



Drumbeat: August 11, 2009

Posted by [Leanan](#) on August 11, 2009 - 10:19am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Mexico Oil Production to Fall 4.9%, Drop Through 2012](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Mexico's oil production may fall 4.9 percent next year as the nation faces the greatest "fiscal shock" in 30 years, said Finance Minister Agustin Carstens today before a Senate committee.

Lower output is costing the nation as much as 300 billion pesos (\$23.05 billion) in lost sales annually and may contribute to a financing gap in the federal government's budget next year, Carstens said. Oil revenue funded about 38 percent of the government's budget last year.

[Ugandan oil contracts to remain secret](#)

Uganda will not reveal details of its oil exploration and production sharing agreements with foreign companies because its bound by confidentiality clauses, the minister of energy and minerals development Hilary Onek said today.

Onek told Dow Jones Newswires in a telephone interview that revealing details of the oil deals would not be in the best interests of the government or oil companies

"Production sharing agreements are confidential, and we shall not reveal them to protect our interests as well as those of the private players in the sector," he said.

[NRDC: Ga. vulnerable to oil price jumps](#)

Georgians spent 6.71 percent of their income on gasoline in 2008, making it one of the ninth-most vulnerable to oil price increases in the United States, according to analysis by the environmental advocacy group Natural Resources Defense Council.

The report, "Fighting Oil Addiction: Ranking States' Oil Vulnerability and Solutions for Change," also shows Georgians on average spend \$2,278.90 annually on gasoline.

Georgia ranked third on the list in 2007 and 2006.

The top 10 states most vulnerable to oil price increases are, in order: Mississippi, Montana, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Kentucky, Texas, New Mexico, Georgia, and Arkansas.

[A Record for Wind in Ireland](#)

Wind industry proponents have been celebrating a record set in Ireland on Friday, July 31, when output from the country's turbines peaked at 999 megawatts, which is enough to supply over 650,000 homes.

"Much attention has focused on high wind penetrations in Denmark and Spain, but Ireland is emerging as another real world example showing that very high wind penetrations are achievable," wrote Christine Real de Azua, a spokeswoman for the American Wind Energy Association, in an e-mail message to Green Inc.

[Alaska Lawmakers Override Palin Veto of Energy Funds](#)

The Alaska legislature has overridden former Gov. Sarah Palin's veto of stimulus money for energy efficiency.

Ms. Palin had turned down the \$28 million in financing this spring; it was the only portion of Alaska's stimulus package allotment that she rejected. At the time, she cited concern that stipulations attached to the funds would obligate Alaska to enact more stringent building codes.

[Raising Wind Turbine Output With Longer Blades](#)

A basic problem for wind turbines is that the wind often dies down. As a result, they produce far less electricity than if the wind blew constantly, at full speed.

A good wind machine, therefore, may harvest just 30 percent of its maximum potential energy. By contrast, a nuclear reactor with a similar energy rating might reach 90 percent of its maximum potential, because it is running virtually nonstop.

One major turbine manufacturer, Siemens Energy, is trying to increase the proportion of potential energy that the wind harvests — by making the blades longer. The new machines, by Siemens, all use the common three-blade design. But a new Siemens turbine has a rotor diameter of about 330 feet, rather than one with a 305-foot diameter.

[TVA plans dry coal ash storage for all sites](#)

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) -- The Tennessee Valley Authority is preparing to convert all of its coal waste and gypsum operations to dry storage in the wake of a massive ash spill from a retention pond last year in Tennessee, a TVA official said Monday.

[The English Encourage Urban Beekeeping](#)

A new and improved design of beehive could be used by city dwellers to harvest up to 20 kilograms (44 pounds) of their own honey each year, according to Natural England, a British government conservation agency. The hives could also help stem the decline of bee populations.

Natural England will erect the so-called Beehaus on its roof in Victoria, central London, on Friday. The agency said the device should make it easy for anyone — from amateurs to seasoned apiarists — to help bees find a home in urban gardens.

[ANALYSIS - Iraq on oil export high, needs overhaul for more](#)

DUBAI (Reuters) - Iraq's oil exports have hit a post-war high, but its failure to attract the huge investment it needs to overhaul crumbling infrastructure will prevent it from becoming one of the world's top oil powers for some time.

The oil sector is dilapidated after years of sanctions and war, and output is unlikely to rise much further in the next three years despite long-term plans to more than double output.

"In the near term, Iraq is constrained in the volume it can export and consume," said Alex Munton, analyst at consultancy Wood Mackenzie. "They maybe could pump another few hundred thousand barrels per day through the northern pipeline. They're not going to get a lot more than that in the next 2-3 years."

[Mexico sees its crude at \\$53 per barrel in 2010](#)

MEXICO CITY, Aug 11 (Reuters) - Mexico expects its basket of crude oil exports to fetch around \$53 per barrel in 2010, Finance Minister Agustin Carstens said on Tuesday.

"We are going to use around \$53 per barrel in our budget ... which is substantially lower than the \$70 a barrel budgeted this year," Carstens said at a Congressional hearing.

Mexico relies on oil export revenues to fund more than a third of the federal budget. Oil production has fallen by more than a quarter since peaking in 2004, but the country remains one of the top suppliers to the United States.

[Turkey Plays Both Sides on Gas Pipelines](#)

Turkey has agreed to grant access to Russia's South Stream gas pipeline through its part of the Black Sea, in a move which could hurt the prospects of an EU-backed project to reduce Russian energy dependency.

The Turkish deal is a major breakthrough for the Russian pipeline, which has to cross the maritime economic areas of either Turkey or Ukraine, but with Ukraine very unlikely to give consent.

[Putin and Ramirez talk shop](#)

Russia will use the most modern oil extraction and processing technology if it wins access to Venezuela's oil deposits, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin told a Venezuelan official delegation today.

Venezuela's state-owned PDVSA and a consortium of Russian companies expect next month to present a joint venture that aims to develop the Junin 6 Block in the Orinoco oil belt.

[Venezuela pushes on with Carabobo](#)

Venezuela aims to finish the delayed bidding round for the Carabobo oil blocks in the Orinoco heavy crude region by the end of the year, Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said in a newspaper interview printed today.

Venezuela last month delayed the auction indefinitely as lower oil prices made companies balk at some of the costs associated with developing the blocks.

[The incredible shrinking home](#)

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- For the first time in almost 15 years, the size of new homes built in the United States is shrinking.

New homes are now 7% smaller -- or the size of one average-sized room. To be precise, the median square footage of newly built homes fell by to 2,065 square feet in the first three months of this year compared with the period of last year, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

[Argentina's cattle crisis](#)

Besides wounded national pride, the bigger-picture problem is that the lack of export income from beef, along with the drop in grain prices and an existing budget crisis, could force Argentina to default, says Morgan Stanley economist Daniel Volberg. "It's bad enough you have started to see a shift in people's tastes," he says.

In fact, some Argentine farmers have finally started to switch to the beef equivalent of a hybrid-car: mechanized grain feedlots and antibiotics for their cattle. It's antithetical to the grass-fed, chemical-free ideal that made their meat so special, sure. But it might be better than a growing dependence on foreign beef -- and another financial crisis.

[Oil at \\$70 or above would hurt recovery: IEA](#)

ISTANBUL - A fragile global economic recovery will be hurt if oil prices stay at \$70 per barrel or rise higher, International Energy Agency (IEA) Chief Economist Fatih Birol said.

He also said Europe was likely to face a glut of gas by 2015 and it may be hard to garner support for both the rival schemes for gas pipelines across Turkish territory, one of which is backed by the European Union, the other by Russia.

[Kuwait says foils Qaeda plan to bomb U.S. Army camp](#)

KUWAIT (Reuters) - Kuwait said on Tuesday it had foiled an al Qaeda-linked plan to bomb a U.S. Army camp and other "important facilities" in the OPEC oil exporting state.

An Interior Ministry statement said all six members of the al Qaeda-linked cell had confessed after being arrested. It did not say if the targeted facilities included oil industry plants in Kuwait, the world's fourth-largest oil exporter.

[MMS OKs Shell's Exploration Plan in Beaufort Sea](#)

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) has received Shell Offshore, Inc. Exploration Plan to explore two leases in the Beaufort Sea and has deemed it "complete."

The MMS has a 30-day time frame to analyze and evaluate Shell's plan. Included in its review, the agency will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) specific to Shell's exploration. Upon completion of the technical and environmental review, MMS must decide if the plan is approved, requires modifications, or is disapproved.

"The responsible development of offshore resources is part of our nation's comprehensive energy plan, which includes a renewed emphasis on conservation and an aggressive effort to develop renewable resources so we can move the nation towards energy independence," said Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. "Now that Shell's plan has

reached this important milestone, we will review it carefully to ensure that it is technically sound and will protect the Beaufort Sea and Alaska's environment."

[B.C. emerges as natural gas player](#)

The change from an import to an export facility is emblematic of the changing B.C. economy and the province's emerging role as a significant gas producer on a global scale.

[Russia May Increase Crude Export Duty 8% on Sept. 1](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Russia may increase the export duty on crude oil by about 8 percent after the price of its main export blend gained, according to the Finance Ministry.

The levy will probably rise to about \$240 a metric ton (\$32.74 a barrel) from \$222 a ton on Sept. 1, Alexander Sakovich, deputy head of the ministry's customs payments department, said by telephone from Moscow today.

[End to retendering and renegotiations in sight: Analysts](#)

UAE's construction sector will witness an end to retendering and renegotiation of contracts as prices of building materials have bottomed out, said senior industry executives. They also anticipate an upward movement of construction cost by the end of 2009.

[Colombia claims that fuel smuggling will increase after Chávez's move](#)

Chávez instructed Venezuelan officials on Sunday to end the sale of subsidized fuel to Colombian border departments, which currently pay USD 1.5 per gallon of Venezuelan gas versus USD 3.5 it costs in the rest of Colombia.

[Natural gas, not so sustainable](#)

What happens when the domestic natural gas wells run dry, though? Won't we simply be in the same position we find ourselves currently today? At least both Podesta and Chu refer to natural gas as a transition fuel (Pickens for that matter too), but our money, time, and effort could be better spent expanding clean energy in the form of wind, solar, biofuels, and geothermal as well as energy efficiency measures.

[Malaysia: Avoid Major Energy Crisis For Our Grandchildren, Says Rosmah](#)

BANGI (Bernama) -- The prime minister wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, on Tuesday stressed the importance of developing renewable energy to ensure the security of future generations.

"It is my sincere hope that we would be able to develop green technologies and ensure energy sustainability," she said when officially opening the Institute of Energy Policy and Research (IEPre) here.

Rosmah said that to achieve this, there was a need to invest in renewable energy, solar, wind, wave and biomass.

["Lost" Solar House Reborn as 3 Megawatt Air Force Solar Installation](#)

In the 1970's, the U.S Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs hosted a comprehensive research project on home solar retrofits. The idea was to improve energy efficiency in Air Force housing, which at the time numbered over 150,000 units. The lessons learned from the model solar home were soon buried when popular tastes turned to energy-hogging McMansions. But now, 30 years later, solar power has come full circle. The Academy is set to build a 3MW solar installation that will dwarf the earlier pilot project, providing solar energy not just for one home but for up to 7% of the entire educational complex.

[Peak Oil Warning \(audio\)](#)

Bruce Robinson from the Australian Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas spoke with 2SER's Alex Angel.

[Creating a Resilient, Natural 'World of Ends' Economy](#)

However, I'm also a fan of the idea of a World of Ends as the future of business -- the idea that, thanks to Open Source and the Internet, one day every new venture might be created spontaneously as an online collaboration between potential producers and consumers identifying and then filling unmet needs. Is it possible, I wondered, for cooperative enterprises to self-organize around unmet community needs in such a way that no one needs to commit or accept responsibility for anything beyond completion of the next project? Could a whole economy operate without major institutions, without funding for capital projects and infrastructure and ongoing working capital, without commitments for continuity of supply? Is it possible to create a society so resilient that it has no commitments, so that it can therefore "turn on a dime"?

[John-Paul Flintoff: 10 reasons not to buy my new book](#)

You're already aware that the arguments applied to (or against) consuming local,

seasonal and organic food apply equally well to clothing. You don't need me to tell you that flying cotton round the world is as bonkers as flying apples.

[Heinberg interviewed on Santa Fe Public Radio](#)

"What we really want to know about coal is not when is it going to run out, which is all that the US Department of Energy will tell us, but when is production going to peak? And its just within the last few years that studies have been done, not by US government, but by independent agencies including the Energy Watch Group in Germany, that suggest that global coal and US coal production will peak startlingly soon. For the world as a whole something like 2025."

[Salazar to highlight water challenges in West](#)

BILLINGS, Mont. -- Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said Monday that the West's limited water supplies face growing pressure from agricultural uses, changing demographics and climate change -- underscoring the need for more federal money for water projects.

[Brazilians Take Global Warming Seriously. Much More than US or European Citizens](#)

In Brazil only 20% of people were concerned about the environment before president Lula Da Silva's election (2002), and now up to 90% agree in calling Global Warming a problem. On the opposite side, while from 2002 to 2007 environmental concern rose from 23 to 37% in the US, it went from 47 to 44% in the period 2007-2009 as the economy crumbled.

Apart from that, Brazilians are more willing to make sacrifices for the environment: while 48% say they will pay more for energy, food, etc. to fight global warming, only 41% of Americans agree to that. And while 79% Brazilians are also willing to cope with slower growth and job creation to protect the environment, only 64% of Americans say they would do it.

['Storm and tempest rages' over carbon plan](#)

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has blasted the Opposition for having no firm position on the Government's emissions trading scheme, which is set for defeat in the Senate this week.

Debate on emissions trading dominated today's Question Time, which was momentarily disrupted when the chamber was plunged into darkness because of a power blackout.

[Oil seen above \\$100 by 2011 on shortages: Bernstein](#)

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Oil prices may rise above \$100 a barrel by early 2011, as global demand rises and producers fail to boost supply, Bernstein Research forecast on Monday.

Oil prices in the near-term should remain at or below \$75 a barrel, moving higher in 2010 as global demand grows, and into triple-digits by late 2010 or early 2011, as demand outpaces supply, Bernstein analysts said.

"We believe that the stage is set for a sustained commodities bull run," Bernstein said in a note to clients.

"Demand will likely be better in late 2009/early 2010 than consensus estimates assume, and this combined with non-OPEC supply reductions should cause spare capacity to decline in 2010."

[Coal's Future Wagered on Carbon Capture](#)

Coal companies and environmentalists alike are counting on a breakthrough in carbon capture and storage technology to siphon off harmful emissions from the world's coal plants. Coal plants in the United States account for a third of U.S. greenhouse emissions. In the past five years China has brought online coal-fired electricity equal in size to total U.S. installed capacity, and new plants are coming online in the developing world all the time. Without a breakthrough on coal plants, it may be impossible to meet emission limits climatologists say are needed.

Yet carbon capture and storage remains the elusive holy grail of the coal industry, an idea that could contain the damage inflicted by coal-burning power plants but a technology that remains expensive, energy intensive and largely untested. Even optimists say it will not be commercially available for another six to 10 years. Pessimists say it might take much longer, and may never be ready for widespread use without attaching a punishingly high price to carbon.

[OPEC to Keep Output Unchanged, Merrill's Blanch Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will probably keep output levels unchanged when it meets next month, according to Francisco Blanch, head of global commodity research at Bank of America-Merrill Lynch.

"OPEC probably stays put and that continues to keep upward pressure on prices," Blanch said in a Bloomberg Television interview today. "Certainly no more production cuts at this stage, no more are necessary."

[OPEC sees demand for its oil falling further](#)

LONDON (Reuters) - Rival oil supplies and the sluggish pace of recovery in world consumption will shrink demand for OPEC's crude oil next year, the producer group said on Tuesday.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries also left its forecast for total world oil consumption this year and next unchanged, suggesting the outlook has reached a turning point after months of lowering forecasts.

[Pickens: I'm long oil](#)

LAS VEGAS (Reuters) - Oil man turned wind power fan T. Boone Pickens sees the price of a barrel of oil rising slightly to \$75 by the end of this year and \$85 next year.

"I'm long oil," said Pickens in an interview on the sidelines of U.S. Senate Majority Leader and Nevada Democrat Harry Reid's National Clean Energy Summit, a meeting of industry leaders and policy makers.

[Kuwait Cuts September Crude Oil Price to Lowest in Seven Months](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Kuwait Petroleum Corp. cut its crude oil official selling price to the lowest in seven months because of reduced demand from refineries in Asia.

The state-owned company lowered the price to a discount of \$1.50 a barrel to the average of Persian Gulf benchmarks Oman and Dubai grades, from parity in August, according to an official who asked not to be identified because of company policy.

[Kuwait eyes oil price of \\$70 to \\$90](#)

An oil price of \$70 to \$90 a barrel in 2010 would be acceptable to Opec-member Kuwait given the state of global finance.

[U.S. Crude-Oil Supplies Rose Last Week, Survey Shows](#)

(Bloomberg) -- U.S. oil inventories probably rose last week as traders took advantage of a price structure that provides an incentive to store crude, a Bloomberg News survey showed.

Inventories increased by 1 million barrels in the week ended Aug. 7, according to the median of nine estimates by analysts before the Energy Department's report this week. It would be the third consecutive gain. Seven of those surveyed said supplies climbed,

and two forecast a drop.

“People are more willing to store their oil now, and, consequently, I’m expecting that inventories are going to rise,” said Andy Lipow, president of Lipow Oil Associates LLC in Houston.

[For Africa's poor, oil is no gift](#)

LAGOS, Nigeria — Nigeria and Angola are Africa's top two oil producers, yet most of their people live in wretched poverty, often in shanties dwarfed by fire-belching derricks.

Corruption has long kept oil revenues from making life better for ordinary people in the two countries, and the growing anger, which swells the ranks of militant groups, creates instability that threatens the world's fuel supply. This week it is drawing the attention of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton as she travels across the continent.

[Russia says Ukraine putting gas to Europe at risk](#)

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian President Dmitry Medvedev accused Ukraine on Tuesday of seeking to disrupt economic ties with Russia and putting at risk the safety of gas supplies to Europe.

In an open letter to Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, Medvedev said he would postpone sending a new ambassador to Kiev and that Moscow hoped a new Ukrainian leader -- due to be elected in January -- could improve bilateral ties.

[Shell Pipeline Attacked in Nigeria](#)

LONDON -- A natural gas pipeline serving a plant operated by Royal Dutch Shell PLC has been attacked by locals in the Niger Delta, the Nigerian army said Tuesday, underscoring the ongoing risk of violence despite a cease-fire.

Joint Task Force spokesman Colonel Rabe Abubakar said "there was an attack by the locals" over the weekend on a pipeline serving the Utorogu gas plant in Delta State, in the western part of the region.

[China Imports Record Oil, Iron Ore as Economy Expands](#)

(Bloomberg) -- China bought record volumes of oil and iron ore in July as automakers, steel producers and builders expanded output to meet rising demand driven by the

nation's \$586 billion stimulus spending.

Oil imports jumped 18 percent to 19.6 million metric tons, and iron ore purchases rose 5 percent to 58.1 million tons from a month ago, the Beijing-based customs said today on its Web site. The second-largest energy user and biggest iron ore buyer spent a combined \$13.8 billion on the commodities.

[The mystery of China's disappearing mega oil-bid](#)

There's obviously a lot of damage-control going on in China, and possibly in Argentina and Spain, following a report on Tuesday - and a denial - of talks over what could rank as the energy deal of the year, and one of China's biggest overseas investments.

The mystery - apart from whether the talks are on or off - is why Chinese companies would want to pay \$17bn for less than premium upstream and downstream oil resources?

[China quietly reshapes Asia](#)

China on April 21, 2009, formally concluded an agreement to lend US\$25 billion to Russian state-owned oil company Rosneft and pipeline monopoly Transneft in exchange for the completion of an oil pipeline from Skovorodino in Russia to Daqing in China. Russian commentators claim that the deal was not commercially favorable to China. That contention, however, is arguably misplaced.

Admittedly, the price of the oil was set at the floating price of Brent crude oil when it arrives at the projected Kozmino Bay terminal and Russia has finally gained an Asian entree for its energy exports. Yet, while Chinese leaders may cringe at the deal's price tag, Beijing has gained serious geopolitical advantages over Moscow in the Russian Far East (RFE) because of the effect that the global economic crisis is having on the latter's economy and on Moscow's ability to control the RFE.

[Why Have Crude and Gasoline Prices Doubled This Year?](#)

Gas prices are up 14 cents per gallon in the last 10 days across the country but crude oil has remained steady around \$70 a barrel since the beginning of July. The American Petroleum Institute's spokesman John Felmy would like you to reason that when the price of crude oil fluctuates up or down, it will have the same effect on the pump price for gasoline. However, that has not been the case so far in 2009.

[Sinopec's refinery no longer slated for frail delta](#)

BEIJING -- China's second-largest oil company, Sinopec Group, Monday said it had amended plans for a \$9 billion refinery in Guangdong province - stepping back from the idea of building on an environmentally-sensitive site.

The refinery, a joint venture with Kuwait, will now be built in Zhanjiang instead of in Guangdong, said a company statement.

[Strong quake rattles Tokyo, disrupts transport](#)

SHIZUOKA, Japan (Reuters) – A strong earthquake jolted Tokyo and surrounding areas early Tuesday morning, throwing food and bottles from store shelves, disrupting transport and closing a nuclear power plant for safety checks.

The magnitude 6.5 quake centered around 150 km (90 miles) southwest of Tokyo damaged the main motorway south from the capital and prompted a brief suspension of high-speed train services, but there were no reports of major casualties.

[Atlantic Depression Forms, May Become First Tropical Storm](#)

(Bloomberg) -- A tropical depression formed off West Africa and may become the first tropical storm of the Atlantic hurricane season.

The depression, the second of the June 1-Nov. 30 season, developed today and was about 280 miles (455 kilometers) west of the southernmost Cape Verde islands at 6 a.m. Miami time, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said on its Web site.

[US and Mexico probe Pemex oil thefts](#)

At least one US energy industry executive has pleaded guilty in a scheme to steal about \$2 million worth of petroleum products from Pemex and sell it to US refiners.

Donald Schroeder, president of Houston-based Trammo Petroleum, pleaded guilty in May to smuggling stolen petroleum products, including condensate, from Pemex, according to court documents. Schroeder is scheduled to be sentenced in December.

[GM says Volt to get 230 miles per gallon in city](#)

DETROIT – General Motors Corp. said Tuesday its Chevrolet Volt rechargeable electric car should get 230 miles per gallon of gasoline in city driving, more than four times the mileage of the current champion, the Toyota Prius.

[Family that's making the Transition to a better life for the world](#)

"We are facing the growing challenges of climate change and need to start looking at ways of combating it.

"The issue of Peak Oil is also a factor in us wanting to create a more sustainable future. Experts predict that between 2012 and 2025, the demand for oil will continue to rise while the supply will dwindle, sending prices rocketing, which will affect the price of food.

"That is something we have to be prepared for."

[Low pricing key in solar sector crisis: UBS](#)

FRANKFURT (Reuters) - Investors should look for solar companies offering their products at lower prices compared with their peers, as they are likely to emerge as winners from the current industry crisis, a UBS fund manager told Reuters.

"Companies with either a unique offering, strong (balance sheet), healthy order book, access to end customers and low pricing will most likely be the winners," Jan Peterhans, manager of UBS' Global Innovators Fund, said in an interview.

[Atlantic Salmon returns to Seine](#)

PARIS (AFP) – After an absence of nearly a century, Atlantic salmon have returned to France's Seine River, with hundreds swimming past the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame cathedral this year alone, researchers told AFP.

The reappearance of salmon and other species chased from these waters by dams and pollution is all the more remarkable because no efforts have been made to reintroduce them.

They came back on their own.

[Humans 'Damaging The Oceans' In Profound Ways](#)

A new review, published in the latest issue of the journal Current Biology, says that rates of physical change in the oceans are unprecedented in some cases, and change in ocean life is likely to be equally quick.

These include changes in the areas fish and other sea species can inhabit, invasions, extinctions and major shifts in marine ecosystems.

"In the past, the boundaries between geological ages are marked by sudden losses of

species. We may now be entering a new age in which climate change and other human-caused factors such as fishing are the major threats for the oceans and their life," Andrew and Mike say.

[The Case for a Carbon Tax to Control Climate Change \(Part I\)](#)

Cap-and-trade is very complicated and little understood by the public, creating an ideal environment for horse-trading by special interests.

[The Case for a Carbon Tax to Control Climate Change \(Part II\)](#)

In contrast to cap-and-trade, carbon usage fees are relatively transparent, making it harder for greenhouse gas-producing interests to finagle sweetheart deals at the climate's expense.

Equally important: A carbon-based tax addresses people's resistance to bearing additional costs directly.

[House's global warming bill: \\$8B](#)

It will cost nearly \$8 billion over the next decade to pay for the expanded federal bureaucracy needed to combat global warming under a bill passed by the House of Representatives, a report by the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office says.

The budget office also found that the House bill would shrink the federal deficit in that 10-year period because it requires businesses to buy permits to emit global-warming pollution. That would add hundreds of billions of dollars to federal coffers.

[Climate Change as Security Threat Is Nothing New](#)

Why the seemingly "new" interest by the Pentagon on climate? Perhaps because the price of inaction may be seen as hitting closer to home. It's not just the vulnerable regions on other continents -- sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and South and Southeast Asia, among others -- that will suffer the consequences of climate change. It's here on domestic soil. "A growing number of policy makers say that the world's rising temperatures, surging seas, and melting glaciers are a direct threat to the national interest," reports the Times, adding: "If the United States does not lead the world in reducing fossil-fuel consumption and thus emissions of global warming gases, proponents of this view say, a series of global environmental, social, political and possibly military crises loom that the nation will urgently have to address."

[Climate, Security and Politics](#)

Even if the legislation took effect and emissions were curtailed, the world would still see disruptive pressures building in places already facing severe drought and flood risks with or without the added kick from greenhouse warming. Africa's population could easily double by midcentury, and recent research has shown that its most volatile region, along the south flank of the Sahara, faces the inevitability of epic droughts.

Another reality is that while worries about climate-related instability are rising, near-term concerns about energy insecurity are already a top-tier issue both here and in China, the two dominant contributors to the planet's greenhouse-gas blanket. China has made it clear lately that energy security there trumps climate concerns.

[Climate change an Australian 'security threat'](#)

SYDNEY (AFP) – Australia faces more intense and frequent heatwaves, wildfires, cyclones and floods, with climate change becoming a threat to national security, a think-tank warned Tuesday.

The impacts of global warming were already making themselves felt, much faster and with greater ferocity than anticipated, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) said.



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