



## Drumbeat: September 17, 2009

Posted by [Leanan](#) on September 17, 2009 - 9:08am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

### [Would You Know How Survive After the Oil Crash?](#)

Do you know how to make shoes? Can you build a house? How about grow food? Do you have a doctor and a dentist in your circle of friends?

These are the questions that Andre Angelantoni thinks you should be able to answer in order to plan for the next 10 to 15 years. Angelantoni believes there are radical changes ahead for our society -- and no, it's not the rapture he sees coming, but a post-peak-oil world.

last year, are now off the table until such time as Interior Secretary Ken Salazar sees fit to complete a court-ordered "sensitivity" analysis of information his department already has. Meanwhile, as Secretary Salazar continues to slow walk a plan to finally allow Americans to access the vast offshore energy supplies the government's held hostage for nearly 30 years, House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall is holding hearings this week on sweeping legislation designed to add a few more hefty layers of bureaucratic red tape to the federal leasing process, and ultimately make it even more difficult and more expensive to put Americans to work producing American energy on what little land the government offers for lease both on and off our shores.

### [Andrés Duany Speaks on Urbanism: 'Urbanism Molts, it Evolves'](#)

Three near-simultaneous "crises"—global warming, peak oil and the housing bubble—have recently jolted people from complacency, Duany said. And one culprit, according to Duany, is to blame for the current environmental crisis: the lifestyle of the American middle class. "It's how we consume land, how we transport ourselves, how we feed ourselves and what we do for pleasure," he said.

But why does he blame the middle class? The numbers of the wealthy are too few to make a difference, Duany said. While the wealthy can commission good design because they work directly with the architect, their numbers don't add up in what he called a "game" of metrics. "The wealthy are very few," he said.

### [Going 'coach' makes sense](#)

The City of North Vancouver has bravely put forward the idea of allowing homeowners to build secondary residences, or coach houses, on their properties knowing full well the outcry that such a move would create within the community.

Sadly an impasse was reached during council on July 20 and the discussion has been put on hold for the moment. It's critical that talks begin again.

### [A Critique of Ecological Economics](#)

Ecological economics is an academic field of study that merges ecology with standard economics. Here I outline its faulty historical vision as well as its errors with respect to value, cost, and capitalism. I also suggest that the field, by rejecting the necessary shift to a new mode of civilization, could be contributing to ecological collapse.

### [Sarkozy and Stiglitz: A New Way to Grow](#)

The report recommends shifting economic emphasis from simply the production of goods to a broader measure of overall well-being, which would include the benefits of things like health, education, and security. It calls for greater focus on the effects on income inequality, as well as new ways to measure the economic impact of sustainability (climate change specialists like Nicolas Stern are members), and recommended ways to include the value of wealth to be passed on to the next generation into today's economic conversation. What it didn't do is come up with a quick and easy new way to tabulate a new measure of wellbeing. Some of the necessary yardsticks already exist; others still need to be invented.

### [The Big Question: Should landowners be forced to give up space for allotments?](#)

#### **Why are we asking this now?**

Because that's one of the more controversial suggestions from a think tank which is looking into how Britain can alleviate its rather desperate allotment shortage. According to the New Local Government Network, persuading councils to turn over vacant brownfield sites – and landowners to give up under-used parts of their private estates – would quickly free up huge tracts of land that could easily be turned over to growing food.

### [Carolyn Baker Interviews Robin Rucker](#)

Initially, I thought I had the perfect career. I believed in the pharmaceutical industry and the good I thought it was doing. Then, four years into my career at my first job, the biotech startup I worked at was swallowed by a huge pharmaceutical company. I began

interacting with this large company and quickly realized how naïve I had been. That was the first clue that I needed to make a change because my career lacked meaning for me as I was supporting an industry focused on making money. Six years later I was totally burned out, so I quit work and traveled for 15 months. Extended travel had been an unfulfilled dream of mine. I left the country with the idea that I might live somewhere else completely. While I was traveling, someone told me about a documentary they had seen on CNN about the possibility of the world running out of oil. I remember feeling frightened. It was 2000 and I was three months into my journey, and I decided I had better keep on traveling because it seemed likely that the ability to travel would become impossible in the future. Eventually, I went back to work because I still had a large mortgage, but I was still really unhappy.

### [Britain's first housing co-op leads the way in sustainable living](#)

The unexpected stage for one of the most ambitious low-carbon developments in Britain today is not an executive estate in the Cotswolds or a pretty new eco-town, but a row of modest 1970s inner-city houses lived in by a 130-strong group of artists, students and others, just yards from where two French students were tortured and murdered last year.

### [Japan's recession brings growing interest in fruit and vegetables](#)

The soaring popularity of the sommelier course is part of a much wider explosion of interest among the Japanese in “treasures of the soil”. It is an interest driven partly by the grim realisation that Japan has the lowest level of agricultural self sufficiency in the developed world.

### [Financing set for Mont.-Alberta transmission line](#)

HELENA, Mont. -- A Canadian energy company and an arm of the U.S. Department of Energy have reached a deal to finance a proposed 214-mile Montana-Alberta power transmission line that would carry power from the region's emerging wind industry.

### [Chesapeake Seeks to Change Climate Bill, Sell Congress on Gas](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Chesapeake Energy Corp. and other natural-gas producers, unhappy with climate-change legislation they say favors competing fuels like coal, are teaming up to tout the benefits of their product to lawmakers in Washington.

### [Chavez: Gas find another reason to boost defense against USA](#)

President Hugo Chavez said a recent huge natural gas find off Venezuela's Caribbean coast underscores the need to bolster the Andean nation's defenses against U.S.

"imperialism."

### [Report: Iran To Build Tankers For Venezuela](#)

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran has begun building four oil tankers for Venezuela, the latest in strengthening ties between the U.S. rivals.

### [Energy security: prevent future disruption and expand gas storage capacity, say MEPs](#)

More needs to be done to prevent future disruption and early-warning mechanisms (which proved ineffective in the 2009 Russia-Ukraine energy crisis) need to be reviewed, MEPs told the European Commission in a resolution adopted Thursday. MEPs also say that gas storage capacity needs to be expanded and interconnections improved.

### [KDB Spearheads Post-Crisis Green Growth Drive](#)

"The green growth industry is a promising industry in the long term but it is still at an infant stage and it takes a long time to collect invested capital. In addition, its return is deemed not very high compared to its riskiness," a KDB executive said.

"Against this backdrop, the KDB, as a policy lender, seeks to play a leading role in supporting green industries in order to help overcome the economic crisis and secure a long-term, sustainable growth engine," he added. "In particular, the latest economic turmoil discouraged commercial lenders to actively support green industries, which has affected firms in the environmental and renewable energy fields."

### [Saudi Aramco sells fourth fuel oil lot in firm market](#)

SINGAPORE: Saudi Aramco has sold a fourth straight cargo of fuel oil within the past two weeks at strong price levels, taking advantage of the tight Middle East and east Asian markets, traders said yesterday.

### [Would You Know How Survive After the Oil Crash?](#)

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### [Energy prices jump on expectations of recovery](#)

NEW YORK - Energy prices jumped sharply Wednesday on new indications of economic activity that could renew demand for oil, gasoline, and natural gas.

Prices began to rise early Wednesday after the government reported a large drop in crude supplies.

Benchmark crude for October delivery settled up \$1.58 at \$72.51 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Tuesday, the contract rose \$2.07 to settle at \$70.93.

### [Reliance Industries Raises \\$664 Million in Share Sale](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Reliance Industries Ltd., India's most valuable company, raised 31.9 billion rupees (\$664 million) selling shares after saying it plans to buy oil fields in the Gulf of Mexico and Brazil.

### ['Never Go Bust' Families Mean End of Easy Credit](#)

Eighty banks, including BNP Paribas SA and Citigroup Inc., are owed at least \$15.7 billion, sparking a flurry of litigation. The battle has increased pressure for more transparency among the region's family-run firms and less reliance on name lending, or borrowing based on reputation.

"With Maan al-Sanea or the Alghosabi family, the perception was that they would never go bust or never default," Yazan Abdeen, a Dubai fund manager at ING Investment Management, said. "Facts are showing that this can happen. The banks in Saudi, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates will get a hit, and this will make the banks alter their own lending models. It's like a 'black swan' event, something no one saw coming."

### [Yemen's Oil Revenue Falls 75% Through July as Price Drops](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Yemen's revenue from oil exports dropped 74 percent to \$803 million in the first seven months from the year-earlier period amid tumbling oil prices and a decline in crude output, the Central Bank of Yemen said.

### [Oil Found Everywhere. But Still Not Enough Of It](#)

Yesterday Carlos Ghosn, head of Nissan/Renault, said that oil needs to stay above \$70 a barrel or no-one will end up buying his fab new Better Place-assisted electric cars. So he won't be pleased to hear about the latest in a recent flurry of oil finds that seem destined

to drive prices down, or at least not towards the \$200 that might push electric cars into widespread popularity.

### [Three more oil firms seek Gulf of Thailand rights](#)

PHNOM PENH (Reuters) - Cambodia has received three more applications for oil exploration rights in a disputed area of the Gulf of Thailand, a government spokesman said on Thursday.

U.S. giant Chevron and two Japanese firms, Inpec and Marubeni Oil and Gas, have submitted a bid for access to Block 4, following an application on Tuesday by Mitsui Oil Exploration Co, a unit of Japanese trading house Mitsui & Co Ltd (8031.T), said Ieng Sophalleth.

### [Tullow Oil Says Ugandan Discovery Could Be Biggest in Region](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Tullow Oil Plc, the U.K. explorer seeking partners to develop exploration projects in Uganda, said its latest discovery could be the biggest in the region.

### [Chavez Seeks to Boost Oil Production With China Deal](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said China will invest \$16 billion to boost oil production in the country, as part of a strategy to reduce dependence on the U.S. and strengthen oil ties with other nations.

### [Total's Victoria Find May Hold Less Gas, Norway Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Total SA's Victoria, considered Norway's biggest undeveloped natural gas find, may hold less fuel than originally estimated, possibly delaying development of areas in the Norwegian Sea, the Petroleum Directorate said.

### [Legislation for a 21st Century Transportation System Doesn't Come Easy](#)

The road to reforming the nation's transportation systems looks to be a long and winding one.

Once lawmakers decide when to move forward with the sweeping overhauls they promise, they will need to find a way to pay for it. And once that difficult task is accomplished, the debate will only grow more complicated.

### [China's projected fossil fuel use 'shocking'](#)

BEIJING - If China's economy continues to expand rapidly and rely heavily on coal and other fossil fuels until the middle of the century, its power consumption would be unsustainable, according to a study by government think tanks released Wednesday.

### [Cantwell Seeks Change in CFTC Standard for Market Manipulation](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Senator Maria Cantwell wants to bring the legal standard the Commodity Futures Trading Commission must meet to prove market manipulation in line with other federal regulators.

### [Derivatives Bill May Raise Electric, Gas Rates, Industry Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Utilities will raise gas and electric prices if Congress imposes higher capital and margin requirements on energy hedging as part of legislation meant to rein in over-the-counter derivatives, industry leaders said.

### [Cumulus Tops Europe's Energy Hedge Funds; Sword Shuts](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The Cumulus Energy Fund gained 46 percent this year through July, beating the returns of 10 of its peers after anticipating rainy weather in Scandinavia would increase hydropower supplies and lower prices.

### [\\$20 Per Gallon Of Gasoline](#)

It's called "Peak Oil" hitting around 2010. Yes, we still enjoy half the world's oil supply beneath the surface of the earth, but it's farther down, harder and more costly to drill and it lies beneath the ground of many unstable countries. And, whether you like it or not, the fact is—as the USA burns 20 million barrels per day and the other countries burn another 64 million barrels of oil per DAY, the cost of oil will inevitably rise to \$20 a gallon. It's already \$8.00 a gallon in Europe.

Expect everything to change: your life, your city, your state, your transportation means, your speed of life, your food intake, your housing and your way of life.

### [John Michael Greer: Daydreams of Destruction](#)

Last week's post on *The Archdruid Report* got rather more than the usual number of responses. Most of the comment – no surprises there – focused on my suggestion that the hopes for a better future retailed so freely by all sides in today's cultural conversations face certain disappointment. At first glance, this may not seem like a

controversial statement; one of the crucial facts about the future, after all, is that the fossil fuels that prop up current lifestyles across the industrial world, and provide the basis for survival for hundreds of millions in the Third World, are depleting rapidly with no adequate replacements in sight.

That hard fact pretty much guarantees a future in which poverty, hunger, warfare, and early death will be vastly more common than their opposites, and in which a great many of the comforts and opportunities we now take for granted will no longer be available. That, in turn, would certainly seem to define the future ahead of us as worse than the present, in ways sweeping enough that any benefits to be gained from the changes in store could be considered consolation prizes at best. Still, so straightforward an assessment of our prospects is profoundly unwelcome in many circles these days.

### [Land use lessons of the past could help in future](#)

The time-honoured tradition of coppicing could give offer best of both worlds, providing biofuel to cut carbon emissions and a helpful haven for wildlife, say researchers.

### [Cars running on ethanol can pollute too: Brazil study](#)

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) – Cars running on sugarcane ethanol can produce as many harmful pollutants as those using ordinary petrol (gasoline), according a study published by Brazil's environment ministry.

### [World's key polluters start climate talks in US](#)

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Representatives of the world's 17 biggest carbon polluters were due Thursday to kick off a week of high-level and high-stakes talks on climate change at a meeting in Washington.

The aim of the talks, which will be held for two days at the State Department before moving to New York next week and then to Pittsburgh, is to try to patch up differences and generate momentum for a much heralded meeting in Copenhagen in December, where a UN conference hopes to produce an ambitious new pact rolling back global warming.

### [Polar bears run riot as ice melts](#)

You can almost hear Sarah Palin cocking her rifle. As climate change causes sea ice to shrink, the number of "problem" polar bears appears to be increasing.

"Hungry bears don't just lie down – they go looking for an alternate food source," says zoologist Ian Stirling at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. "In many cases

this brings them into human settlements and hunting camps."

### [Greenland icesheet could melt faster than thought: study](#)

PARIS (AFP) – The Greenland icesheet responded to global warming over the past 10,000 years more quickly than thought, according to a study released Wednesday.

As a result, a medium-sized temperature increase this century could cause the continent-sized ice block to start melting at an alarming rate, it suggests.

"It is entirely possible that a future temperature increase of a few degrees Celsius in Greenland will result in a icesheet mass loss and contribution to sea level rise larger than previously projected," it warns.



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