



Drumbeat: October 6, 2009

Posted by [Leanan](#) on October 6, 2009 - 9:00am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Iran says profited from non-dlr oil sales increase](#)

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iran has made a huge profit from its policy of increasing its sales of oil for currencies other than the U.S. dollar, Central Bank Governor Mahmoud Bahmani was quoted as saying on Tuesday.

The comment came after Britain's The Independent newspaper quoted unidentified sources as saying Gulf Arab states were in secret talks with Russia, China, Japan and France to replace the U.S. dollar with a basket of currencies in the trading of oil.

[Pickens Says China Purchases Are Leading to \\$90 Oil](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Billionaire hedge-fund manager T. Boone Pickens said Chinese purchases will help push up crude-oil prices to as much as \$90 a barrel next year as output declines and the global economy rebounds.

Next year's average oil price will be \$80 a barrel, 39 percent more than the average so far this year, Pickens said today in an interview on CNBC.

China has spent \$200 billion on forward purchases, "tying up" the world's oil supply, Pickens said. The U.S. "can't compete" with China-owned oil companies because it lacks state-owned oil companies to pursue its economic interests, he said.

[Gold hits record high as dollar falls on oil pricing fears](#)

Gold hit a record high of \$1,043.78 per ounce in intraday trade yesterday, as the dollar fell on reports that Arab states were considering pricing oil sales in currencies other than the dollar.

[Peak Gasoline Is Here](#)

The jury's still out on peak oil, but the concept of peak *gasoline* has some very credible

proponents.

Last Thursday, ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson argued that U.S. gasoline consumption peaked in 2007. In his words, "motor vehicle gasoline demand is down, is headed down, and is going to continue to head down."

[Burning Coal Deep Down has Huge Potential, Untested](#)

LONDON - Burning coal underground could be one of the next breakthroughs to increase the world's energy supply, similar to establishment of Canadian oil sands, executives and academics told a conference in London on Monday.

The world could exploit huge additional coal reserves that are too deep or remote to mine, using a technology that burns the fuel hundreds of meters underground.

[GM hits a big speed bump](#)

The collapse of the Saturn sale and glitches in the Opel and Hummer deals are signs that GM faces a difficult turnaround after a quick bankruptcy.

[Europe to throw \\$73 billion behind energy research](#)

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Europe will this week launch a campaign to triple funding for energy research to 8 billion euros (\$11.7 billion) a year in a technology race with Japan and the United States, a draft document shows.

[Eestor watch out! IBM is building a next gen battery too](#)

he recent advent of electric and hybrid cars to mainstream consumers is driving an intense interest in battery technology. Eestor has secretively been working on an ultracapacitor battery it claims will eclipse current lithium-ion and lead-acid batteries. Though the company has built volumes of buzz by keeping the curtain low, IBM is stealing some thunder with its commitment to create a battery that will enable 500 miles of travel on single charge.

[DOE Introduces Big Oil to New Energy Source: Waste Heat Geothermal](#)

Every barrel of oil extracted in the US also produces ten barrels of hot fluids in addition to the oil. Why not use that potential energy in the waste heat?

Rather than discard that "geothermal" resource created by the process of oil extraction,

the DOE is going to show the traditional energy industry how to tap into those waste fluids to power equipment at the site.

[Act now on climate change, oil exec tells industry, government](#)

OTTAWA — A major player in Canada's oil and gas sector is warning that both the economy and the environment are in danger in the absence of a "robust" federal plan to crack down on heat-trapping emissions in the atmosphere.

In an interview with Canwest News Service, a Shell Canada executive says the company has been engaging stakeholders from both environmental and government circles to push for a climate-change plan that has legitimate targets and incentives for new technologies to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.

[Iran says profited from non-dollar oil sales increase](#)

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iran has made a huge profit from its policy of increasing its sales of oil for currencies other than the U.S. dollar, Central Bank Governor Mahmoud Bahmani was quoted as saying on Tuesday.

The comment came after Britain's The Independent newspaper quoted unidentified sources as saying Gulf Arab states were in secret talks with Russia, China, Japan and France to replace the U.S. dollar with a basket of currencies in the trading of oil.

[Gulf region to stay with dollar for oil: UAE central bank source](#)

ABU DHABI (Reuters) - Gulf Arab oil exporters will stay with the dollar as the currency for trading crude, a source in the United Arab Emirates central bank said on Tuesday.

"They are going to stay with the dollar," the source told Reuters, asking not to be named. "For so long oil pricing is in dollars and it would be difficult for producing countries to change."

[Comments by Jean Laherrère on "Squeezing More Oil From The Ground", Scientific American](#)

Leonardo Maugeri, who is an economist, being Vice-President of the Italian oil company, ENI, has evidently been influenced by Professor M. Adelman, who also took the Kern River oilfield in California as the best example of reserve growth, suggesting that it is representative of what can be expected more generally throughout the world. The basic statistics he quotes for Kern River Field are shown in the table.

Alderman commented that *the field itself had not changed; but knowledge of it had*. Maugeri follows the same argument but fails to mention that the number of producing wells had increased from 500 in 1942 to 9318 in 2007 and that as many as 16 000 wells had been drilled in total. In other words, drilling increased by a factor of twenty yet the reserves increased no more than eight-fold.

[Chevron leads venture in Kazakhstan](#)

TengizChevroil LLP, the Kazakh oil venture led by Chevron Corp., may spend \$10 billion to boost output at the country's largest producing field over the next seven years, TengizChevroil deputy head Anuarbek Dzhakiyev said.

TengizChevroil plans to ask the Kazakh government to approve a spending plan designed to increase output at the giant Tengiz deposit by about 12 million metric tons a year by the end of 2016, Dzhakiyev said in an interview in Almaty today.

[Sarkozy clinches \\$6 billion of Kazakh energy deals](#)

ASTANA (Reuters) - French President Nicolas Sarkozy clinched oil, gas and nuclear deals worth more than \$6 billion with Kazakhstan during a visit on Tuesday, establishing France as a key investor in the resource-rich state.

The West sees Kazakhstan, the largest oil producer in the former Soviet Union after Russia, as an increasingly important energy supplier as it ramps up production by tapping new oil and gas fields on its Caspian sea shelf.

[Winter heating fuel bills seen 8 percent lower: government](#)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The average U.S. household will pay 8 percent less in heating fuel costs this winter -- a savings of about \$84 -- with natural gas and propane users enjoying the biggest drop in cost, the Energy Department's forecasting arm said on Tuesday.

This winter's heating bills will be lower thanks to cheaper fuel prices, plenty of fuel supplies and expected slightly milder weather compared with last winter, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

[Energy and society](#)

Ian Lowe speaks about the future of global energy supplies. As he puts it, our society's heavy reliance on oil and other fossil fuels makes us vulnerable for both economic and

environmental reasons. Without substantial and immediate moves to find new energy sources, the dwindling oil supplies will have a massive impact on how we live - and in the meantime they are doing great environmental damage.

[Linking the past with the present: resources, land use, and the collapse of civilizations](#)

Without energy, societies collapse. In contemporary, industrialized societies, virtually all energy sources are derived from oil. Even "renewable" energy sources such as hydropower, wind turbines, and solar panels require an enormous amount of oil for construction, maintenance, and repair. Extraction and delivery of coal, natural gas, and uranium similarly are oil-intensive endeavors. Thus, the decline of inexpensive oil spells economic disaster for industrialized countries. Demand destruction caused by high energy prices is affecting the entire industrialized world.

[Disaster extraction](#)

Hurricane Katrina is estimated to have destroyed over 275,000 homes. To replace these would require nearly 4 billion board feet of new lumber. Add the number homes lost due to severe flooding, tornadoes, and other storms and you can see that the extractive industries make out quite well in these circumstances. But it is not only trees that are harvested to replenish these lost homes and businesses. We also need to factor in the mining of gypsum for wallboard, copper for wiring and plumbing, iron ore for the iron and steel found in everything from furnaces to cabinet hinges. And don't forget the petroleum derivatives found in everything from the wall and floor coverings, wire sheathing, lighting fixtures, and the 70 gallons of heating oil left in the tank in the basement. Obviously the list goes on and on and this is only meant to illustrate how much needs to be replaced or repaired and where it's going to be coming from. Indeed we need to cut more trees, mine more minerals, and pump more oil all to replace the house lost in the fire, flood, or storm.

[How Will Future Sea-Level Rise Linked to Climate Change Affect Coastal Areas?](#)

The anticipated sea-level rise associated with climate change, including increased storminess, over the next 100 years and the impact on the nation's low-lying coastal infrastructure is the focus of a new, interdisciplinary study led by geologists at The Florida State University.

"Our hypothesis is that the historic storm record, which extends back only about 150 years, isn't a reliable indicator of true storm frequency, but the long-term geologic record is," said Joseph F. Donoghue, an associate professor of geology at Florida State University and the study's lead investigator. "This project is crucial because the rates of change in environmental parameters predicted for the near future are much greater than those of the past several millennia. For example, some of the worst-case sea-level rise scenarios predicted for the near future have not been experienced by the coastal system for more than 8,000 years."

[Americans Are Still Buying Gas-Guzzlers, But Here Are 7 Signs That the Market for Green Transport Is Exploding](#)

More and more Americans are finding other ways to get around in greener fashion, from Smart Cars to Vespas.

[Sharon Astyk: Whither Peak Oil?](#)

What's funny is that the people who got it right - the ones who described what would actually most likely occur, seem to have been not the technical specialists, but the non-technical analysts who presented the material to the general public. Richard Heinberg warned everyone in pretty much every book he wrote that what we could expect would not be consistent price signals, but "extreme volatility" - prices rising and collapsing, with complex results playing out in the financial arena. Jim Kunstler may have gotten a bunch of things wrong (still no Pirates in Seattle) in *The Long Emergency*, but his refusal to single peak oil out as a sole root cause was absolutely on target - it was just one of several urgent factors that are driving us forward. In his analysis of how collapse proceeds, Dmitry Orlov observed that only rarely do we correctly articulate the causes of collapse - instead, it takes on a life of its own.

I've noticed that there is a tendency for people who come at this through the numbers and data to listen to those who offer big-picture analysis, to praise them for their analysis, but honestly, not to really, seriously believe what they say. That is, I think there's a tendency to assume that there will be time at least for their pet projects, that the most important part of our crisis won't be the messy, fuzzy parts that are hard to analyze - the finances, the politics, the human reactions - but the tidy bits that can be neatly graphed. And thus, there's shock when it turns out that the system is messy.

[Iran Oct gasoline import down 20 pct vs Sep -trade](#)

DUBAI, Oct 5 (Reuters) - Iran's October gasoline imports are expected to drop 20 percent versus the previous month, even as the Islamic Republic seeks to raise more cash for fuel imports for the rest of the year, traders said on Tuesday.

Tehran will import around 102,120 barrels per day (bpd) of gasoline this month or about 12 cargoes, down from about 15 cargoes seen in September, traders said. They did not immediately link the lower exports to a shortage of funds.

"The lower volumes purchased are not a clear indication that Tehran is scaling back on international purchases," a trader said.

"What they could be doing right now is stepping back to assess the current situation with regards to all the noise going on about sanctions."

[Iran needs \\$6.5 bln more for fuel imports-report](#)

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iran needs an additional \$6.5 billion to help pay for imports of gasoline and diesel fuel during the 2009-10 budget year, a senior Oil Ministry official said in remarks published on Tuesday.

Deputy Oil Minister in charge of planning, Ebrahim Radafzun, said the ministry was preparing a draft supplementary budget bill to be sent to the government during the current week, business daily Donya Eqtesad reported.

[Alaska's Oil Tax: Is It Driving Away or Attracting Investment?](#)

Alaska officials say the state's 3-year-old net profits production tax, and a package of exploration and capital investment incentives that go with it, are bringing new companies to the state and stimulating exploration.

These have resulted in discoveries and new fields being developed, they say.

[Oil and Gas Drilling Off Florida Coast? Lawmaker's Plan Spurs Debate](#)

With the fight over drilling anchored in federal waters, environmentalists had little inkling anybody would have the audacity to invite rigs into state waters within sight of sunbathers. Reaction to Cannon's call to drill that close to shore has included a sense of betrayal and a measure of disbelief.

[Natgas Production Increases while Oil Output Falls](#)

Some of the world's largest producers of petroleum are noticing serious dips in their national output.

In fact, Norway - Europe's second largest exporter of oil is only producing 1.91 million barrels per day...compared to 3.3 million bbl/d in 2000 and 2.2 million bbl/d in 2008.

In 2010, the decline in production is expected to continue down to 1.62 million bbl/d.

This is due to the fact that a majority of Norway's best petroleum reserves having already been tapped. In fact, the country reached peak production in 2003.

[Libya Govt Grants Cabinet More Power Over Oil Sector](#)

Libyan government encroachment into its oil sector prompted the resignation of the

country's top oil official in late August, after the government gave greater powers over the industry to a group headed by the Libyan cabinet, a person familiar with the matter told Zawya Dow Jones this week.

[Natural gas: Cleaner fuel deserves attention](#)

Who knew?

The potential of natural gas to provide many decades of relatively clean power for homes and industry, to power vehicles and help clean up the atmosphere at the same time has been a well-kept secret.

[Which is greener: Portland or New York? \(guess again\)](#)

One of them is famously green. Lots of urban wilderness. An expanding light rail system. Bikes everywhere. Enviro-friendly buildings, some with grassy roofs. Drive 90 minutes one way, you're at the mountains. Ninety minutes the other way, you're standing in the ocean.

The other is notoriously filthy. Don't even ask why the sidewalks are so sticky. Or why the air smells like that. Tens of millions of residents, half of whom seem to be swearing at the other half, loudly, in the middle of the night. Enough neon to obliterate the stars, even on a clear night. The sky has a distinct texture during the day: It's kind of yellow, and entirely man-made.

These two cities are, respectively, Portland and New York.

One is far more environmentally sustainable than the other. And it's almost certainly not the one you're thinking of.

[Making Meters Smarter, Home by Home](#)

California's PG&E is installing two-way meters in 5 million homes, but consumers aren't yet convinced it will save them money.

[A Code Too Far: *Building codes have finally gone too far*](#)

People are ingenious in finding ways to get around uncooperative systems. One of the code council members told a story about office workers putting a bag of ice on a sophisticated, supercilious thermostat in order to call for more heat, and I am sure it's true. I've never heard of an energy conservation study on how real people interact with building technology. I work with excellent consulting engineers, but their training focuses on theory, gadgets and codes. As an architect, my training is to think about how

people interact with buildings and their systems. The best engineered system is useless if it doesn't take into account the human factor.

[Don't blame the milk farmers for world hunger](#)

The reason behind the 2007 food crisis was not a shortage of food on the planet, but the biofuel stimulants rich countries introduced. The high food prices of that year put an abrupt end to the steady decline in malnourished people in the world and boosted their number to over one billion. And while biofuel was long thought to be an environmentally-friendly alternative to fossil fuel that would help combat climate change, many now consider it to be at the root of the current food crisis because, in reality, it created a new, profitable market for crops.

[The Coming Energy Revolution](#)

Food producer Cargill is taking a carving knife to its electricity bills. At a plant in Springdale, Ark., where the company handles about 50,000 turkeys a day, electricity bills run more than \$2 million a year. But Cargill thinks it can cleave \$680,000 from the total by using its own generators on high-demand days.

The secret behind this money-saving plan lies in what's known as the smart grid—a wholesale revamp of the system that distributes energy to homes and businesses around the country. Government bodies and utility providers are in the early stages of this multibillion-dollar upgrade to transform the existing grid into a two-way network where power and information flow in both directions between the utility and the customer, not just from the provider to the user.

[Kuwait delays plan to boost oil capacity to 2030](#)

(AP:KUWAIT CITY) Kuwait's oil minister says his country is delaying plans to boost output capacity to 4 million barrels per day by a decade because of weakness in the market.

[Kuwait Says OPEC to Hold Quotas, Sees Oil at \\$60-\\$80](#)

(Bloomberg) -- OPEC is likely to maintain oil production levels when it meets next in Angola in December and prices may stay near today's level, Kuwait's oil minister said.

"I don't expect any output change in December," Sheikh Ahmad al-Sabah told reporters in Kuwait today. "This year, impossible. This year, no way," Sheikh Ahmed said when asked if he foresees OPEC raising output this year.

[Oil jumps above \\$71 on dollar shake-up](#)

LONDON (Reuters) -- Oil prices rose more than \$1 to above \$71 a barrel on Tuesday, helped by declining dollar following a report that Gulf Arab states were in talks to replace the U.S. dollar with a basket of currencies in oil trading.

The report was swiftly denied by senior officials from leading oil producers Saudi Arabia, Russia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

[Saudi Bank Governor Denies Talks to Replace Dollar](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Saudi Arabia hasn't held talks with China and other countries on dropping the dollar as the currency for pricing oil, Saudi Central Bank Governor Muhammad al-Jasser said, denying a report in the U.K.'s Independent newspaper.

The Independent report is "absolutely incorrect" and there has been "absolutely nothing" of that nature discussed between Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, and other countries, al-Jasser told reporters in Istanbul, where he's attending an International Monetary Fund summit. The dollar pared losses after his remarks.

[Long-term power of oil is open to doubt](#)

Analysts who talked about "peak oil" were once derided as fantasists or simpletons. But more people are starting to use this language, even if they do not always mean it in the sense of dwindling reserves in the ground.

Deutsche Bank is publishing research today that focuses more on the idea of peaking demand rather than supply.

If the 20th century was the age of oil, then the 21st will be the age of electricity, says Deutsche, thanks to the arrival of the electric car. Oil demand will peak in 2016 but in the meantime prices will surge to \$175 per barrel, again not due to lack of reserves but government-induced distortions in the market.

[Oil Back on the \\$100 Track](#)

We are initiating our coverage of the crude oil market, with Brent price forecasts of \$85/bbl for 2010, \$100/bbl for 2011 and \$110/bbl for 2012. Our long-term forecast (2015+) is \$90/bbl, based on the expected marginal cost of Canadian oil sands (now the world's second largest oil reserves).

We believe the oil market will move back into deficit in 2010 as global GDP growth recovers to about 3% Year-on-year, resulting in a 2.4% Year-on-year increase in oil

demand to 86.5mbpd. This is modestly higher than the latest IEA forecast of 85.7mbpd, and almost entirely due to our more positive view of growth in Asian demand. Additionally, we expect further deficits in 2011-12.

[BG-Led Kazakh Oilfield Expansion Is 'Under Question'](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The BG Group Plc and Eni SpA-led planned expansion of the Karachaganak oilfield is "under question," Lyazzat Kiinov, Kazakhstan's deputy energy minister, said in Almaty today. Talks are still continuing and the next phase of the development may not take off, Kiinov said. The partners are examining plans to boost production from the field, BG's largest project in Kazakhstan.

[The Other Side of the Bakken](#)

Much of this story revolves around peak oil.

I'll let my readers make up their own minds concerning when a global peak in oil production will take place. Some believe it won't occur for another 5 to 10 years. . . some even push the date back 30 years. . . still, many of you think it's already passed.

Whatever your opinion on the subject, there exists one cold, hard truth that none of us can deny: Oil production in the U.S. peaked nearly four decades ago.

[The Challenging Incongruity of Cheap Oil](#)

Expecting or wanting oil prices to be "low or moderate" is at best incongruous, and at worst naive in the current economic, financial and political context.

[Kunstler: World War Three Anybody?](#)

This is a dangerous situation. I'm not so sure that Israel could launch an effective attack on Iran's nuclear infrastructure, but it might try anyway, especially if a US-backed sanctions effort fails to coalesce quickly. I'm not sure Israel would seek permission from the US to do this, though the US would certainly be tasked with defending the shipping lanes in the Persian Gulf. Iran might succeed in sinking more than a couple of US ships-of-the-line with sunburn missiles and other toys, and this would lead to the bigger danger of oil supplies being choked off to the rest of the world. The US air response would be impressive, but possibly not effective against hardened targets. The leaders of Iran might exult even if the Iranian people were swept into a maelstrom. I imagine that what followed would be a very extravagant military frenzy amounting to World War Three, with European air forces and navies dragged in, with Hezbollah and Syria striking back at Israel, India and Pakistan possibly incinerating each other, and mayhem galore among the bystanders in Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Afghanistan. There could easily

be internal mischief in the UK, France, and Germany from angry immigrant populations, and "sleepers" could work some overdue hoodoo in the USA. I don't know what Turkey would do, but it could be the biggest beneficiary of a bad regional meltdown, providing the only effective governance what remains in the region. China and Japan would probably just gape at the spectacle in wonder and nausea from the sidelines as they saw their energy supplies for years-to-come go up in flames.

The G-20 nations would be crippled as global oil supplies were choked off indefinitely. And if anyone -- Iran, or its friends inside the Kingdom -- managed to pull off a stunt such as blowing up the Ras Tanura oil terminal -- then a darkness will spread across places that were used to being lighted and they will stay dark a long time.

[Oil's Trend-Line Key to \\$75, Barclays Says: Technical Analysis](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Crude oil futures may surpass this year's \$75 a barrel high if prices for the most active contract close above their 100-day moving average and a six-month trend-line, according to technical analysis by Barclays Capital.

November crude oil on the New York Mercantile Exchange has settled above its 100-day rolling mean each day for the past week. While this signals potential for gains, for prices to rally the contract must also close over a line connecting the lowest points between February and July, Barclays said.

[Iran Poised to Reduce Oil Prices in November After Saudi Cuts](#)

(Bloomberg) -- National Iranian Oil Co. is set to reduce the official selling price of its main Iranian Light crude oil to be supplied next month to Asia after Saudi Arabia cut prices yesterday.

[Total, GDF Suez to Buy Stakes in Kazakhstan Gas Field](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Total SA, Europe's third-largest oil company, and GDF Suez SA agreed to buy stakes in the Caspian Sea Khvalynskoye natural gas field from Kazakhstan's state-run oil and gas company and help fund development.

Total agreed to purchase a 17 percent stake and GDF Suez will acquire 8 percent from KazMunaiGaz National Co., Total Chief Executive Officer Christophe de Margerie told reporters in Astana today. Russia's OAO Lukoil owns 50 percent of the field.

[ONGC May Buy Stake in Iran's South Pars Gas Field](#)

(Bloomberg) -- India's Oil & Natural Gas Corp. is in talks with Iran's state-owned

Petropars Ltd. to buy a stake in South Pars, the country's largest natural gas field, as it seeks to offset declining production at its aging domestic wells.

ONGC is looking to acquire "some" stake in Phase 12 of South Pars "since we already have an initial agreement with Petropars," R.S. Butola, managing director of ONGC Videsh Ltd., the overseas investment unit of India's largest energy explorer, said in a telephone interview in New Delhi today.

[Aramco team plots energy savings at Berri gas plant](#)

An energy-assessment team for Saudi Aramco has systematically analyzed the interaction between process and utility systems at the company's Berri gas plant and identified realistic and achievable energy-saving opportunities for the plant.

This effort resulted in a number of energy-saving initiatives, which the team prioritized for implementation with a "road-map" strategy.

[Cool NE summer softened demand for electricity](#)

BOSTON—Electricity use dropped nearly 6 percent in New England in the summer of 2009, a result of cool temperatures and an economic recession that drove down demand, the power grid operator ISO said Monday.

[Danish secrets of renewable energy](#)

Danes pay the highest energy prices in the world. Most of the reason is high government taxes, I'm told. Most of the tax money goes to subsidize the renewable energy industry, with a little left over for programs to educate the public on energy conservation. The government here signed on to the Kyoto Protocol years ago and committed to reducing greenhouse gases. The treaty is being renegotiated here in December.

Unemployment is shockingly low, at about 3.5 percent. And that's with a recent rise.

A unionized, skilled worker here makes about \$35 an hour, working a 37-hour week. With that shorter week, however, comes flexibility. Your boss might ask you to work a few extra hours here and there, and not be too generous when it comes to overtime pay. People pay income taxes of 45 or more percent, but health care comes with it. The sales tax is 25 percent. There's no minimum wage.

It's unclear why the attitudes here are different when it comes to renewable energy versus fossil fuels like coal. People, or at least government and business leaders, seem to have accepted that the world needs to take steps (however expensive and painful) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which scientists say contribute to global warming and climate change.

[Free land offer mostly fails in small Alaska town](#)

The March 2007 giveaway prompted thousands of calls from around the world. By the day of the land grab, 44 waited in line. Many camped out in weather as cold as minus-25 for a shot at the 1.3-acre lots, which went to the first 26 people to claim them and put down nonrefundable \$500 deposits.

Under the rules, winning applicants were supposed to build a house measuring at least 1,000 square feet within two years.

Many of the winners, however, never came back or communicated with the town, even to respond to formal letters asking what their intentions were, City Clerk Darla Coghill said. She still hears daily from others interested in getting some free land, but she tells them Anderson is out of that business these days.

She thinks most outsiders couldn't cut living in a place where the nearest gasoline and groceries are a 20-mile drive away.

"It's like a TV show," she said. "It all looks like fun and games until you get here."

[Thai villagers in bid to halt disappearing coast](#)

BANG KHUN THIEN, Thailand (Reuters) – Some villagers use bamboo fencing. Others plant mangroves. And some do both to fight back against erosion transforming centuries-old communities on the Gulf of Thailand.

Only a half hour drive south of Bangkok, coastal regions already show alarming signs of erosion: electricity poles, once on land, are submerged in parts of Bang Khun Thien, a district on the outskirts of Bangkok.

[Economists Join to Say: We Can Afford a World Climate Policy](#)

America's largest network of independent climate economists has issued a major new report showing that the more aggressive world leaders are in curbing world carbon emissions, the greater the economic benefits will be.

The new report is co-authored by researchers from universities and think-tanks across the country, and it is designed to inform major initiatives including the Waxman-Markey climate legislation before

[Aviation to Be 'Role Model' on Emissions Cooperation, IATA Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Aviation can be a “role model” for other industries on emissions cuts, the International Air Transport Association said as it battles to secure worldwide pollution regulations instead of a patchwork of national rules.

“We need a global sectoral approach to reducing aviation emissions,” IATA’s Director General Giovanni Bisignani said in a statement today. “Aviation will be a role model for industry cooperation with the UN in driving important change.”

[Once-mighty caribou herds dwindle, global warming blamed](#)

ON THE PORCUPINE RIVER TUNDRA, Yukon Territory (AP) — Here on the endlessly rolling and tussocky terrain of northwest Canada, where man has hunted caribou since the Stone Age, the vast antlered herds are fast growing thin. And it’s not just here.

Across the tundra 1,500 kilometers (1,000 miles) to the east, Canada’s Beverly herd, numbering more than 200,000 a decade ago, can barely be found today.

Halfway around the world in Siberia, the biggest aggregation of these migratory animals, of the dun-colored herds whose sweep across the Arctic’s white canvas is one of nature’s matchless wonders, has shrunk by hundreds of thousands in a few short years.

[Apple joins Chamber of Commerce exodus over climate change scepticism](#)

Apple has become the latest in a growing list of companies to quit the US Chamber of Commerce over its policies on climate change. In a letter to the chamber president, Thomas Donohue, Apple’s Catherine Novelli said she was frustrated by the hard-line stance the organisation had taken against the Environmental Protection Agency and draft climate legislation now before the Senate.

Novelli did not sugarcoat the exit. “We strongly object to the chamber’s recent comments opposing the EPA’s effort to limit greenhouse gases,” she wrote in the letter, released yesterday, adding: “Apple supports regulating greenhouse gas emissions, and it is frustrating to find the chamber at odds with us in this effort.” The company’s departure is effective immediately.

[Recession Eases Effort to Preserve Climate, IEA Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The economic crisis has made it easier to halt the growth in greenhouse gases released by power plants, factories and cars, the International Energy Agency said in a report that revised its forecasts from November.

Yearly emissions from energy use may peak at 30.9 billion tons “just before” 2020, the Paris-based agency said today in a report presented to United Nations climate negotiators in Bangkok. That’s 4.9 percent less than the IEA’s previous estimate of a

32.5 billion-ton peak in 2020. Both scenarios assume nations will adopt climate-protection measures.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 United States License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/).