



DrumBeat: May 15, 2009

Posted by [Leanan](#) on May 15, 2009 - 10:17am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Bill McKibben: Can 350.org save the world?](#)

The trouble is, physics and chemistry aren't adjusting their schedule to fit our political and economic convenience. Each week brings new accounts of crashing ice sheets and spreading droughts. The scientific journal Nature said in its April 29 cover story that "a growing number of scientists agree that the CO₂ challenge is even greater than had been previously thought."

As politics gets slower, global warming speeds up. The problem isn't feckless officials. Obama has a dream team of climate specialists: Clinton administration EPA veteran Carol Browner as energy czar, Harvard physicist John Holdren as top science advisor, Nobel Prize-winning physicist Steven Chu as Energy secretary and Oakland activist Van Jones as White House green jobs coordinator.

And the problem isn't that environmental groups aren't working hard enough. I've never seen them work more tirelessly, with lobbying efforts in capitals around the world.

In fact, the problem is pretty simple: The environmental movement isn't big enough. It's one of the most selfless of advocacy efforts. But the movement has been sized to save whales and build national parks and force carmakers to stick catalytic converters on exhaust systems. It's nowhere near big enough to take on the fossil fuel industry, the biggest player in our global economy. It's like sending the Food and Drug Administration to fight the war in Afghanistan.

[DOE chief announces billions for clean coal](#)

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Energy Secretary Steven Chu says he will provide \$2.4 billion from the economic recovery package to speed up development of technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and factories that burn coal.

Chu told a meeting of the National Coal Council on Friday that it's essential that ways are found to capture carbon dioxide from coal-burning power plants and industrial sources. Carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels is the leading greenhouse gas blamed for global warming.

[Nuclear Science Studies Back in Vogue?](#)

After decades of declining enrollments, nuclear science and engineering may be poised for academic resurgence in the nation's universities.

Last week, the Department of Energy announced nearly \$50 million in new funding and scholarships through its Nuclear Energy University Program for American colleges working on "cutting-edge" nuclear energy research.

[High Tension in the Energy Debate: The Clamshell Reaction](#) (from the History Archive)

If there should be a fourth occupation at Seabrook, it might well become a mass civil disobedience action the like of which this country has not seen for quite some time. Full-scale occupations have already occurred in Europe, where 28,000 Swiss, French and West German citizens occupied a nuclear construction site at Wyhl, West Germany, and where more than 20,000 French nuclear opponents tried the same thing at Malville, near Lyons. The former resulted in an on-site occupation lasting more than a year, and was ended only by cancellation of the plant; the latter presaged a widespread upheaval that has raised questions about the future of nuclear energy in France. Mass anti-nuclear opposition has also moved to civil disobedience in Italy, Switzerland and Japan; it is threatening in Sweden, Spain and Australia.

What comes next in the United States will depend in large part on the Carter administration, and the depth of its commitment to what it has termed "the last resort" in the energy crisis.

But what is now clear from the grass roots of New England is that the social movement which has developed on the issue has chosen a "last resort" of its own, and that movement is unlikely to slow down until nuclear power plants become no more than a bad memory.

[Hot Chicks: Legal or Not, Chickens Are the Chic New Backyard Addition](#)

The urban homesteading movement got a huge symbolic boost this spring when the first family installed a 1,100-square-foot vegetable garden at the White House. Poultry is the natural next step in the sustainable back yard; chickens produce eggs, devour kitchen scraps and add manure to the compost pile.

"Chickens are America's cool new pet," said Dave Belanger, publisher of the magazine Backyard Poultry. When he launched it three years ago, "we were thinking 15 to 20 thousand" subscriptions, he said. The print run for the bimonthly is now 100,000.

[China goes farming as factories close](#)

Farming is entirely new to Bu Zhonghua.

With a pale, unwrinkled face, he still has the look of the white collar manager he was until late last year.

At just 34, he has spent half his life working in neighbouring Guangdong province.

"My life has changed enormously," he said, taking a break from working his family's field.

"I can't even afford to pay my phone bill these days. They cut off phone service last month."

[Aramco expanding offshore E&P capability](#)

The sharp increase in offshore activity led Saudi Aramco to revise its fleet strategy last year for its Marine organization. Rather than purchase new vessels, it opted for charters. Sixteen chartered ships joined the fleet in 2008, including 12 to support drilling operations, two DSVs, one utility boat, and one trash collection vessel.

On offshore fields already in production - Zuluf, Safaniyah, Marjan - the company combined 3D seismic with horizontal wells to extract oil from the thin Khafji stringer sands.

[Baghdad Won't Pay Cos for Kurdish Oil Exports](#)

International companies that want to pump oil in the autonomous Kurdish region of northern Iraq won't be paid from federal revenues, Iraq's oil minister has said.

"The company won't receive from the oil ministry any dollar or a barrel of oil," Hussein al-Shahristani told Dow Jones Newswires in an interview late Thursday night.

"Those who signed the contracts with these companies are responsible to pay back and compensate them," said Shahristani who is in Jordan to attend the World Economic Forum on the Middle East, which starts Friday.

[Fewer flying this summer - but expect full planes](#)

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- The skies will be considerably less crowded this summer, with the Air Transport Association projecting a 7% decline in air travel compared to last year.

The industry group, which represents U.S.-based airlines, said on Friday that there will

be 14 million fewer airline passengers traveling over the summer.

[Gas: 12% surge in 3 weeks](#)

NEW YORK (CNMoney.com) -- Gas prices rose overnight, with the national average up nearly 12% in less than three weeks, according to a daily survey.

[Ormat Combines for 330 MW Geothermal Plant](#)

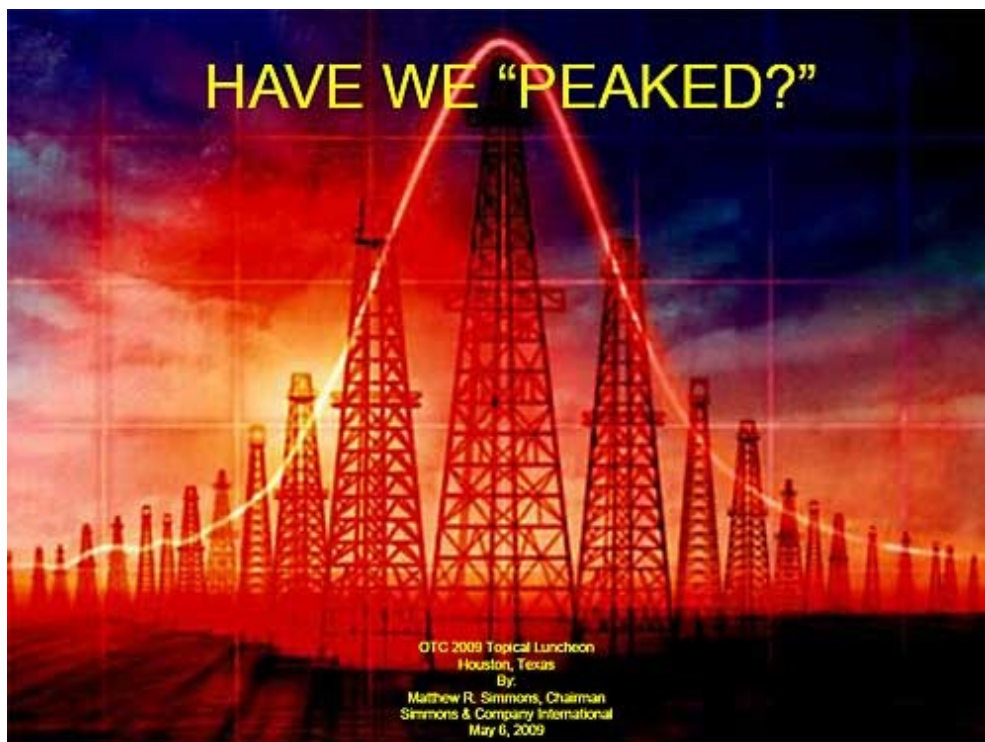
It's a geological bonanza for clean energy investors, yet no one's talking about it.

With its population spread out over more than 17,000 islands, many Indonesians live in cities, yet some are in areas so remote that electricity access is almost zero.

Indonesia is also the only OPEC member in Southeast Asia, but in recent years it's actually become a net importer of oil. (Production is down from aging oil fields, consumption is up, and the government in Jakarta feels the fire of an energy crisis bubbling beneath the surface.)

But trouble isn't the only thing simmering under this archipelago nation. That's because geothermal energy is about to break out from an underexploited state to become a primary resource for Indonesia's energy needs.

[New presentations by Matt Simmons](#)



- Have We "Peaked?"
- Is There Light At The End Of The Dark Tunnel?
- Investing During A World-Class Crisis

[The Danger of Inaction: A Chat With Thomas Homer-Dixon](#)

In his latest book, "Carbon Shift," the political scientist Thomas Homer-Dixon, chair of global systems at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo, Ontario, assembles essays by six experts who tackle contentious issues such as the global supply of fossil fuels, the future of coal, and the implications of \$300-a-barrel oil.

With atmospheric carbon concentrations hurtling towards 400 parts per million, Mr. Homer-Dixon sees the West's sluggishness to respond as akin to the general view of the Soviet Union circa 1985. "While few people grasped in advance the true gravity of the stresses that ultimately caused the Soviet empire's demise, we don't have the same excuse today," he said. "We understand the energy, climate and other challenges we face well enough to know that ignoring them could be catastrophic."

[Challenges and Implications for Energy Sector Investing](#)

Regardless of the short term movements of the market and economy several long term trends are clear: (1) Depletion of crude oil and natural gas reserves is relentless and substantial; (2) Easy to find and producible oil and gas reserves have for the most part already been exploited and production from these fields is now declining; and (3) Crude oil, coal, and natural gas will be the primary energy source for global economies for decades to come.

[Brazil's Big Oil Bet](#)

As an update to last week's oil company earnings roundup, I bring you Brazil's state-owned oil company, Petroleo Brasileiro (PBR), affectionately known as Petrobras. It may seem like same story, different day, as Petrobras announced a 20% drop in first-quarter net profits compared with Q1 2008 (due to - yawn - the global economic slowdown, lower oil prices and lower demand).

But there are some interesting things happening in Petrobras - mainly an increase in capital spending to the tune of \$28.6 billion this year - up from \$23 billion last year.

Why the massive billions in capital?

One word - **Tupi**.

[Mexico's Pemex lowers natural gas prices for buyers](#)

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Mexico's state-run gas company Pemex will lower natural gas prices for consumers by 10 percent beginning at the end of June this year, the company said on Thursday.

Mexico -- a crude oil exporter -- is a net importer of natural gas despite having sizable resources. Pemex has set a goal to increase output enough to halve gas imports, possibly as soon as this year.

[Gazprom Is Ready to Buy All Gas From Nabucco Base in Azerbaijan](#)

(Bloomberg) -- OAO Gazprom, the world's largest natural gas producer, is ready to buy all the gas from the second stage of an offshore Azeri development slated as a resource base for the Europe-backed Nabucco pipeline project.

[Russia to sign gas pipeline deal](#)

Senior officials from the Balkans and southern Europe are in the Russian Black Sea resort city of Sochi to sign agreements on a new gas pipeline.

South Stream, when built, will deliver gas from Central Asia and Russia to Italy through the Balkans.

[Naftogaz makes gas storage plans](#)

Naftogaz will start buying gas for storage once it receives pipeline transit payments from Russian giant Gazprom, the Ukrainian state-run outfit said.

Gazprom pays Ukraine \$1.70 per 1000 cubic metres of gas per 100 kilometres for gas which travels across its territory to Europe. Russian gas accounts for a quarter of Europe's gas consumption and almost all of it goes through Ukraine.

[Exxon Japan group posts 5 pct rise in Q1 oil export](#)

TOKYO (Reuters) - Exxon Mobil Japan group refiner TonenGeneral Sekiyu said on Friday its oil product exports for January-March rose 5 percent from a year earlier, led by a 22 percent gain in middle distillate exports, in the face of declining domestic demand. TonenGeneral, Japan's second-biggest oil refiner by capacity, did not give detailed volumes, but said exports would keep growing, though Japanese rivals may be expanding exports much faster, the company's managing director W. J. Bogaty told

Reuters after announcing its first quarter results.

[Norway Expects Crude Oil Prices to Rise 15% Next Year](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Norway, the world's fifth-largest oil exporter, expects the average price of crude to rise 15 percent in 2010 from this year, as demand rebounds and OPEC limits output.

[Norway Raises Spending to Fight Recession, Cuts GDP Outlook](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Norway's government will raise spending, adding to the country's biggest stimulus package in more than 30 years, to jolt the oil-driven economy out of its first recession in two decades as global trade falters.

Norway will spend an extra 9.5 billion kroner (\$1.5 billion) in 2009 to create jobs and galvanize demand, the Finance Ministry said in a revised budget statement today. That brings total stimulus measures this year as a percentage of gross domestic product to 3 percent, compared with a January target of 2.3 percent.

[Ontario Picks Atomic Energy of Canada for Reactors, Globe Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Ontario picked Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. as the leading bidder to build the province's first nuclear reactors since the 1980s, the Globe and Mail reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

Canada's most populous province wants assurances that the federal government will share the risks of cost overruns on the "multibillion-dollar" project, the Globe said. Ontario wants a company to design and build reactors on a fixed-price basis, the newspaper said.

[Canadian scholars have plan to limit methane gas output from belching bovine](#)

It's the climate-change culprit nobody wants to talk about: cattle gas. Much of the methane emitted in Canada comes not from the oil industry or landfills, but from belching cows. Now, a team of Canadian scholars says it has come up with a plan to cut a cow's output by as much as 25%, by making the animal "more efficient." The study, published recently in the Journal of Animal Science, was conducted jointly by the universities of Guelph and Manitoba, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

[Al Gore: US climate change bill a 'good start'](#)

WASHINGTON (AFP) – A bill to fight climate change currently before the US Congress "is a good start," Nobel laureate and environment champion Al Gore said Friday.

With the House Energy and Commerce Committee due to start its formal debate on the bill come Monday, hoping to approve it by week's end and send it to the full House, Gore said the legislation "has now reached the stage that a lot of people thought it never would."

['Recession Apocalypse': Preparing for the End of the World](#)

In the serene hills of rural upstate New York, Kathie Breault is hunkering down for doomsday. It's not an all-out Armageddon that the 51-year-old grandmother is convinced of, but an imminent economic apocalypse.

A few years ago, Breault began reading about what happens when the world surpasses "peak oil" -- a point where we will use more oil than we can produce.

"I was afraid that any day that oil would disappear, that gas would start to disappear, that I wouldn't be able to get to work, I wouldn't have money, I wouldn't have food that I needed," she said. "It was frightening -- the picture that was painted."

[Torontonians to pay premium for power when demand peaks](#)

Toronto — Toronto Hydro announced Thursday that it will begin charging its customers new higher rates to use electricity when demand peaks, such as summer afternoons, and lower rates in the middle of the night, in an effort to encourage conservation and avoid blackouts.

[Skint: Venezuela's oil industry](#)

Despite years of record oil revenues, PDVSA accumulated liabilities of almost \$70 billion by last September, up from less than \$30 billion in 2006, according to the company's financial reports. The company is itself owed more than \$24 billion, mostly by Cuba and other neighbours to whom Mr Chávez supplies oil on easy terms.

PDVSA's decline stems in part from the fact that Mr Chávez has turned what was an efficient oil company into an all-purpose vehicle for implementing "21st-century socialism". PDVSA, whose workforce has more than doubled since 2003, now builds houses, imports food, runs farms and pays for adult-education projects.

[Close to 150 million barrels oil products stored at sea](#)

TOKYO (Reuters) - Oil companies are storing close to 150 million barrels of crude oil and petroleum products at sea, a leading shipbroker said on Thursday.

An oil market structure known as contango -- when oil for prompt delivery is cheaper than oil for later delivery -- has made it profitable to buy oil for storage.

[Nabucco starts to shape up](#)

The EU and Turkey have resolved two major differences that were preventing agreement on the terms for the Nabucco natural gas pipeline, and the Turkish President Abdullah Gul is reported to have promised that a signing ceremony will take place on June 25 in Ankara.

[Petrobras pumps up output](#)

Brazilian giant Petrobras added an 99,000 barrels per day of output in the first quarter this year, bumping up its production tally.

[Hostage-taking Nigeria militants threaten new attacks](#)

LAGOS (AFP) – Militants were holding 15 foreigners hostage in the oil-rich Niger Delta as Nigeria's main armed group Thursday reiterated a warning to oil companies to evacuate staff or face "a hurricane" of attacks.

['Recession LNG prices tempt Asia'](#)

Petrochina is set to become Shell's largest liquefied natural gas customer, as recession-hit gas prices are spurring increased interest in long-term contracts from emerging countries.

"The financial crisis is changing Asia's interest in long-term contracts," vice president of Shell's Global LNG Kathleen Eisbrenner told a conference in Oslo.

[China Power Production Fell 3.9% in Early May, Securities Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- China's electricity production in early May fell 3.9 percent from a year earlier.

[U.S. Consumer Prices Unchanged; Core Prices Increase](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The cost of living in the U.S. was unchanged in April as decreases in food and energy costs offset increases in medical care, autos and a second straight jump in tobacco prices.

The consumer price index was flat after decreasing 0.1 percent in March, the Labor Department said today in Washington. Excluding food and fuel, costs climbed a greater-than-forecast 0.3 percent, almost half of which reflected an increase in excise taxes on cigarettes, according to Labor.

[Stocks still face deflationary collapse: Prechter](#)

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Longtime technical analyst Robert Prechter, who forecast the 1987 stock market crash, predicted this week that U.S. equities may plunge to half their lows hit in March as a deflationary depression bites.

Oil and U.S. Treasury bonds are also locked in long term bear markets, while corporate bond prices will plunge precipitously by next year as broad economy, banking system and company earnings sustain more damage from a financial crisis that's akin to the Great Depression, he said.

[Byron King: Buckle Your Seat Belts—"Investment Earthquake in the Energy Sector" Ahead](#)

I look at scarcity in the classic sense of shortages, of not enough to go around. When you look at world development in the last century, growing from a population of one billion or so, for much of the time 90% of the people were on the outs and maybe 10% were on the in. The Western world—North America, Europe, Japan and parts of the rest of the world—had access to ample resources, whether it's mineral resources; energy resources; water, fresh water; food, what-have-you. That's where we get the modern theories of economics, and commodity cycles. That's the history that we see. But you have to be careful where you get your history.

Now we're living in a world with over 6½ billion people. One billion or so are at or approaching a middle-class standard of living. The other 5 billion or so? They understand what a better existence means for them. When, say, 4 billion more people are competing for that oil or the mineral resources — the copper, the nickel, the iron ore, the food that you can grow on the arable land, the fresh water, the fish in the sea — you deplete your resources a lot faster than in the good old days.

[An Inconvenient Talk: Dave Hughes's guide to the end of the fossil fuel age](#)

The Talk is in essence a constantly updated survey of the state of the planet through a hydrocarbon geologist's eyes. It plows methodically through reams of energy-geek data. *World Conventional Oil and Oil Sands Reserves, 1980–2007. Energy Profit Ratio for Liquid Hydrocarbons. Canadian Gas Deliverability Scenarios from All Sources.* The

small-font notes at the bottom of each PowerPoint slide enumerate sources that read like a general anaesthetic in print form: *BP Statistical Review of World Energy*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *EIA International Energy Outlook*. Pie charts and bar graphs with several rainbows' worth of colour and an overabundance of italicized and all-capped words: **"The absolute first priority,"** that kind of thing. (By the way, it should be **"to reduce energy consumption as soon as possible."**)

[N.B. is still hooked on building highways](#)

The worst is yet to come as world oil production peaks in the next few years, increasing fuel costs and hence lowering gas tax revenues here in New Brunswick. If we have \$4.7 billion in highway debt, we will have a gigantic problem. The economist James Hamilton suggests that oil prices are to blame for the current recession: "The evidence to me is persuasive that, had there been no oil shock, we would have described the U.S. economy in fourth-quarter 2007 to third-quarter 2008 as growing slowly, but not in a recession."

If this is true, then peak oil will cause further recessions in the near future. Without significant restructuring of the province's finances, we risk slipping into a deficit-financing spiral. How do we cut the health and education budgets?

[T. Boone Pickens talks foreign oil, debt](#)

Legendary oil baron, financier and philanthropist T. Boone Pickens held court over lunch Wednesday at ACG InterGrowth 2009, expressing his concerns over foreign oil and U.S. debt levels, among other things.

In a lively interchange with Fox Business Network anchor Liz Claman, Pickens predicted higher energy prices in the short term ("get ready, 'cause you're gonna have 'em"), a coming government-sponsored windfall (pun intended) for alternative energy ("Obama has gone for wind, solar and the 21st-century grid. That's in the stimulus package") and the necessity to harness natural gas ("the only resource that moves an 18-wheeler in this country"). But his most pointed comments were about the perils of oil imports.

[Chrysler says it wants to close 789 dealerships](#)

DETROIT - In tiny Millerstown, Pa., the owner of the only car dealership in town found out Thursday he was on Chrysler's hit list — one of 789 across the nation that the troubled automaker wants to eliminate.

"It's really, really a blow," Jeff Potter, whose family owns the dealership, said after hearing the news from a customer who spotted the closing list on the Internet. "When you talk about being here 34 years, it's my life."

[Improved Prius packs features, contradictions](#)

The angels sang, the clouds parted, and the latest version of the Toyota Prius descended from the heavens to save mankind from its self-destruction. Really, that's just how it happened. At least that seems to be the view of some fanatics who have mistakenly concluded that Toyota is not bound by the same laws of physics or business as every other car-making entity on the planet.

[Battery 'swap' station for electric vehicles unveiled](#)

YOKOHAMA, Japan - A California-based company has unveiled a new battery-swapping technology that could overcome a key obstacle to the adoption of electric cars — their reliance on frequent, long stops for recharging.

[Bicycles touted as 'first modern post-fossil vehicle'](#)

Cycling is not only good for the health, but can also help tackle global challenges like climate change and oil dependency, specialists argued at the world 'Velo-City' conference in Brussels this week.

Jörg Schindler, a campaigner at the Energywatch Group, an NGO, said "oil will be less available and more expensive in the coming years," as proven reserves dry up and fewer new fields are discovered or exploited.

[The Great Ethanol Scam](#): *Not only is ethanol proving to be a dud as a fuel substitute but there is increasing evidence that it is destroying engines in large numbers*

More than one major transportation-based industry in America besides Detroit is on the ropes. For the fourth time in our history the ethanol industry has come undone and is quickly failing nationally. Of course it's one thing when Detroit collapsed with the economy; after all, that is a truly free-market enterprise and the economy hasn't been good. But the fact that the ethanol industry is going bankrupt, when the only reason we use this additive is a massive government mandate, is outrageous at best.

Then again, the ethanol lobby and refiners have a solution to ethanol's failure in America: Hire retired General Wesley Clark as your point man and lobby the government to increase the amount of ethanol in our fuel to 15%. The problems with that proposition are real -- unlike ethanol's benefits.

[German petrol station biodiesel sales seen at stop](#)

HAMBURG (Reuters) - Sales of biodiesel at German petrol stations have come to a virtual halt, leading German bioenergy company Verbio said on Thursday.

Biodiesel is currently more expensive than fossil diesel in Germany following a further tax rise on green fuels this year and a fall in crude oil prices.

... The European Union's decision in March to impose import duties on imports of U.S. biodiesel can no longer help boost German petrol station sales because of the price disadvantage caused by the tax, Verbio said.

The company said in a statement on its quarterly results announced on Thursday it was hit by rising raw materials costs.

"The production costs generated by raw materials contracts could only be partly passed onto the market in the first quarter due to falling fuel prices in the first quarter of 2009," the company said.

[Valero officials balk at Tennessee ethanol legislation](#)

Memphis International Airport officials are closely watching a bill that could lead to the closing of Valero Energy Corp.'s Memphis refinery, which is the primary fuel source for airport operations.

[Some states pass sovereignty measures](#)

Legislatures in Alaska, Idaho, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota this year have approved resolutions asserting sovereignty under the 10th Amendment of the Constitution and suggesting that Uncle Sam "cease and desist" from interfering in their business.

The largely Republican backers say the federal government has overstepped its constitutional bounds by meddling in local matters ranging from education to drunken driving. "It's telling the federal government, 'Guys, you really need to back off,' " said Judy Burges, a GOP state representative who is sponsoring a sovereignty resolution in Arizona.

[Green IT Is Key to an Energy-Efficient Future: Report](#)

Whether it's teleworking enabled by broadband internet or the spread of video conferencing technologies that reduce business travel, information technologies (IT) are responsible for significantly reducing the amount of energy used in the United States in the last 20 years, according to a report released today by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE).

The report "Semiconductor Technologies: The Potential to Revolutionize U.S. Energy

Productivity," is authored by "Semiconductor Technologies: The Potential to Revolutionize U.S. Energy Productivity," looks at how the energy intensity of the U.S. economy -- the amount of energy needed to produce \$1 of GDP -- has steadily shrunk due to technological innovations.

[The inefficient secret of energy-smart 'green' buildings: You](#)

In trying to create the most Earth-friendly, energy-efficient buildings possible, architects and engineers have stumbled on a problem they hadn't fully understood: You.

Your desktop computer that's on, even when you're out to lunch. The power-hogging photo copier in your office and its incessant red light. And then there's the space heater under your desk, keeping you warm because the building is too cold.

[7 amazing facts about energy efficiency](#)

In preparation for the Sustainable Energy Coalition's big renewable & energy efficiency expo in D.C., they released some great factoids about the fast-growing energy efficiency market sector.

['Rebound effects' of energy efficiency could halve carbon savings, says study](#)

Using energy more efficiently might not be as effective at tackling climate change as people think, according to a new study. A team of economists has shown that so-called "rebound effects", where efficiency improvements are offset by behaviour changes, such as increasing demands for cheaper energy, could potentially slash future carbon and energy savings by half.

[Churches to probe impacts of Canadian oil sands](#)

CALGARY, Alberta (Reuters) - A coalition of church leaders will fan out across northern Alberta next week for a fact-finding mission that will help formulate an official stance on the environmental impact of oil sands development.

Officials with Kairos, a multidenominational social justice group, joined by some aboriginal leaders, will talk with oil sands developers, labor organizations, local authorities and congregations about the impact of the massive energy projects, an issue garnering global attention.

[What if global-warming fears are overblown?](#)

In a Fortune interview, noted climatologist John Christy contends the green crusade to fight climate change is "all cost and no benefit."

[Researchers scale back forecast of sea-level rise](#)

WASHINGTON - A collapse of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet would raise sea levels by about 10 feet, not the nearly 20 feet as earlier predicted, according to a new study.

Researchers led by Jonathan L. Bamber of the University of Bristol in Britain report their recalculation of the hazard in Friday's edition of the journal Science.

However, they add, the maximum increase is expected along the East and West Coasts of the United States, where sea levels could rise as much as 25 percent more than in other regions.

[EU Says CO2 Trade Helped Cut Emissions for First Time](#)

(Bloomberg) -- European Union power stations and factories in the world's biggest emission-trading program cut carbon-dioxide output by 3.1 percent last year, the first drop since the system began in 2005.

[Donors urged to help poor countries adapt to climate change](#)

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Donor countries should raise up to two billion dollars to help vulnerable, poor countries adapt to climate change, according to a report submitted to the United Nations Thursday.

"As a first step, we urge donors countries to mobilize one to two billion dollars to assist the vulnerable, low-income countries, which are already suffering from climate impacts," particularly in Africa and small island states, said the final study by the Stockholm-based Commission on Climate Change and Development (CCCD).



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