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Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Oil sands need positive spin](#)

Alberta and Canada have an image problem and it's called the oil sands. Non-government organizations such as Greenpeace and others have made these gigantic open-pit mining operations their current whipping boy. And by deploying hyperbole or inaccuracies, these organizations are winning the public relations game in the United States where the lion's share of this oil is destined.

"The world has changed. You have a big problem and it is going to get worse unless you get your story out there," said Richard Edelman, CEO of Edelman, the world's largest independent public relations firm, to a gathering of oil and government officials at Alberta's Global Business Forum in Banff this week. "Once the facts are understood, there's acceptance of the need for oil sands oil."

this, imagined that a 'stationary state' would put an end to this irrational process. John Maynard Keynes shared this optimism of the Reason. But neither was equipped to understand how the necessary overcoming of capitalism could come about. Karl Marx, in giving its full place to the new class struggle, could, on the contrary, imagine overturning the power of the capitalist class, which is currently concentrated in the hands of the oligarchy.

[Oil Billionaire Touts Energy Alternatives](#)

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. -- A Texas billionaire oil tycoon who spent \$60 million promoting a plan to wean the nation off foreign oil spoke at Indiana University Friday about advances in wind power and natural gas.

T. Boone Pickens, 81, has written a book, made numerous media appearances and gone on tour to support his plan, 6News' Jennifer Carmack reported.

"It's not my problem. I can make it to the finish line ... and my standard of living's not going to change, but for you and the generations to come, you better get it fixed," Pickens said.

[Huge corn crop helps ethanol industry argue its case](#)

PRIMGHAR, IOWA — Last year, with corn prices at record levels and Americans' grocery bills climbing, the ethanol industry struggled to explain how using corn for fuel was a good long-term answer for reducing U.S. dependence on oil.

This year, however, the industry is getting some help making its case, thanks to a near-record U.S. corn crop that has bolstered claims that the country has enough corn to satisfy both its food and fuel needs.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said this month that it expects the domestic corn crop to rise to 12.954 billion bushels, up 7 percent from a year earlier and the second-biggest in history.

[Nuclear No-Contest](#)

Before the 1950s, the future confronting the human race was bleak. With the global population increasing and becoming more dependent on energy-dense technologies to sustain its food supplies and rising living standards, there seemed no escape from the catastrophe that would come eventually when the coal and the oil ran out. But few worried unduly. It was only after an escape from the nightmare presented itself with the harnessing of nuclear processes and the prospect of unlimited energy that people began to worry. People can be very strange.

[Disputed Solar Energy Project in California Desert Is Dropped](#)

A proposed solar energy project in the California desert that caused intense friction between environmentalists and the developers of renewable energy has been shelved.

BrightSource Energy Inc. had planned a 5,130-acre solar power farm in a remote part of the Mojave Desert, on land previously intended for conservation. The company, based in Oakland, Calif., said Thursday that it was instead seeking an alternative site for the project.

[On Wood Road: Couple continues 'solar' lifestyle](#)

For Joe and Rose Mato, “going green” is not a new philosophy — they’ve lived a low-consumption, energy-efficient lifestyle for some time, and their home on Wood Road is a testament to it.

“I built this home for what I needed,” Mr. Mato said. “I built it in stages, added things as I got the money to do so.”

[Hacking the Sky](#)

Since the scale of the climate crisis became clear, the strategy for fixing this glitch has focused on remediation. To maintain the atmosphere's equilibrium, we need to reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases. Our chief goal should be to return the climate to something approximating the pre-industrial status quo.

But what if such a return isn't possible? What if the planet has gone permanently haywire? As the effects of climate change become obvious and global leaders remain unable to halt emissions, a growing number of scientists say we need to begin researching what's called "geo-engineering" – ways to artificially reduce global temperatures and/or manipulate plants or the oceans to absorb huge amounts of CO₂. Having unintentionally warmed the planet, we may have little choice but to intentionally cool it back down.

[Following Trash and Recyclables on Their Journey](#)

Where does all the trash go?

Karin Landsberg, 42, a self-described "eco-geek" in Seattle, was so curious that she invited researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology into her home last month to fish 12 items out of her garbage and recycling bins – a can of beans, a compact fluorescent light bulb – and tag them with small electronic tracking devices.

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[How much in subsidies do fossil fuels get anyway?](#)

At least some members of the Obama Administration plan to call for an end to fossil fuel subsidies as part of next week's G20 economic leaders summit, citing positive impacts

ranging from improved energy security to combating climate change. But how much does the U.S. government pay? Well, according to a new analysis from the Environmental Law Institute released today, roughly \$72 billion between 2002 and 2008.

[How case against BP traders went wrong](#)

When federal investigators alleged in 2006 that a group of BP propane traders tried to manipulate that market, it seemed like a strong case.

There was the clear spike in propane prices at the time of the alleged manipulation in 2004.

There were the taped phone conversations between some of the traders discussing the scheme, including one in which a trader notes how "... we could control the market at will."

One trader even pleaded guilty. BP entered into a deferred prosecution agreement with the government and paid \$303 million in fines, including \$53 million to reimburse customer losses.

But on Thursday, U.S. District Judge Gray Miller threw the indictments out, saying the law used in the indictments didn't prohibit BP's transactions.

[Alberta workers flee angry Maritimers](#)

CALGARY - Dozens of Alberta workers are being flown back from New Brunswick today after being swarmed by protesters from the local workforce, who claim the westerners stole their jobs.

A number of tradespeople from the Alberta-based contractor Integral Energy Service Ltd. were flown to Saint John 10 days ago after being hired by the engineering firm SNC-Lavalin to help complete the Canaport Liquefied Natural Gas plant, belonging to Irving Oil.

[Libya to buy Canadian oil producer Verenex](#)

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Verenex Energy Inc, a Canadian oil producer focused on Libya, said on Friday it had entered into an agreement to be bought by a Libyan sovereign wealth fund, after the collapse of a deal reached with China.

The Libyan Investment Authority has agreed to pay C\$7.09 a share for all of Verenex's outstanding shares, the company said. The offer is well below China National Petroleum Corp's C\$10-a-share deal.

[Petrobras Freezes Overseas Investment. Full Steam Ahead in Brazil Waters!](#)

Brazil's state-controlled oil and gas multinational Petrobras will freeze overseas investments as the company concentrates on its primary role to develop recently discovered offshore oil reserves, CEO Jose Sergio Gabrielli said this Thursday, September 17.

[Driving us crazy](#)

It has become increasingly fashionable to question the Kiwi love affair with the car.

The sandal brigade has long been fond of dissing the petrolheads among us (though they really should shoe themselves in more suitable footwear whenever they crank up their Raleigh Twenties.)

[Automakers including Tesla try to energize electric-car business](#)

FRANKFURT — The race is on among the world's auto companies to make electric cars go farther on a single charge, bring the price down to compete with gas-powered vehicles, and give drivers more places to recharge them than just the family garage.

Electric is the big buzz at the 63rd Frankfurt Auto Show this week, and nearly every major automaker has at least one on display. Renault introduced no fewer than four electric models, while San Carlos-based Tesla, the only company producing and selling purely electric cars, handed over the keys to its 700th all-electric vehicle, a blue Roadster Sport, to a German buyer at the show.

[Detroit swap: Auto plants for fashion showrooms](#)

DETROIT (CNMMoney.com) -- Detroit's auto industry trained generations of workers in design and manufacturing. As that business fades and its jobs disappear, city planners are hoping to redeploy the city's creative minds and craftsmen toward a new and growing field: fashion.

[A drought of ideas is putting water in peril](#)

Unlike peak oil, peak water doesn't refer to the global reserves – there's plenty of fresh water in the world. The problem is that there isn't enough water in the places where people live. This threatens civilisation not only in the affected areas, but for everyone. If one of these regions finds crop yield declining and water becoming short, then the economy and social stability will implode. The consequences of that will be felt as much

in rainy Glasgow as in Delhi.

The food and commodities grown and made in arid regions will not keep coming when the water runs out – the meat and cotton and fruit and wine in our shops will become precious items. Further, a waterless society is an uncivilised one. Not only will we have less stuff to buy, but we'll live in a world where chaos becomes commonplace. When the water runs out, the world will come to our border and ask to be let in – there is no army that could hold back so many desperate people.

[Drought fuels sales of artificial grass](#)

"Lake Elsinore is our newest yard and that's outselling all of our other locations because the drought is worse there," Mattox said. "The homes just have dead grass. It's one house after another."

Artificial grass sales have also been boosted by stricter water policies from both cities and water agencies, according to Mattox.

"The cities are saying, 'OK, you can only water two to three days a week,' but the water company is saying you can only water two days a week," he said. "And the city of Los Angeles has a rebate program where the water company will pay individuals a dollar per square foot when they put in artificial grass. This is a big thing and we're only touching the tip of it now."

[Maori Party laughing all the way to the bank](#)

It is hard to credit that just weeks back, the Maori Party issued a minority report taking issue with the outcome of the parliamentary select committee reviewing New Zealand's emissions trading regime.

In essence, the party continued to oppose the introduction of an emissions trading scheme and "would do so more strongly" if a replacement scheme was to be less effective and more inequitable than Labour's existing scheme.

The Maori Party was unconvinced the market was the best mechanism to set a carbon price: "The continued rise in oil costs from pending peak oil production and global shortages of fresh water alert us to the fact that the world's economy is not so much in a temporary recession as in a state of major change, and that the current mode of living in developed countries is simply not sustainable into the future."

[Familiar Issues Vex Climate Pact](#)

The key questions that have dominated the talks from the beginning remain unresolved: What level of emissions cuts are both industrialized and major developing

countries willing to embrace? What sort of financing will developed countries provide to help vulnerable nations adapt to climate change and to help emerging economies embark on a more environmentally sustainable growth trajectory?

['The Age of Stupid': a wakeup call on climate](#)

PARIS (AFP) – Could we, the human race, really miss an ever-narrowing chance to save the planet from the ravages of global warming? "The Age of Stupid," which will be screened in hundreds of venues around the world next week, contemplates this grim scenario with the open aim of galvanising a collective effort to prevent it.



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