For an oil reservoir to be economically viable requires there to be a fairly good-sized reservoir. From my reviews of the public record, there are no oil reservoirs of any consequence that would entice anybody to drill. ... Even if one can identify a reservoir, and this oil is technically recoverable, it does not mean that it is economically recoverable."

[The Current Stagnation of Natural Gas Vehicles in America](#)

Most of you already know I believe natural gas transportation is the key to ending US reliance on foreign oil, protecting the America from the economic and social implications of peak oil (some of which we are experiencing today), and meaningfully reducing CO2 emissions. With a desire to practice what I preach, I embarked on a mission to study the non-fleet (consumer) NGV status quo in America and determine how I can obtain and refuel a NGV. Here's what I found out.

[Masochism is not the way to save the planet](#)

No baths? No cups of tea? I'm all for saving our Earth, but there's green . . . and then there's miserable. Can't we make the 21st century better without going back to the 19th? There are two ways to cut heating bills — one is to self-flagellate until we're warm enough, and the other is to use modern, ecologically sound technology to heat and light our homes.

[Greenhouse gas pollution threatens Southern Ocean food chain](#)

RISING concentrations of acid in the Southern Ocean caused by greenhouse gases are damaging the ability of some sea creatures to form shells, posing a serious threat to marine life, a study by Australian scientists has found.

One of the study's authors, Dr Will Howard, said the findings were the first evidence

from nature, rather than a laboratory, that the acidification of the Southern Ocean will potentially have a big impact on marine life.

[The Obama permits plan won't work](#): *A straightforward tax would produce results much quicker*

The solution, of course, would be a tax on carbon, offset by lower payroll taxes. But unlike the hidden tax of cap-and-trade — the higher costs of doing business are passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices for electricity, petroleum products, and other goods — a carbon tax is out there for the voters to see. And given the choice between a stealth tax and a straight, visible tax, politicians will pick the former every time. Even if, as in this case, the stealth tax is less likely to accomplish its objectives — assured revenues for the exchequer and investment in green energy.

[Tough odds facing bill to impose carbon tax](#)

WASHINGTON: Representative John Larson has embarked again on his lonely quest to enact a national tax on carbon dioxide emissions. His idea is to set a modest price on a ton of emissions, gradually increasing it each year until the desired reduction in heat-trapping-gas pollution is achieved.

Under the bill he introduced last week, virtually all the revenues from the tax would be returned to the public in lower payroll taxes.

[Prince Charles: 'We have less than 100 months to stop climate change disaster'](#)

A dire climate-change warning will be issued by the Prince of Wales when he tells the world we have 'less than 100 months to act' before the damage caused by global warming becomes irreversible.

Charles will repeat the prediction made by experts that there are around eight years in which to make further cuts to CO₂ emissions, halt deforestation and take other measures to stave off a permanent problem.



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