



Drumbeat: September 10, 2009

Posted by [Leanan](#) on September 10, 2009 - 8:55am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[THE WORLD IN 2025: Rising Asia and socio-ecological transition](#) [PDF]

Energy: Tension between rapidly growing demand and restricted supplies due to the resources available (oil, gas) or their polluting nature (coal) should cause a constant rise in energy prices that could be contained by an increased use of renewable energy as well as progress in the reduction of energy consumption. However around 2025 the energy question should remain a source of major tension (economic and geopolitical) due to the likely “oil peak” and the energy needs of a world of 8 billion individuals.

Briefly speaking, the tensions will be both between production and consumption patterns and between production/consumption patterns and natural resources.

il consultancy.

[Marin Katusa: Get-and Stay-Ahead of the Herd](#)

TER: One of the managers was quoted as saying that finding a project this big will ease the concerns about peak oil. Do you think that's true?

MK: No. If you look at how many of these types of deposits that have been found, that's not true. It will increase their reserve numbers quite significantly. But to say that it will ease global peak oil-nah, that's just rubbish.

[Fossil fuel: Now without the fossils](#)

More bad news for the Peak Oil doomsday cult. Russian boffins say they have proved that fossil fuels can be created synthetically by replicating the high pressure, high temperature conditions found in the upper parts of the Earth's crust.

[Condemning the corporate campus](#)

Corporations engaged in environmentally destructive practices provide funding to many

departments here at U of T, including Engineering, Geology, Forestry, Chemistry, and Commerce. Why is this a problem? Because some industries, such as fossil fuel and mineral extraction, cannot ever be made sustainable in any meaningful sense of the word, despite the rhetoric of “sustainability” that appears in their promotional literature.

If our society is to make the necessary transitions to renewable energy, local agriculture, and greater energy efficiency in order to survive peak oil, finite resource depletion, and anthropogenic climate change, these industries must be phased out. Truly sustainable industries and green jobs must be put in their place. This could and should be the business of such departments, not minor reforms that contribute to the illusion that fossil fuel companies can be made “sustainable.”

[Investing In Clean Energy](#)

The United States is taking a big step this month in its efforts to spur private sector investments in clean and renewable energy. U.S. Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner and U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced \$502 million in the first round of cash awards from a U.S. government program that provides cash assistance to energy production companies in place of earned tax credits.

The new funding creates additional upfront capital, enabling companies to create jobs and begin construction that may have been stalled until now.

[Study: Wind could cut China's emissions by 30 pct](#)

BEIJING (AP) -- China could cut its emissions by 30 percent in the next two decades if it switches to wind power to meet about half of its electricity demands, a U.S. study published Thursday said.

China's energy needs are expected to double by 2030, but the study in the journal Science says that the country could reasonably meet half of those needs with wind.

[Wash. says deal will cut pollution at coal plant](#)

SEATTLE (AP) -- The state Department of Ecology says a proposed agreement with TransAlta will reduce air pollution at the state's only coal-fired power plant in Centralia.

But environmentalist say the pollution limits doesn't do enough to protect public health.

[THE WORLD IN 2025: Rising Asia and socio-ecological transition](#) [PDF]

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[Mexico water shortage becomes crisis amid drought](#)

Reporting from Mexico City - In the parched Mexican countryside, the corn is wilting, the wheat stunted. And here in this vast and thirsty capital, officials are rationing water and threatening worse cuts as Mexico endures one of the driest spells in more than half a century.

A months-long drought has affected broad swaths of the country, from the U.S. border to the Yucatan Peninsula, leaving crop fields parched and many reservoirs low. The need for rain is so dire that water officials have been rooting openly for a hurricane or two to provide a good drenching.

[Better world: Take Friday off... forever](#): *The four-day week could boost employment, save energy and make us happier*

FANCY a three-day weekend - not just once in a while but week in week out? You may think your bosses would never agree to it, but the evidence suggests that employers, employees and the environment all benefit.

[Better world: Tax carbon and give the money to the people](#)

Goods should be taxed to reflect the damage they do to the planet, with revenues redistributed to society.

[Better world: Generate a feed-in frenzy](#)

ONE day, 100 per cent of our energy will have to come from renewable sources. But how do we make it happen?

There is a proven way to rapidly boost the adoption of renewable energy - give companies or individuals who want to generate green energy access to the grid and promise to pay them extra for the electricity they "feed in" over the next 20 years or so.

["Dramatic" rise in renewables needed for 2C goal](#)

OSLO (Reuters) - The share of renewable energy will have to rise "dramatically" if the world is to have a chance of limiting global warming to a maximum 2 Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) temperature rise, a leading expert said on Wednesday.

Ottmar Edenhofer, co-chair of a scientific group due to present a U.N. report on renewable energy in 2010, said clean technology such as wind and solar power needed a big role even if the world also turned increasingly to nuclear power.

"To achieve a 2 Celsius target the share of renewables has to be increased substantially and dramatically," he told the Reuters Global Climate and Alternative Energy Summit in a telephone interview.

[Smart Growth Solutions Can Help Coastal, Waterfront Communities Address Climate Change, Other Challenges](#)

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other agencies have released a first-of-its-kind smart growth guide that will help coastal and waterfront communities tackle threats from sea level rise, stronger hurricanes, flooding and other challenges.

[Maria Bartiromo: The Big Oil Dilemma](#)

When compared with oil's all-time high of \$147 per barrel last year, the current price in the \$68–\$70 range could be easily dismissed as insignificant.

I believe that would be a mistake.

I think oil is a big story.

[Iraq Urged by U.S. to Open More Oil Fields to Boost Stability](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The U.S. ambassador to Iraq urged the Iraqi government to open more oil fields to investors, saying the move, along with a hydrocarbons law, would be a "game changer" for the country and undercut terrorism.

"A market economy generating sustained economic growth and increased employment opportunities will weaken insurgent and extremist networks," Christopher Hill, 55, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee today.

[Brazil to Pass New Oil Rules in 7 Months, Deputy Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Brazil's Congress will likely pass new regulations for deepwater oil fields off the coast of the South American country within seven months, said the head of the government coalition in the lower house.

The lower house will probably start voting on the rules by Nov. 10, Deputy Henrique Fontana, who is also a member of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's Workers Party, said today in a telephone interview from Brasilia.

[Poland faces gas shortfall](#)

Poland faces shortages of as much as 800 million cubic metres of gas this year if it fails to reach a long-term supply deal with Russia, a deputy treasury minister said today.

In January, some Polish companies led by state-controlled chemical producers were forced to cut production after a Russia-Ukraine row reduced gas supplies by a quarter.

[Trident Resources Files for Bankruptcy Citing Gas Price Decline](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Trident Resources Corp., a Canadian natural gas explorer, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in the U.S., citing a drop in prices and fluctuations in the Canada-U.S. currency exchange rate.

The company listed as much as \$10 million in assets and as much as \$1 billion in liabilities in a filing yesterday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Wilmington, Delaware. Lower natural gas prices may decrease cash flow and force a delay in investments, it said in a separate motion to the court.

[Michael Pollan: People Are Finally Talking About Food, and You Can Thank Wendell Berry for That](#)

Certainly these are heady days for people who have been working to reform the way Americans grow food and feed themselves -- the "food movement," as it is now often called. Markets for alternative kinds of food -- local and organic and pastured -- are thriving, farmers' markets are popping up like mushrooms and for the first time in many years the number of farms tallied in the Department of Agriculture's census has gone up rather than down. The new secretary of agriculture has dedicated his department to "sustainability" and holds meetings with the sorts of farmers and activists who not many years ago stood outside the limestone walls of the USDA holding signs of protest and snarling traffic with their tractors. Cheap words, you might say; and it is true that, so far at least, there have been more words than deeds -- but some of those words are astonishing. Like these: shortly before his election, Barack Obama told a

reporter for *Time* that "our entire agricultural system is built on cheap oil"; he went on to connect the dots between the sprawling monocultures of industrial agriculture and, on the one side, the energy crisis and, on the other, the healthcare crisis.

[Nouriel Roubini: Is Resource Nationalism Back?: A look at Brazil, Iraq, China ... and Alberta.](#)

Triggered by Wednesday's OPEC meetings and last week's announcement of new regulations governing Brazil's offshore oil, I am devoting this week's column to examining whether government control of the resource sector is increasing as commodity prices continue to creep up.

[US Interior Department Considers 'Variable' O&G Royalty Rates](#)

According to Reuters, the Obama administration is mulling "variable" royalty rates for drilling on federal lands that would reflect the difficulty of tapping oil and natural gas supplies.

Speaking at the Reuters Global Climate and Alternative Energy Summit, U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said that the Interior Department intends to issue proposals by the end of the year to update the royalty rates and ensure that oil companies pay reasonable rates as oil prices rise.

[Oil, gas contracts on Chavez agenda in Russia](#)

MOSCOW, Russia (CNN) -- Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was in Moscow on Thursday to negotiate and sign new oil and gas contracts between his country and Russia.

"Agreements on cooperation in the oil and gas sector, and in environmental protection, are being prepared for the visit," the Kremlin press office said.

[Pemex Cuts 2010 Investments 4.7% to 250 Billion Pesos](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Petroleos Mexicanos, the largest oil producer in Latin America, will cut its investment budget 4.7 percent next year to 250 billion pesos (\$18.6 billion).

The state-owned company's spending plan, outlined in the federal budget sent to Congress yesterday, will fall from a record \$19.5 billion this year, Finance Minister Agustin Carstens said today at a press conference in Mexico City.

[Quito sets sights on output boost](#)

Ecuador has no plans for now to boost oil capacity and is instead concentrating efforts on maintaining output from mature fields and overhauling oil legislation, Energy Minister Germanico Pinto said.

Ecuador's oil output stands at around 450,000 barrels per day and it wants to boost that to over 600,000 bpd.

"We have potential (to pump more)," Reuters quoted Pinto telling reporters at a briefing after last night's Opec meeting.

"Right now our efforts are to sustain oil output. The problem is the levels of investment needed are high given that many of the oilfields are mature."

[Brazil's Tupi Field May Yield 1 Million Barrels a Day](#)

Lobao said Brazil's oil reserves may grow to become the world's seventh or eighth largest after the discovery of so-called pre-salt fields.

Bloomberg) -- Brazil's Tupi oil field may yield 1 million barrels a day, or almost half of Petroleo Brasileiro SA's current output in the country, Energy Minister Edison Lobao said. Shares of the oil producer led gains in Sao Paulo.

Brazil's oil reserves may grow to become the world's seventh or eighth largest after the discovery of so-called pre-salt fields, Lobao told senators today in Brasilia. Petrobras, as the Rio de Janeiro-based state-controlled company is known, will be the sole operator of the fields under new proposed regulations.

[Political bickering already bogs down Brazil oil debate](#)

Political bickering over potential windfall oil profits threatens to derail debate over Brazil's new regulatory framework for oil and gas, mere days after the proposals were announced with great fanfare.

Governors from key oil-producing states clamor to maintain royalties; opposition leaders vow to fight the monopoly granted to state-run energy giant Petrobras; and bad blood remains from a string of recent congressional investigations pitting many lawmakers against one another.

[Oil & Gas Industry Supports 9MM American Jobs, 7.5% of GDP](#)

The U.S. oil and natural gas industry supports more than 9 million American jobs and makes significant economic contributions as an employer and purchaser of American

goods and services, a new study by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) found.

The study entitled "The Economic Impacts of the Oil and Natural Gas Industry on the U.S. Economy: Employment, Labor Income and Value Added" notes that the industry's total value-added contribution to the national economy was more than \$1 trillion, or 7.5 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product, in 2007, the most recent year for which data was available.

[Saudi Arabia maintains oil shipment cuts to Japan](#)

SINGAPORE (Bloomberg) -- Saudi Arabian Oil Co., the world's largest state-owned oil company, maintained cuts in its supplies of crude to Japanese refiners for October, said two officials who received notices.

The company, also known as Saudi Aramco, will keep reductions in supply at about 10 percent to 15 percent below contracted volumes, according to refinery officials who asked to remain unidentified because of confidentiality agreements.

[Conoco Says Australia Could Be Biggest LNG Exporter](#)

Australia could become the world's biggest exporter of liquefied natural gas, or LNG, by 2020, the head of ConocoPhillips' Australian unit said Thursday.

The comments came as Chevron Corp. said it has signed three binding sales agreements to supply nearly three million tons a year of LNG from the proposed Gorgon project in Western Australia state to Japanese and Korean energy companies.

[Where Did the Ever-Worsening Grain Shortage Go?](#)

Grain elevators across Kansas have a problem this fall as the combines get ready to roll for what looks to be a record fall harvest. The elevators are full of wheat. The terminals are too.

Faced with lower than break-even prices, farmers haven't sold their wheat. They are holding on, hoping that dwindling supplies will push prices upward or that a recovering world economy will spur export sales. But that leaves no place to put the corn, soybeans and milo about to start pouring in to local co-ops.

[India food prices surging on poor monsoon](#)

New Delhi: Indian food prices surged nearly 15% in the year ended August as a poor

monsoon hit crops, but analysts said moderate price pressures elsewhere in the economy meant an interest rate rise was unlikely for now.

The annual change in the overall wholesale price index was negative on 29 August for a 13th week, although a return to inflation looked imminent in September as the effect of last year's high fuel and commodity prices fade out of calculations.

[Bill McKibben on Why 350 is the World's Most Important Number](#)

Bill McKibben (author of *Deep Economy* and *The End of Nature*) is the man behind 350.org, the campaign to convince the world that we aren't safe until global carbon dioxide levels are down to 350 parts per million. In the run-up to major climate talks in Copenhagen, the author-turned-organizer has orchestrated what he hopes will be the largest day of climate action in history, complete with scuba divers in the Maldives and monks in Tibet.

McKibben talks with TreeHugger about the recent good news from the head of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and about one of his greatest challenges to date: being a guest on *The Colbert Report*.

[Nicholas Stern Latest Climate Expert to Endorse 350 ppm Limit](#)

While the world's governments struggle to agree on emissions cuts that would keep atmospheric CO₂ from exceeding 450 ppm, a growing number of climate experts are warning that even that target is too high.

British economist Nicholas Stern is the latest to recommend 350 ppm instead. Stern, whose 2006 Stern Review spelled out for the world the economic crises that would accompany climate change, told a reporter in Germany that 350 ppm — rather than 450 ppm — would be “a very sensible long-term target.”

[IEA Raises 2009, 2010 Oil Demand Forecasts on Growth in China](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The International Energy Agency raised its global oil demand estimate for next year for a second consecutive month, citing growth in Chinese consumption and stronger-than-expected oil use in the U.S.

World oil consumption is likely to average 85.7 million barrels a day next year, 450,000 barrels a day more than previously estimated, the adviser to 28 nations said today in its monthly report. Demand growth next year, at 1.27 percent, is lower than previously forecast after the outlook for 2009 was also increased.

“There is growing evidence that the global economy may be finally stabilizing, with industrial de-stocking coming to an end, coupled with the effects of large-scale

government intervention,” the IEA said in the report. “Oil demand in U.S., China and other Asia appears to be running stronger than preliminary estimates suggested.”

[OPEC Maintains Oil Quotas as IEA Raises Global Demand Forecast](#)

(Bloomberg) -- OPEC said it will keep oil production quotas unchanged, banking on a recovery in the world economy to maintain prices near today's \$72 a barrel as the International Energy Agency raised its global demand forecast.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed to maintain total production quotas at 24.845 million barrels a day and will urge members to adhere to targets, OPEC Secretary General Abdalla El-Badri said. The IEA raised its global oil demand estimate for next year for a second month, citing growth in Chinese consumption and stronger-than-expected U.S. oil use.

[Economic jitters hit OPEC oil cartel at talks](#)

VIENNA (AFP) – Top oil-producing countries expressed "grave concern" that a recovery from the economic downturn crippling energy demand will be slow and uncertain, as they held their output steady on Thursday.

"Since the market remains oversupplied and given the downside risks associated with the extremely fragile recovery, the conference once again agreed to leave current production levels unchanged for the time being," said the closing statement by OPEC.

[Economy takes over as OPEC's oil market fundamental](#)

VIENNA (Reuters) - OPEC's around midnight deal to keep output steady marked the third time this year it has opted for no policy change, citing first economic weakness and now economic recovery as a reason to ignore bulging oil stocks.

But the bottom line was the producer club's confidence the return of investor appetite for riskier assets such as oil would be enough to sustain a robust market rally.

[Nigeria set to become oil leader](#)

ABUJA, Nigeria (UPI) -- Nigeria is set to become the African leader in oil as an amnesty program with Niger Delta militants contributes to a rise in crude production, officials say.

[Australia in \\$60 bln Japan, S.Korea gas deals](#)

CANBERRA (AFP) – Australia on Thursday announced liquefied natural gas (LNG) deals worth up to 60 billion US dollars with Japan and South Korea, raising its status as a major energy supplier.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said Chevron Australia would supply three firms from the planned Gorgon field off the country's west, just weeks after joint venture partner ExxonMobil's record 41 billion US dollar deal with PetroChina.

"These contracts will deliver in the order of 70 billion (Australian) dollars worth of exports to Australia over the next 25 years," Rudd told parliament.

[Oil at \\$65 pays for Petrobras subsalt plan -report](#)

SAO PAULO (Reuters) - Brazil's state-controlled oil company Petrobras would be able to fulfill its planned investments for the next five years with no need for additional capital if the price of oil CLC1 stayed around \$65 a barrel, its chief executive told Valor Economico in an interview published on Thursday.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva unveiled last week long-awaited plans to overhaul Brazil's oil sector. Among the proposals was for a capitalization of Petrobras worth 5 billion barrels of oil, using yet-to-be-proven reserves instead of cash.

[Preparing to spend a “millionaire ticket” from offshore](#)

The government has unveiled plans to give the state the lion's share of the money from vast new oil discoveries. Will this wealth be invested or squandered?

[Korea National Oil Considers Overseas Acquisitions](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Korea National Oil Corp., beaten by China in the race to buy Geneva-based Addax Petroleum Corp., said it's seeking to acquire overseas assets to boost production.

[China Pushes Burma Pipelines Amid Criticism](#)

BELJING (IPS) - Despite fresh international criticism of Beijing's backing for as unpopular a regime as the Burmese junta, China sees its alliance with the country's military as a matter of simple economic expediency and is determined to forge ahead with controversial joint dual oil and gas pipelines that will ensure greater energy security for its robust economy.

[Pakistan can't sell Iran's gas -- official](#)

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (UPI) -- Pakistan is not permitted to sell natural gas from an Iranian pipeline to any third party under the terms of its agreement with Iran, officials say.

[Bank of China's Zhu Sees 'Bubbles' in Asset Markets](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Bank of China Ltd., which led the nation's \$1.1 trillion lending spree in the first half, said ample liquidity has caused "bubbles" in stocks, commodities and real estate.

"The potential risk is that a lot of liquidity goes to the asset market," Vice President Zhu Min said in an interview in Dalian today. "So you see asset bubbles in commodities, stocks and real estate, not only in China, but everywhere."

[Venezuelan Leader Praises Putin's Tough U.S. Policy](#)

MOSCOW (Reuters) — President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela praised Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on Wednesday for standing up to the United States, as Mr. Chávez began a visit to Moscow that the Kremlin said would concentrate on energy and military agreements.

Cooperation between Russia, one of the world's top oil exporters, and Venezuela, a member of OPEC, has been dismissed by the United States as mostly talk, but the relationship is being watched with concern by Colombia, which has stormy ties with Venezuela, its neighbor.

[China Strongly Opposes U.S. Duties on Steel Oil Pipes](#)

(Bloomberg) -- China "strongly opposes" a ruling by the U.S. Commerce Department to impose duties of as much as 31 percent on steel pipes, the Ministry of Commerce said today.

The U.S. decision doesn't comply with rules set by the World Trade Organization, the ministry said on its Web site.

[Kjell Aleklett: Peak Oil - Economy and Climate on the path down from the peak](#)

Our oil needs for the next 20 years can be found in known reserves. The problem is that the oil exists in small pores within layers of stone and must be forced towards the

borehole from which it is pumped up. Investments in new technology can influence the flow, but this flow is restricted by physical parameters such as pressure, viscosity and surface tension. However, a study we have made of the largest oilfields shows that just before half the oil is extracted from a field its flow begins to decline dramatically by, on average, 8% per year. What is unfortunate for our future oil production is that a large part currently comes from giant old oilfields. Today, the crude oil production is 72 Mb/d but in 20 years these fields will produce between 20 to 30 Mb/d.

[Economy vs. ecology](#)

Out of what humanity takes from the earth in one year, it takes the earth one year and four additional months to regenerate. At our current pace, we are liquidating our planet of its goods faster than it can give them back to us. With developing nations anxious to successfully catch up, a human balance with ecosystems needs to be found before the earth has hit the point of no return.

The artificial necessity for goods created a hole in several ecosystems and disrupted a fragile balance of life that was doing fine until humans with dollar signs in their eyes entered the picture.

[John Michael Greer: A Terrible Ambivalence](#)

At some risk of oversimplification, the argument between Monbiot and Kingsnorth may be summed up more or less as follows. Both agree that industrial civilization faces imminent collapse. Monbiot argues that collapse might still be prevented if we all pull together, that the only alternative is letting total collapse happen, and that this is unthinkable because billions of people will die horribly. He argues that the only alternative to preserving modern society in some improved form is a cataclysmic process of mass dieoff ending in a new dark age ruled by petty warlords, with some new earth-ravaging society likely to rise on the ruins of the old unless his preferred political solution gets put in place to control our species' ecocidal tendencies.

Kingsnorth rejects all this. He insists that collapse can't be prevented, and in any case should be allowed to happen, because industrial civilization is a "planetary weapon of mass destruction" and letting it collapse is less destructive than allowing it to continue. He cites my concept of the Long Descent to argue that the end of industrial civilization could be a lot less traumatic than Monbiot thinks it must be, insists that ecocide is inherent in our present society rather than in humanity as a whole, and suggests that whatever replaces our society is bound to be less dreadful than what we have now.

[Signs of peak oil: Here and growing louder](#)

Why, in the midst of a global recession, are oil prices hovering in the \$70-a-barrel range, when \$30-odd a barrel was considered a good price for the market just a couple of years

ago?

Meet a little concept called “peak oil,” which — despite its detractors — is daily showing more signs of becoming the new global reality.

[Peak oil: Is the global economy going to run out of gas?](#)

As the global community focuses on righting the economic ship of state, it seems worthwhile to take another peek at the "peak oil" debate. The basis of considerable controversy, peak oil is the theoretical point at which global oil production will plateau, and then irreversibly decline. Geologists and veteran oil industry analysts have varying forecasts as to when peak oil will occur, with several arguing that the concept itself is flawed, and that crude will remain abundant through the 21st century.

Still, the forecasters all agree on one point: if global oil production peaks, the price of oil will quickly rise to unprecedented levels. For example, given current demand conditions, if peak oil occurred today, oil would quickly rocket to \$100, then \$150 per barrel, creating the world's fourth oil shock.

[Electrical thinking](#)

The energy of the future appears to be electricity. In the auto industry, an enormous consumer of power, companies are gravitating to electricity. Unlike hydrogen, the distribution system is already in place. Most residents have plugs on the side of their homes.

Auto companies have seen the future -- with its spectre of peak oil -- and realize that electricity will be their products' future propulsion.

[Toyota to Show Its First Plug-In Prius at Frankfurt Motor Show](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Toyota Motor Corp., the world's biggest seller of autos powered by a combination of gasoline and electricity, said it will display its first hybrid car that can be recharged at a household outlet in Frankfurt next week.

The 2010 Prius plug-in hybrid vehicle, or PHV, will be shown at the Frankfurt Motor Show, which opens to the press Sept. 14, the company said in a statement today. Toyota plans to deliver 500 of the cars to global test fleets starting this year, including 150 in the U.S.

[West vs. China in solar war](#)

BERLIN (UPI) -- Europe's solar energy industry is facing a wave of bankruptcies because Asian companies offer their products much cheaper.

[Google plans new mirror for cheaper solar power](#)

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Google is disappointed with the lack of breakthrough investment ideas in the green technology sector but the company is working to develop its own new mirror technology that could reduce the cost of building solar thermal plants by a quarter or more.

[Wind Power Capacity May Exceed India's Estimate by Fivefold](#)

(Bloomberg) -- India can build wind power plants that may be able to generate almost five times more than the government's estimate by 2030, according to a study by the Global World Energy Council.

Wind energy capacity can climb to as much as 231,000 megawatts in India, compared with the government's forecast of 48,000 megawatts from 216 potential sites, according to the study, produced in partnership with the Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association.

[Nation's oldest nuclear plant showing its age](#)

LACEY TOWNSHIP, N.J. – As the nation's oldest nuclear power plant shows its age, some call it Oyster Creek.

The latest problems — a series of radioactive water leaks — were found just days after the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station got a new 20-year license that environmentalists bitterly fought for four years.

[Arab states race for nuclear power](#)

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (UPI) -- Amid the gathering storm over Iran's controversial nuclear ambitions, the race is on among Arab states to build nuclear power plants of their own, opening up immense trade opportunities for the industrialized world as well as the specter of proliferation.

[Monbiot: Palm oil power plants become burning issue thanks to UK's crazy 'green' policy](#)

This is a story about the maddest energy scheme the world has seen since Ferdinand Marcos built a nuclear power station on a geological faultline. As I write, councillors in

Newport, south Wales, are sitting down to decide whether or not to approve a new power station that burns vegetable oil. It's one of several being considered in the UK. These plans owe their existence solely to government policy.

[Kenya appeals for 400 mln dollars to save largest forest](#)

NAIROBI (AFP) – Kenya on Wednesday appealed for 400 million dollars to conserve its largest forest ecosystem which has been extensively destroyed over the past two decades.

[Report on global warming predicts dire Illinois consequences](#)

WASHINGTON -- If global warming continues unchecked, Chicago would see a repeat of the killer 1995 heat wave every summer by the middle of the century, an environmental group says in a study released Wednesday.

The report from the Union of Concerned Scientists also predicts that the city's air quality would deteriorate if humans do not scale back greenhouse gas emissions dramatically.

Illinois farmers would suffer from droughts, pests and flooding that would more than outweigh any potential benefits from a longer growing season caused by warmer temperatures. Heat stress in cattle could force the state's dairy industry to migrate north.

"Global warming represents an enormous challenge to Illinois' way of life and its residents' livelihoods," the authors write in conclusion.

[An updated global warming prediction for Michigan](#)

The Union of Concerned Scientists is out with a report today on how climate change is expected to impact Michigan.

Expect more heat waves, flooding and reduced crop yields if nothing is done to stave off the worst consequences of climate change, says a peer-reviewed paper from UCS.

"The Midwest climate is already changing," Katharine Hayhoe, an atmospheric scientist at Texas Tech University and a co-author of [the report](#), said in a statement.

[Sarkozy unveils new carbon tax for 2010](#)

CULOZ, France (AFP) – French President Nicolas Sarkozy on Thursday announced plans to impose a new carbon tax next year on oil, gas and coal as part of a drive to

combat global warming.

The plan would make France the biggest economy in Europe to impose a carbon tax on households and businesses, boosting Sarkozy's green credentials ahead of a key UN conference on climate change in Copenhagen in December.

[Walrus congregates on Alaska shore as ice melts](#)

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Thousands of walrus are congregating on Alaska's northwest coast, a sign that their Arctic sea ice environment has been altered by climate change.

[Maldives welcomes Denmark aid for climate talks](#)

COLOMBO (AFP) – The Maldives, which faces the prospect of being submerged by rising sea levels, welcomed Wednesday an offer by Denmark to finance its participation at a key climate change summit in Copenhagen.

Maldivian President Mohamed Nasheed, who said this week he would have to skip the meeting to save money for the crisis-hit islands, said he was "delighted" to hear that Denmark had offered to sponsor their participation.

[EU considers 15 bln euros to help poor nations on climate](#)

BRUSSELS (AFP) – The European Union will propose giving developing countries 15 billion euros annually to help fight climate change, Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt said Wednesday.

Reinfeldt said that the figure, which represents a target annual contribution to be reached by 2020, is a "starting-point" in negotiations on a new global deal to combat climate change after Kyoto Protocol requirements expire in 2012.

[Behind India's Intransigence on Climate Change Talks](#)

If you ask India's climate change negotiators, the December summit in Copenhagen will be not about how to save the planet, but about how to accommodate the rights and aspirations of millions of Indians like Kumar. Since developed countries have already pumped out a large proportion of the greenhouse gases that the environment can safely handle, they argue, those same nations must vacate some atmospheric space for the latecomers to industrialization. The current concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is 380 parts per million (ppm), 72% of which has been emitted by developed countries. Most scientists agree this needs to be stabilized at 450 ppm or less, leaving a tiny wedge – about 70 ppm – where the developing countries must jostle for

space to industrialize and pollute.



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