



## Drumbeat: August 18, 2009

Posted by [Leanan](#) on August 18, 2009 - 10:08am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

### [The Most Important Aspect that most Economists and Analysts fail to Recognize](#)

The biggest problem that most economists and analysts fail to comprehend when making forecasts and predictions on the US Dollar, Precious Metals, Financials or the whole Economy in general, is the ability to get to the Root of the Problem. Most of them are using information and methodologies that are either outdated, superficial or completely worthless. Those economists who are either Keynesians or Monetarists are living in a economic model that will have a life expectancy of less than a century. Indeed, a blip in the history of mankind and increasingly worthless going forward into the 21st century.

...EROI, or sometimes known as EROEI, is what I term as "The Root of the Problem." Before I get into why most economists and analysts are missing the boat in their present and future forecasting, I have to lay a basic foundation of EROI - Energy runs this modern economy of ours. Without cheap and abundant oil our global economy would come crashing down. We are able to have this modern lifestyle due to the surplus of energy we get from the energy invested. Basically, EROI is how much net energy remains after production. Cutler Cleveland of Boston University has reported that the EROI of oil and gas extraction in the United States has declined from 100:1 in 1930 to 30:1 in 1970, down to 11:1 in 2000

### [Shiite rebellion in Yemen raises concerns in Saudi Arabia](#)

Saudi Arabia is concerned by the Shiite rebellion taking place just over the border in Yemen, prompting security officials from both countries to consult on the sudden flare-up in violence, Saudi officials said Tuesday. Saudi Arabia, a staunchly Sunni country with the world's largest oil reserves, is worried about the rebels' alleged links to Iran, the kingdom's main regional foe which has established firm footholds in several Arab countries over the past few years.

### [Power struggle between Ambani bothers halts gas exploration project](#)

At the heart of the row between Asia's richest siblings is the cost of gas from a huge field in the Krishna-Godavari basin in India.

## [USMC Energy Summit - August 13, 2009 - Washington, DC](#)

### *The Growing Importance of Energy Technologies*

**The World is changing:** Petroleum based fuels (the result of solar energy accumulated over millions of years) will soon be scarce and will eventually become depleted.

The cost of energy (in all forms) will continue to rise.

**The Marine Corps is changing:** Future Expeditionary Warfare concepts will require enhanced energy efficiency (fuel and electric) as well as enhanced self-sufficiency to operate as a distributed force over long distances in austere environments

See also: [DoD Goes Green](#)

## [Houston Energy Workers Rally Against Climate Bill](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Houston energy workers rallied against U.S. climate-change legislation at an event that kicked off a plan co-sponsored by the American Petroleum Institute to hold 19 such protests across the country.

About 3,500 demonstrators filled the Verizon Wireless Theater downtown, according to Cathy Landry, a spokeswoman for the institute, which supports Energy Citizens, a group also sponsored by the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Black Chamber of Commerce.

## [Ford plans vehicles to interact with power grids](#)

DEARBORN, Mich. -- Ford Motor Co. says its future electric cars will "talk" to power grids across the country, part of an effort to drive interest in a new class of vehicles.

The nation's second-largest automaker is releasing details of a two-year collaboration with about a dozen utility companies on the design of a system that allows car owners to program when to charge the vehicle, how long and at what utility rate.

## [Angola's Oil Exports Set to Rise to Highest This Year](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Angola's daily crude oil exports are scheduled to rise to the highest this year, signaling that Africa's second-biggest producer continues to pump more than its OPEC quota.

Sixty-two cargoes totaling 59.1 million barrels, or an average of 1.903 million barrels a

day, are scheduled to load in October, preliminary shipping programs show. That is the highest since December 2008 and compares with 58 cargoes, or 1.854 million barrels a day, planned for September. Preliminary schedules are subject to change.

### [Nigerian Communities May Get 5% Royalty From Oil Revenue](#)

(Bloomberg) -- State governors from Nigeria's main oil-producing region have proposed that communities in their area be paid a 5 percent royalty from oil revenue, the governor of Nigeria's Rivers State Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi said.

The "south-south governors" made the proposal to Nigerian President Umaru Yar'Adua as part of changes to be added in a bill to reform the country's oil industry now in parliament, Amaechi said in an interview in Johannesburg today.

### [Russia Oil Output Rising But Decline May Follow](#)

MOSCOW (Dow Jones)—Russian oil output has risen this year, against expectations, but industry participants and analysts say the world's biggest energy supplier is just postponing an inevitable decline in production.

Russian oil firms have cut investment programs following a drop in crude prices from last year's record highs, but have surprised many by squeezing more hydrocarbons out of maturing fields in Siberia.

But this may prove unsustainable, with a steep drop in drilling this year pointing to lower production ahead, industry observers say. Dwindling output in Russia, which pumps around 20% of non-OPEC oil supply, could buoy global prices.

"Further oil output growth will be extremely challenging in Russia," said Oswald Clint from Bernstein brokerage in London. He estimates that exploration drilling fell by more than 40% in the first half of the year compared with the same period last year, based on statistics from oil field service companies and independent energy consultancies.

### [Petrobras CFO Says May Need to Boost 2009 Spending](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Petroleo Brasileiro SA, Brazil's state-controlled oil company, may need to increase its budget for 2009 on accelerated spending and costs, the company's chief financial officer told investors and analysts.

### [Oil insecurity](#)

BAGHDAD – The U.S. Navy says Iraq's two oil export terminals, accounting for more

than 70 percent of Iraq's oil income, remain protected from would-be attackers now that the British Navy is no longer patrolling Iraqi waters or training the Iraqi Navy.

A successful attack would cripple Iraq's economy and create a major environmental disaster.

### [Nigeria Sees 'Encouraging' Response to Rebels Amnesty](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Nigeria's offer of amnesty to militants in the oil-rich Niger River delta has had an "encouraging" response, Niger Delta Affairs Minister Ufot Ekaette said.

"Quite a good number have come out" and surrendered themselves to the government, Ekaette said at a conference today in Johannesburg, without being more specific. "I am confident the process of amnesty will have results."

### [Turkey, Qatar discuss gas pipeline](#)

ANKARA, Turkey—A state-run news agency says the leaders of Turkey and Qatar have expressed willingness to build a natural gas pipeline between their countries.

### [Uganda Seeks Consultancies to Conduct Study on Planned Refinery](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Uganda is seeking international consultancies to conduct a feasibility study for a planned oil refinery following the discovery of commercially viable crude deposits, Ernest Rubondo, the assistant commissioner in the ministry of energy, said.

The East African country, which hopes to start production within three years, is tentatively looking at a refinery to produce 150,000 barrels a day, Rubondo said by phone today from Entebbe. "We have been looking at 150,000 barrels per day, but we are open to what the feasibility study will tell us," he said.

### [Protesters Descend on Chevron's Richmond Refinery For Climate Justice, To 'Cap The Crude'](#)

Richmond, CA – Hundreds of Richmond community members joined climate change advocates, public health experts, local government and labor leaders on Monday in a colorful march, protest and non-violent civil disobedience at Chevron's Richmond refinery. After a festival outside the Richmond BART station with music, dancers and speakers, and an hour-long march that wound through the city streets, a mass die-in and nonviolent civil disobedience took place at the refinery gates. Thirteen people were arrested.

## [Turkey May Scrap Nuclear Tender to Allow State Stake, Vatan Say](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Turkey may cancel a tender to build its first nuclear power plant so it can set a new framework allowing a state stake in the generator, Vatan newspaper reported, without saying how it got the information.

## [Ontario to launch wind forecasting service in 2010](#)

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (Reuters) - The Canadian province of Ontario plans to launch a centralized wind forecasting service next year, its bulk electricity manager said on Tuesday, as it tries to add more wind-generated energy to its grid.

Ontario, Canada's most populous province and biggest energy consumer, already leads the other provinces in installed wind energy capacity, with 1,200 megawatts of power. But it wants to increase this and is seeking other sources of clean energy as it phases out dirty coal-fired power stations.

## [U.S. Airlines Agree to Buy Rentech's Synthetic Fuel](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Delta Air Lines Inc., AMR Corp.'s American Airlines and six other U.S. carriers agreed to buy as much as 1.5 million gallons a year of Rentech Inc.'s diesel fuel made from plant waste.

The synthetic fuel will be used starting in late 2012 for ground-service equipment at Los Angeles International Airport, Rentech and the Air Transport Association, the carriers' trade group, said in statements today. Rentech rose to its highest in almost 11 months in NYSE Amex trading.

## [Sadad I. Al-Husseini: Lessons Learned from 2008 \[PDF\]](#)

The year 2008 may go down in history as the year of many lessons learned but soon forgotten. For the oil industry, it is important to reflect on what in fact those main lessons were and what their relevance is to the future.

One answer should not surprise most oil professionals. The industry discovered that it had been operating at a production capacity plateau for several years and no longer can provide the supply elasticity required by global oil demand given the cost and complexity of the oil-supply chain.

The oil price surge that started in 2003 and collapsed in 2008 had its roots in 1998. At that time, oil prices had sunk to USD 10/bbl, which resulted in the drying up of capacity investment across the world. In time, low oil prices resulted in runaway oil demand that could not be matched by increases in supplies. This shortfall resulted in the rapid increase in oil prices that eventually contributed to the global recession and the price

collapse of 2008.

Even though the industry returned to making massive investments between 2003 and 2008, it could not match the tide of rising oil demand. Ultimately, it was unable to exceed a production plateau of 85 to 86 million BOPD in spite of the best efforts by OPEC and non-OPEC producers alike.

...In hindsight, all of these events should have been predictable. While the global economy can shift its rate of growth within months, the energy industry is too complex and too mature to respond effectively, even under the most favorable economic circumstances. Politics, logistics, basin maturity, and technological limitations all converge to create an oil-supply plateau that cannot satisfy the growth of unconfined energy demand.

The existence of this ultimate supply ceiling will not recede under the current prospect for reduced upstream investments. In fact, there are good reasons to believe that this production plateau will become even more restrictive in the coming years.

### [Producer prices fall almost 1%](#)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -- U.S. producer prices fell by a larger-than expected amount in July and notched a record decline compared with a year earlier as gasoline prices plummeted, government data Tuesday showed.

### [Falling oil revenue pushing Mexico to raise taxes](#)

The Mexican government said Tuesday its 2010 budget will include new taxes to compensate for a decline in oil revenues that is expected to leave a \$23 billion hole in the public finances.

"The future caught up with us. We have always had in mind the possibility that oil revenues were going to become exhausted, and now we are facing a very clear manifestation in that regard," Finance Secretary Agustin Carstens told lawmakers in a briefing on the draft budget President Felipe Calderon must present by Sept. 8.

### [Total leases fuel oil storage at Fujairah](#)

DUBAI (Reuters) - France's Total has signed a deal to lease fuel storage at the United Arab Emirates' port of Fujairah as it seeks to expand its fuel oil business into East Africa, trade sources said on Tuesday.

### [Russian Hydropower Accident Threatens Aluminum Production](#)

A serious accident at Russia's largest hydropower station, which killed at least 11 people and left dozens missing, could threaten output at Russian aluminum giant United Co. Rusal, one of the country's largest industrial-power consumers.

Damage at the Sayano-Shushenskaya hydropower plant in Khakassia will take years to repair and could seriously disrupt electricity supplies to Siberia, Rusal said Monday. Sayano-Shushenskaya, Siberia's oldest hydropower station, sells 70% of the electricity it produces to Rusal's two local smelters.

### [Energy crisis cannot be solved overnight: Holbrooke](#)

ISLAMABAD: Richard Holbrooke's public statement a day earlier to help Pakistan overcome its energy crisis notwithstanding, the US Special Envoy has acknowledged that the problem was too deep-rooted to be solved overnight.

The crisis has been building up for 25 years and it's quite obvious that it cannot be solved in a few weeks, he told a group of inquisitive journalists who wanted to know if the American trouble-shooter for the region had a concrete plan to meet the challenge.

### [US lures Pakistan away from gasline](#)

ISLAMABAD - Asking to stay away from Iranian gas pipeline for enhanced American energy cooperation, the Washington left Islamabad in a fix on Monday to choose between nearest available gas line or help line from US in tackling the ever-growing energy crisis.

### [Coal is fuel of choice for power generation](#)

MANILA, Philippines—Environment groups may be strongly opposed to its use, but coal is likely to remain the fuel of choice for power generation due mainly to its abundance and relatively lower price as compared to other fuel types.

### [U.S. report: Chavez moving to silence media critics](#)

(CNN) -- The recent closure of 32 privately owned radio stations and a proposed law to punish "media crimes" are signs that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is moving to quash criticism of his government, according to a recent U.S. intelligence report.

### [The U.S. and Saudi Arabia Since the 1930s](#)

There have been two constants in U.S.-Saudi relations for decades: oil and Gulf security,

particularly the security of the Saudi royal family. Our two societies have had little in common, and yet despite deep differences, we have had a "special relationship" with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for over sixty years, really since the early 1930s, though it was not described as a special relationship until after WWII. The two countries have had a compact based on Saudi oil in return for a U.S. security umbrella over the kingdom to protect it from all foreign foes. This is a relationship very definitely anchored in state interests, not common ideologies or political or social systems, which remain at extreme odds with each other.

### [Europe to Gulf by rail no longer a sleeper](#)

Pieces of track are coming together that will eventually form a network between the Gulf and the North Atlantic. But due to organisational problems in Saudi Arabia, the central stop, its completion may be a good way down the line.

### [Brazil ethanol prices seen low despite sugar spike](#)

SAO PAULO (Reuters) - The recent surge in sugar prices to their highest level in 28 years and growing demand for ethanol in Brazil are insufficient to support prices of the biofuel, which remain below production costs.

Ethanol and sugar prices are usually linked as they have to compete for the same cane. But as many mills face cash constraints they see ethanol sales as the only way of raising cash to pay debts, pressing down prices.

### [First Solar, SoCal Edison set new solar projects](#)

NEW YORK (Reuters) - First Solar Inc and utility Southern California Edison said on Tuesday that they would build two photovoltaic solar power projects with a capacity of 550 megawatts.

The projects in the California counties of Riverside and San Bernardino would provide enough power to supply 170,000 homes when completed in 2015, the companies said.

### [How a wind farm could emit more carbon than a coal power station](#)

Building wind farms built on peat bogs, which can release their huge carbon stores when damaged, is not sensible.

### [Is there any point in fighting to stave off industrial apocalypse?](#)



Very few of us are prepared to look honestly at the message this reality is screaming at us: that the civilisation we are a part of is hitting the buffers at full speed, and it is too late to stop it. Instead, most of us – and I include in this generalisation much of the mainstream environmental movement – are still wedded to a vision of the future as an upgraded version of the present. We still believe in "progress", as lazily defined by western liberalism. We still believe that we will be able to continue living more or less the same comfortable lives (albeit with more windfarms and better lightbulbs) if we can only embrace "sustainable development" rapidly enough; and that we can then extend it to the extra 3 billion people who will shortly join us on this already gasping planet.

I think this is simply denial. The writing is on the wall for industrial society, and no amount of ethical shopping or determined protesting is going to change that now. Take a civilisation built on the myth of human exceptionalism and a deeply embedded cultural attitude to "nature"; add a blind belief in technological and material progress; then fuel the whole thing with a power source that is discovered to be disastrously destructive only after we have used it to inflate our numbers and appetites beyond the point of no return. What do you get? We are starting to find out.

### [Oil Gains for First Time in Three Days Before Inventory Report](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Oil rose for the first time in three days before tomorrow's scheduled report on crude inventories from the U.S. Energy Department.

Oil stockpiles in the U.S. probably rose for a fourth week as refinery operations trailed year-earlier levels, a Bloomberg News survey showed. Still, crude tracked global equities higher today after economic data from the U.S. and Germany fueled speculation that demand for energy will rebound.

### [Brazil Seeks More Control of Oil Beneath Its Seas](#)

RIO DE JANEIRO — Faced with the world's most important oil discovery in years, the Brazilian government is seeking to step back from more than a decade of close cooperation with foreign oil companies and more directly control the extraction itself.

The move is part of a nationalistic drive to increase the country's benefits from its natural resources and cement its position as a global power. But it could significantly slow the development of the oil fields at a time when the world is looking for new sources, energy and risk analysts said.

### [Oil Production: Brazil Making the Wisest Choice of All](#)

A complacent view that's developed here in the United States over the past 40 years is that oil in our own hemisphere can be regarded, functionally, as being our own. Interestingly, that's probably a result of US production having peaked in 1971 at an

average of 9.6 Mb/day. Since that time it's been better to print dollars and trade them for oil than to worry too much about our own, declining supply.

### [Political turmoil slows big oil moves in Iran](#)

DUBAI (Reuters) - Political upheaval in the aftermath of Iran's disputed presidential election has slowed international oil firms' efforts to find a way through sanctions to invest in the world's second-largest oil and gas reserves.

Just a few months ago, overtures to Tehran from the United States under President Barack Obama had the world's most powerful energy companies reassessing the risks of working in Iran and optimistic the shadow of sanctions might start to lift.

But outcry following the June election stirred the biggest internal crisis since the 1979 Islamic revolution, slowing Iranian bureaucracy and spooking dealmakers in big oil firms.

### [Sasol mulls closure of nitro phosphoric acid plant](#)

The plant is designed to produce 325,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid of which 100,000 tonnes has already been mothballed due to falling demand. Most of the product is used as fertiliser and some converted into animal feed-stock.

"Despite having explored a number of different options to avoid the closure of the plant, current feedstock prices are at a level that has rendered the plant's ongoing operation unsustainable, particularly in a declining phosphoric acid market," the company said.

### [BP, Iraq officials meet over Rumaila oil deal](#)

BASRA, Iraq (Reuters) - A technical team from oil major BP (BP.L) has met Iraqi oil engineers as part of preparations to sign a deal to develop Iraq's giant Rumaila field, senior Iraqi oil officials said on Monday.

Dhiya Jaafar, acting chief of Iraq's South Oil Co., said there were still some "technical issues" that needed to be resolved before BP and China's CNPC, its partner in the Rumaila deal, sign the development contract by the end-August deadline.

### [Huge gas deal warms China-Australia ties](#)

BEIJING (Reuters) - China's economic relations with Australia appeared to warm up on Tuesday with news of a A\$50 billion (25 billion pound) gas deal -- the biggest trade deal ever between the two nations -- but behind the smiles a welter of economic and political

disagreements remain to be sorted out.

Australian Resources Minister Martin Ferguson flew to Beijing to unveil the liquefied natural gas supply deal between PetroChina and Exxon, a partner in Australia's Gorgon gas project, a day after the two countries seemed to patch up some of their differences over iron ore.

### [Expansive China faces grass-roots resentment](#)

From having a handful of tiny investments abroad less than two decades ago, China has grown to the world's sixth-biggest foreign investor and overtook the United States as Africa's top trading partner last year.

That breath-taking rise has brought problems: allegations from emerging countries that China is stripping them of resources and suspicions in the developed world that obscure state interests lurk behind Chinese investments.

### [Chile sees tidal power filling energy gap](#)

SANTIAGO, Chile (UPI) -- Chile is actively considering several tidal energy installations as a way of filling a major gap in its future energy needs and reducing dependence on coal-fired power generation.

A feasibility study on the potential for exploiting the renewable energy resource in Chile found the country had a "unique" wealth of natural sites that, if harnessed only up to 10 percent of available tidal power, could exceed the installed capacity of Chile's central grid.

### [Australia targets 20 pct renewable energy by 2020](#)

CANBERRA — Australia's government will ask the Senate Tuesday to approve plans to produce 20 percent of energy from renewable sources by 2020 after the house rejected a proposed carbon trading scheme.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's centre-left Labor government passed the ambitious proposal to use green power to generate a fifth of the country's electricity in parliament's lower house late Monday.

### [Italy launches first clean hydrogen power plant](#)

MILAN, Italy (AFP) – Italian power company Enel said Friday that it had started up a

ground-breaking hydrogen-powered electricity plant producing no greenhouse gases.

Enel said the 12 megawatt plant, at Fusina in Venice's industrial zone of Porto Marghera, was the first of its kind in the world to operate on such a scale.

### [Asian competitors shadow German solar industry](#)

BERLIN (AFP) – Germany's solar power industry, until recently the world leader in the technology, is facing an unprecedented crisis, analysts say, outshone by cheaper competitors from Asia, most notably Chinese firms.

### [64 missing workers feared dead in Russian accident](#)

MOSCOW – The owner of Russia's largest hydroelectric plant says there is little chance that any of the 64 workers missing after an accident could be found alive.

...The accident shut the power plant down and left several towns and major factories without electricity. Supplies from other power plants were being rerouted to help cover the shortfall.

RusHydro says a faulty turbine at the plant launched in 1978 is likely to blame for the accident.

### [Chubu Estimates Nuclear-Plant Shutdown Costs \\$4.2 Million a Day](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Chubu Electric Power Co., which halted its two functioning nuclear reactors after an earthquake shook Japan last week, said the closure is costing the company 400 million yen (\$4.2 million) a day.

Chubu said yesterday the Hamaoka plant, which powers Nagoya, Japan's third-biggest metropolitan area, will take at least three to four weeks to restart. The company will incur additional costs as it increases oil- and gas-fired generation to make up for lost output, Emi Kawashita, a spokeswoman, said by phone from Nagoya today.

### [Farmers kidnap 13 cops, 4 civilians in Peru](#)

LIMA, Peru – Farmers freed 13 police officers and four civilians seized at a hydroelectric dam in Peru's Andean region after local officials agreed Saturday to provide them with fertilizer.

...Enersur, a French-Belgian company that operates the power station, said the dam's electricity output was under 40 percent of normal because of damage inflicted by the

farmers. It said a control room was destroyed a floodgate damaged.

### [Why Urban Farming is the Future](#)

The first odd thing about Cam Macdonald's Mt. Pleasant lawn is that it isn't a lawn. It's a farm.

Standing out amid the typical suburban sea of grass patches are his potatoes, carrots, beats, peas, shallots, squash, parsnips and more -- enough to have given food to 70 people by the beginning of July.

The second odd thing is that it isn't even Cam's yard. It belongs to Heidi Gigler and Jug Sidhu, a non-gardening couple who heard about Cam's soul search for right livelihood last year and agreed to let him pursue it by turning their turf into food.

### [1981: First Oil Rig off Cape in position; 1974 Staycation](#)

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Two news stories from the past which could be in today's newspaper.

### [Scotland pushes CCS as North Sea runs dry](#)

EDINBURGH, Scotland (UPI) -- The Scottish government and local companies hope to exploit declining North Sea reserves by moving forward with incentives for carbon-capture technology.

The Scottish Parliament sees carbon-capture, a process to strip greenhouse gases and store them in depleted reserves, as a compliment to the regional push for alternative energy as oil and gas reserves in the North Sea run dry.

### [Extreme weather 'biggest threat' to Taiwan](#)

TAIPEI - Taiwan's leader said Tuesday the military will make evacuations and rescue operations one of its main roles as extreme weather events such as Typhoon Morakot and climate change now pose a bigger threat.

### [Uncertainty a sure thing](#)

What if all those scientists are wrong and high carbon levels don't bring warming or acid oceans? If we act, the resulting changes may be beneficial. But we may strike economic

trouble (especially if you factor in an inevitable decline in oil production, or peak oil), with global economic depression an unlikely but conceivable result. That would seem to be the worst that could happen.

On the other hand, what if we fail to act effectively and the current scientific view turns out to be right? We can be sure that with carbon emissions unchecked, nothing will prevent global warming and ocean acidification from gathering pace. We will still have peak oil. And as long as atmospheric carbon levels continue to rise, there is no upper limit to the potential impact.

### [Big Food rallies against climate change legislation](#)

Multinational food and agritech giants are banding together in a bid to throw light on areas of climate change legislation they warn could severely hike food prices.

The consortium that includes Cargill, General Mills, Tyson Foods and the Grocery Manufacturers Association, is preparing to release studies it says will demonstrate the potentially drastic effect global warming could have on the cost of food items.

### [Climate Change Legislation: What It Means to Businesses](#)

Fuel costs will rise for consumers and companies, and even suppliers won't escape headaches from the increases.

### [Engineers warn of energy uncertainty](#)

ENGINEERS have warned Australia's government that continuing the tug-of-war over the country's emissions trading scheme risks dangerous delays to the construction of much-needed power plants.

### [Scientists Say Uncounted For Source Of Greenhouse Gas Could Promote Global Warming](#)

Scientists at the University of Calgary have found that methane emission by plants could be a bigger problem in global warming than previously thought.

A U of C study says that when crops are exposed to environmental factors that are part of climate change -- increased temperature, drought and ultraviolet-B radiation -- some plants show enhanced methane emissions. Methane is a very potent greenhouse gas; 23 times more effective in trapping heat than carbon dioxide.

### [Cap-and-Trade Bill 'Out of Control,' Former Senator Wirth Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Cap-and-trade legislation to limit U.S. carbon dioxide emissions has "gotten out of control" and needs to be scaled back in Congress, said former Democratic Senator Timothy Wirth.

"The Republicans are right -- it's a cap-and-tax bill," Wirth, a climate-change negotiator during President Bill Clinton's administration, said in an Aug. 14 interview. "That's what it is because they are raising revenue to do all sorts of things, especially to take care of the coal industry, and it makes no sense."

### [The Climate and National Security](#)

The problem, when it comes to motivating politicians, is that the dangers from global warming — drought, famine, rising seas — appear to be decades off. But the only way to prevent them is with sacrifices in the here and now: with smaller cars, bigger investments in new energy sources, higher electricity bills that will inevitably result once we put a price on carbon.

Mainstream scientists warn that the longer the world waits, the sooner it will reach a tipping point beyond which even draconian measures may not be enough. Under one scenario, atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, now about 380 parts per million, should not be allowed to exceed 450 parts per million. But keeping emissions below that threshold will require stabilizing them by 2015 or 2020, and actually reducing them by at least 60 percent by 2050.

### [China Think Tank Urges Climate Action](#)

HONG KONG -- China's official think tank predicted for the first time on Tuesday that carbon emissions could peak around 2030 and drop back down to the levels of 2005, or even lower, by 2050 if the central government is determined to cap carbon emissions.

The Chinese edition of "2050 China Energy and CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Report" has aroused immense international attention, for it is the first time an official think tank has urged Beijing to set up "quantified targets" to cap greenhouse gas pollution, a policy which China has long been refusing to adopt regardless tremendous pressure from developed countries in the West.

### [Can Geoengineering Help Slow Global Warming?](#)

As we pump billions of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, we're doing more than warming the planet and scrambling the climate. We're also conducting what climatologist James Hansen has called a "vast uncontrolled experiment." In effect, we're on our way to engineering a world very different from the one we were handed. Belatedly, we're trying to turn off the carbon spigot, hoping that by incrementally

reducing the emissions we've spent a couple of centuries pouring into the air we can stop the climate slide before it's too late.

But what if we can't do that? What if it turns out that slashing carbon emissions enough to make a difference — and it seems that means cutting output at least in half by midcentury — is economically and politically impossible? Do we need a Plan B?



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