



Drumbeat: October 23, 2009

Posted by [Leanan](#) on October 23, 2009 - 9:07am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Obama says U.S. must win clean-energy race](#)

Reporting from Washington - President Obama, citing a global competition for development of clean-energy alternatives to oil, insisted today that the United States must win that race and called on Congress to enact legislation also intended to curb climate change.

"The nation that wins this competition is going to be the nation that leads the world," Obama told an audience at one of the nation's premier research universities in Massachusetts. "And I want America to be that nation -- it's that simple."

Obama praised "a legacy of innovation" that "taps into something that is essential about America."

"Even in the darkest of times that this nation has seen, it has always sought a brighter horizon," the president said at the MIT in Cambridge, Mass. "We have always been about innovation. We have always been about discovery. That is part of our DNA."

[Exxon Executive Stomped in Dispute Over \\$15 Billion Gas Project](#)

(Bloomberg) -- An Exxon Mobil Corp. executive overseeing the company's \$15 billion liquefied-natural-gas project in Papua New Guinea was beaten and stomped by a mob of 50 people in a dispute over landowner contracts.

Noel Wright, Exxon Mobil's development officer overseeing plans to build a gas-export complex in the South Pacific nation, has returned to "normal duties" after the Oct. 20 attack outside his hotel in the capital, Port Moresby, said Margaret Ross, a spokeswoman for the Irving, Texas-based company.

Ross declined to provide details on Wright's injuries, which the Post-Courier newspaper in Port Moresby said were severe enough to require hospitalization. Wright was "severely punched" in the face, knocked to the pavement, kicked and stepped on during the incident, the newspaper reported on Oct. 21. The attackers' attempt to haul Wright away in a waiting vehicle failed when police intervened, the Post-Courier said.

[Mexico Sept oil data point to stabilizing output](#)

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Mexican oil production fell 4.5 percent in September from a year ago but was higher than August, lending further support to the government's claim that oil production levels are stabilizing after years of decline.

Mexico produced 2.599 million barrels per day of crude in September, 4.5 percent less than a year ago but up from 2.542 million bpd in August, state oil company Pemex [PEMX.UL] said on Friday.

[Snubbed at top table, China chases oil M&A crumbs](#)

HONG KONG (Reuters) - China's state-owned oil giants are likely to lose out to global rivals in a race for top energy assets, as they lack experience and hit a protectionist wall, forcing them to settle for smaller, but riskier buys.

[Chesapeake hits shale output records](#)

US gas giant Chesapeake Energy said production in its so-called "big 4" shale gas fields reached record highs during the third quarter.

Chesapeake's gross daily natural gas output from the Barnett Shale in Texas reached more than a billion cubic feet of natural gas per day.

[US natural gas rig count climbs 4 to 725 for week](#)

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The number of rigs drilling for natural gas in the United States climbed by four this week to 725, according to a report on Friday by oil services firm Baker Hughes in Houston.

The U.S. natural gas drilling rig count has gained in 12 of the last 14 weeks after bottoming at 665 on July 17, its lowest level since May 3, 2002, when there were 640 gas rigs operating.

But the rig count is still down sharply since peaking above 1,600 in September of last year, standing at 804 rigs, or 53 percent, below the same week in 2008.

[Suncor seeks to speed clean up of oil sands](#)

Suncor Energy Inc. SU-T says it has a promising new technology that will turn tailing ponds near its oil sands operations in Northern Alberta into a solid landscape in a matter of weeks, thereby speeding the reclamation process significantly.

Tailings ponds pollution has been a hot issue for years because of the impact on the environment, but it became more prominent in the public mind in 2008, when 500 ducks died in a toxic oil sands sludge at the Syncrude Canada oil sands tailings pond in northern Alberta.

[Two-wheel troublemaking: Have motorists let bicyclists' 'rights' go too far?](#)

Have bicyclists "rights" gone too far?

For a decade, urban bicyclists have become more brash. In some cities, groups like Critical Mass organized mass rush-hour bike rides that tied traffic in knots, delaying commuters rides' home by minutes or hours. They are hardly tactics that will win sympathy from drivers.

In the aftermath and as their numbers have increased, bikers' have become enboldened to take over the road. That is, instead of riding to the right or on the shoulder, some are now riding in the center of the lane. Two incidents underscore how the they are putting themselves in danger, both from from who hit them by accident and in a case in Los Angeles, by a motorist who is alleged to have tried to make them crash on purpose:

[Eyes on oil output as majors battle refining slump](#)

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - This quarter's earnings from oil majors like Exxon Mobil Corp and BP Plc will put the focus on their integrated structure as they bank on rebounding oil prices to offset dismal refining results.

Refineries are struggling as demand remains limp and the cost of their input - oil - keeps rising. That places the onus on the majors' exploration and production arms, leading to more scrutiny of new wells due to come on line in the months ahead.

Few anticipate a dramatic recovery in global demand for oil products next year, so oil majors also face tough decisions on what to do about surplus refining capacity, as do the dedicated refiners such as Valero Energy Corp

[EPA cracks the whip on coal-fired power plants](#)

In a move praised by activists as a way to save lives but criticized by industry as potentially driving up electricity costs, the Obama administration has agreed to adopt rules reducing toxic emissions of mercury, soot and other chemicals from all coal-fired power plants in the U.S.

[EnCana Gas Business May Sell \\$1 Billion in Assets Per Year](#)

(Bloomberg) -- EnCana Corp., which is splitting into a natural-gas producer and a separate oil company, may sell \$500 million to \$1 billion in gas assets per year that aren't profitable enough.

[Fire rages at Puerto Rico fuel depot](#)

FBI Agent Shawn Deturn confirmed that authorities were looking into graffiti found on at least one San Juan tunnel that mentioned the fire. The spray-painted message at the Minillas Tunnel in San Juan said: "Boom, fire, RIP, Gulf, Soul, ACNF." A second tunnel was reported to have the same message. Officials do not know who or what ACNF is, Deturn said.

Caribbean Petroleum owns the Gulf Oil brand in Puerto Rico.

San Juan police said they activated all units: explosives, transit, tactical operations and SWAT.

['Perspectives on Energy Policy' report now available](#)

LIVERMORE, Calif. — The United States should create a high-level independent council to analyze and communicate critical issues to energy policymakers and the public, a group of 27 leaders in academia, government, and the private sector recommends in a new report.

The report, "Perspectives on Energy Policy: Security, Economics, and the Environment," is the result of a workshop convened by Sandia National Laboratories and the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) Sustainability Solutions Institute (SSI) in March.

The report also recommends that policymakers focus their attention on outcomes and values rather than on mandating specific technical solutions.

"At no time in our nation's history have the challenges associated with securing America's energy future been so paramount and the need to develop systems solutions so critical if we are to find effective solutions to address the energy-climate nexus," said Les Shephard, Sandia's vice president for energy, security and defense technologies. "To assure this future we must find more effective approaches to fully couple the energy policy community with the science and technology community to provide informed policy decisions that will benefit the global community. This report is one small but important step in moving in this direction."

[Iran rejects UN-brokered nuclear deal](#)

Iran has failed to accept a UN-drafted plan for it to cut a stockpile of nuclear fuel that

the West fears could be used for weapons, instead calling for responses to its own proposal.

The deal, proposed by the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA), has already been approved by the other parties: the United States, Russia and France.

[Mexico: An oil nation in crisis](#)

Oil is at the heart of the Mexican economy. Profits on its extraction are the country's number one revenue, accounting for approximately 40 percent of Mexico's total revenues. Due to the decline in the price of oil that began last year with the escalation of the global recession, Mexico's oil-dependent economy has suffered grievously. Prior to the sag in oil prices, when other oil producing countries were taking advantage of the tremendous peak in prices, Mexico was hit particularly hard; government officials reported that last year's drop in oil production cost the Mexican government an estimated US\$20 billion in lost revenues. This year's plunge in oil prices has resulted in oil export revenues being recorded at only \$1.25 billion per month for the first seven months of 2009, a fall from an average of \$1.44 billion per month in 2008. The falling prices and production rate continue to damage the economy, and many blame the Mexican government for its failure to channel new investments in to various oil-producing fields, along with its mismanagement of revenues. Mexico feels the pressure to convert its oil profits into public spending in order to generate immediate results and to keep a lid on the country's mounting social tensions; instead it sometimes foolishly refuses to put aside some of the profits to ensure financial stability.

[Exelon third quarter profit falls 10 percent on weak demand, cool summer](#)

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Power generator Exelon said Friday that the weak economy and the cool summer dragged down its third-quarter profit.

Chicago-based Exelon, one of the nation's largest power companies with 5.4 million customers, said that its earnings for the quarter ended Sept. 30 fell 10 percent from a year ago.

[Toronto Hydro approved to test wind turbine prospects at Bluffs](#)

Toronto Hydro Corp. has been given the green light to build an offshore wind research platform about 1.2 kilometres off the Scarborough Bluffs, part of a controversial plan to erect dozens of wind turbines in Lake Ontario.

[Blast, fire rip through Puerto Rico oil facility](#)

Residents jammed island gas stations over fears that a gasoline shortage might result,

but Fortuno said the island had a week's supply.

After the explosion, the fire and smoke could be seen for miles around and smoke at one point partially blocked a major expressway leading into San Juan, as well as affecting other roads.

Local FBI agents said they would be assisting authorities in investigating the cause of the explosion.

[A Harvest of Golf Courses From Vietnam's Farmland](#)

PHAN THIET, Vietnam — It may be the most capitalist enterprise in Communist Vietnam — by the rich and for the rich: a proliferation of golf courses that is displacing thousands of farmers and devouring the rice fields the country depends on.

[French farmers protest over price fall](#)

Thousands of farmers staged protests across France and blocked traffic for about two hours on a section of the Champs Elysees avenue in Paris to demand the government help them combat a plunge in food prices.

France's main farmers' union, FNSEA, estimated about 50,000 farmers with 7,000 tractors turned out around the country.

Depressed prices in the dairy sector have sparked protests across Europe this year, including a delivery boycott last month.

[Roofers, landscapers in a turf war over Chicago's rooftop gardens](#)

Rooftop gardens, like the one atop Chicago's City Hall, have roofers green with envy.

They want more of the work that is being done by commercial landscapers in the booming market to install green roofs on public and commercial buildings in the Chicago area. But the landscapers are standing their ground.

[Rubin: \\$100/barrel oil will return by Memorial Day](#)

Oil prices will reach \$100/barrel by the end of this winter, and we'll see a return to \$1.40/litre (\$4/gallon in the US) gasoline prices by Memorial Day, says Jeff Rubin, formerly chief economist with CIBC World Markets and author of *Why Your World is About to get a Whole Lot Smaller*.

Rubin, who will be speaking to the Halifax Chamber of Commerce November 4, also

casts doubt on the logic behind the Atlantic Gateway concept.

In his book, Rubin argues that the defining feature of the world economy is the price of oil. High oil prices caused the American financial meltdown, not the other way around, says Rubin, and high oil prices are sure to return once the recession is over.

As he explains it, the underlying issue is that we have either just reached, or are just about to reach, "peak oil"---the point where total oil production declines, no matter the price for oil. As a result, global trade will necessarily have to diminish, and we'll return to the local economies of the past.

[Why \\$80 a Barrel is Now the Support Level for Oil](#)

The bottom line is this: Oil is going higher. It might not be tomorrow, it might not be next week, but its upward trend is unmistakable.

One of my favorite authors on the economics of limited resources is Herman Daly.

Herman E. Daly was a Senior Economist in the Environment Department of the World Bank before he became a professor at the Maryland School of Public Affairs. You may be familiar with him from the journal, Ecological Economics. He is co-founder and associate editor.

Daly eloquently lays out a bullish case for scarce resources, such as oil, that is difficult to deny. He points out that there's absolutely no way we can generate more fossil fuels. We'd have to be immortal and extremely patient, because it takes several million years for geological forces to "make" new oil supplies.

[Total warns of energy insecurity](#)

Total, the French oil group, has warned politicians that they risk accelerating an oil supply crunch if they enact environmental policies that deter investment in oil and gas before enough viable alternatives are available.

"Governments need to assess the needs of this planet in terms of energy and stop saying we will develop solar and then not have enough," Christophe de Margerie, Total's chief executive, said in an interview with the Financial Times. "Carbon is not the enemy; carbon is life."

[Crude Oil Falls From One-Year High as OPEC May Increase Output](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Crude oil fell from a one-year high on speculation that OPEC members will agree to increase production at a December meeting.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries may raise output to keep oil in a range of \$75 to \$80 a barrel, Secretary- General, Abdalla El-Badri said in London today. The 12-member group last agreed to increase targets in September 2007.

“OPEC will want to prevent prices from rising too high,” said Lawrence Eagles, global head of commodities research at JPMorgan Chase & Co. in New York, on a conference call. “OPEC has a great incentive not to see the transport sector become less dependent on oil.”

[Cold snap helps drive price of heating fuels up](#)

NEW YORK - Sparked by a cold snap in the northeast, home heating fuels are getting more expensive even though supplies are well above normal for this time of year.

Heating oil futures spiked with crude oil contracts last week. Retail prices followed, surging an average of 10.2 cents per gallon for residential customers on Monday, according to an Energy Information Administration report released Thursday.

[Canada's oil patch, mines tempt Asian giants](#)

CALGARY/TORONTO (Reuters) - Canada's energy and mining sectors are riding a wave of acquisitions by Asian companies that are flush with cash and hungry for resources to fuel rapidly expanding economies, a trend not expected to let up soon.

[Can anyone really afford NOT to be invested in at least some oil stocks?](#)

Oil provides over 97% of the fuel required for the world's transportation needs including planes, trains, automobiles and shipping. This figure has changed very little in recent decades, despite the plethora of alternative energy sources that generate increased interest from producers and investors whenever there's an oil price spike.

And despite the worldwide recession and record high fuel prices -- both Chinese and Indian oil consumption still grew last year. The US Energy Information Administration predicts global demand for oil to increase from its current level of 84.5 million barrels per day to 99.5 million by 2015.

[Schlumberger Net Income Falls After Oil Prices Tumble](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Schlumberger Ltd., the world's largest oilfield-services provider, said third-quarter profit fell 48 percent as a drop in energy prices forced producers to slash spending.

Net income fell to \$787 million, or 65 cents a share, from \$1.53 billion, or \$1.25, a year earlier, Schlumberger said today in a statement. The company, based in Houston and Paris, was expected to earn 61 cents a share, the average of nine analyst estimates compiled by Bloomberg. Sales dropped 25 percent to \$5.43 billion.

[Using CO2 to Expand Low-Carbon Oil Production...and Other Developments](#)

S&A Resource Report editor Matt Badiali covers a broad expanse of ideas as well as geography in this exclusive interview with The Energy Report. He discusses the immense potential of Iraqi oil, and the smaller but surer resurrection of old oil fields in Illinois. In addition to sharing views about areas within the oil industry worthy of investors' attention, he talks about the promise—and problems—associated with major oil finds that have been making the news. These discoveries may postpone peak oil by a decade or two, but they will take a long time to bring to production, too. Matt also points out how data reporting metrics (BOE) manage to hide the extent of dwindling oil production.

[Indonesia Allows Foreign Oil Firms to Sell Subsidized Fuel](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Indonesia has for the first time appointed foreign and local private oil companies to distribute diesel and petrol in the domestic market from next year.

[Puerto Rico Refinery Ablaze Following Two Explosions](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Caribbean Petroleum Corp.'s refinery and tank farm at Bayamon, Puerto Rico is on fire after two explosions at the site today.

Firefighters are still fighting the blaze, the cause of which is still unknown, according to a spokeswoman for the local Guaynabo police force, who was speaking by telephone and asked to not be identified by name. She said the explosions happened at about 12:30 a.m. local time.

[Woodside Sticks With LNG Plans as Chevron Snares Gas](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Woodside Petroleum Ltd., Australia's second-biggest oil and gas producer, said it is sticking with plans to expand its Pluto project after two potential suppliers opted to feed gas to Chevron Corp.'s rival venture instead.

[Reliance Ind buying costly gas for refinery - lawyer](#)

NEW DELHI (Reuters) – Energy major Reliance Industries is paying more to import

liquefied natural gas to power its refinery in western India than if it were allowed to receive gas from its own field, a lawyer for the firm said on Thursday.

Mukesh Ambani-controlled Reliance Industries, India's top conglomerate, and Reliance Natural Resources, led by younger brother Anil Ambani, are fighting a legal battle over terms of a deal to sell natural gas to Reliance Natural at below the price set by the government.

[U.K., Belgium LNG Imports Soar to Record, PanEurasian Says](#)

Bloomberg) -- Liquefied natural gas imports into the Western European market by the U.K. and Belgium probably reached a record this year as new plants in Qatar boosted supplies, a consultant said.

The U.K.'s purchases in October probably reached an all- time high of about 870,000 metric tons, or equivalent to about 40 billion cubic feet of gas sent into the grid, PanEurasian Enterprises said in an e-mail yesterday. Belgium's terminal at Zeebrugge may send out as much gas in October as a record set earlier this year, according to the report.

[A Swamp Full of Dollars, By Michael Peel; Crude World, By Peter Maass; The Squeeze, By Tom Bower](#)

At the beginning of his book about "pipelines and paramilitaries at Nigeria's oil frontier", Michael Peel travels to a place believed to be the source of oil in the island nation of Sao Tome and Principe, off the coast. He manages to get to the spot where some day an oil company will begin drilling. Once that happens, Sao Tome's bucolic charms will vanish – but the people there don't seem to mind. They can't wait for oil. They want to become like Nigeria.

Yes, Nigeria. The reserves of sub-Saharan Africa's largest oil producer were deemed sufficiently important for the Pentagon to create a special African command. With the Middle East unstable – particularly after the war in Iraq – it became important for the US to secure supplies from Nigeria. But as Karl Maier, former correspondent of The Independent, accurately showed in his 2002 book This House Has Fallen, Nigeria was anything but stable.

[The United States: Land of the Setting Sun](#)

There are more than the two extreme possibilities of oil production that are mentioned – one being that oil is produced by decayed plants and animals (when it's gone it's gone) and the other being oil is produced by the earth constantly (it's gushing out from the center of the earth and we'll never run out). *I think that oil is being produced constantly by natural processes in the earth, but not at a rate necessary to sustain*

present oil consumption. So peak oil does exist because consumption is at a much higher rate than creation. However, in thousands of years — after man is either no longer here or has no use for energy generation via oil — oil will be plentiful again. Thus as a practical matter, we will run out of “producible” oil, but as a scientific fact we will find that oil is being produced by the earth.

[Nick Griffin top 10: Get the lowdown on the BNP leader](#)

He claimed in 2009 that "global warming is essentially a hoax". Speaking to the BBC he said that global warming “is being exploited by the liberal elite as a means of taxing and controlling us and the real crisis is peak oil”

[Prison time sought for Alaska corruption figure](#)

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Federal prosecutors say the former chief executive of a company that did construction work for oil companies should be sentenced to nearly four years in prison for offering bribes in exchange for legislation favorable to the petroleum industry.

[Feds designate polar bear habitat in Alaska](#)

WASHINGTON – The Obama administration said Thursday it is designating more than 200,000 square miles in Alaska and off its coast as "critical habitat" for polar bears, an action that could add restrictions to future offshore drilling for oil and gas.

[Oil spill 'massive' risk to Australian animals](#)

SYDNEY (AFP) – A massive oil and gas leak off Australia's northwest coast was killing seabirds and threatening thousands of marine animals, conservationists warned Friday.

Oil company PTTEP Australasia is preparing to make a fourth attempt at plugging the leaking Montara wellhead, which has been spewing oil, gas and condensate into the Timor Sea since August 21.

[Pennsylvania fines Cabot over drilling spills](#)

PHILADELPHIA (Reuters) - Pennsylvania has fined Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. (COG.N: Quote, Profile, Research) for three spills of a fluid used in natural gas drilling, amid concern about groundwater contamination, state regulators said on Thursday.

Cabot spilled about 8,000 gallons of LGC-35, a lubricant, in the rural community of Dimock, Susquehanna County, on Sept. 16 and 22. Natural gas drillers use the chemical

in a technique called hydraulic fracturing to obtain gas trapped in rock formations.

[TVA to buy 450 megawatts from Dakota wind turbines](#)

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – The Tennessee Valley Authority, looking outside the region to boost its renewable energy portfolio, said Thursday it will buy 450 megawatts of wind power capacity from the Great Plains.

[Vt. board to hold lottery for energy developers](#)

MONTPELIER, Vt. – Vermont utility regulators are doing something unusual. The Public Service Board is holding a lottery to see which solar and biomass power developers get to sell their power at above-market prices.

[California's Push for Electric Cars May Raise Costs for Power](#)

(Bloomberg) -- California's push to lead U.S. sales of electric cars may result in higher power rates for consumers in the state, as a growing number of rechargeable vehicles forces utilities to pay for grid upgrades.

[Space-based solar power can help on energy needs](#)

While it doesn't take a rocket scientist to appreciate solar power as an environmentally friendly source of energy, it will take that level of expertise to develop a practical, economic concept to collect the sun's radiance and relay this resource to Earth.

[Outlook from solar companies disappoints investors](#)

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - U.S. solar companies SunPower Corp and Akeena Solar Inc on Thursday posted results that topped Wall Street estimates, but offered little hope the market for the renewable energy source would rebound this year.

The two companies said the solar sector was seeing a slow improvement, but also admitted the industry has yet to overcome the oversupply problems that have driven prices for panels down by about 50 percent in the past 12 months.

[None Like It Hot](#)

Asher Miller, executive director of the Post-Carbon Institute, a global think tank that

counts McKibben and peak oil theorist Richard Heinberg among its fellows, looks at fossil fuels almost fondly, as in thoughtful reminiscence. "The big human story is that we won the lottery," Miller says. "We found this amazing energy source that fueled our society and changed it completely, giving us luxuries and altering the course of human history entirely. Can you blame us for going nuts over it?"

"But it's now a moot point. We're living in a difficult time. We're changing, and it's being dictated by climate. We have to be realistic, and we can't live the way we've been living."

[Asking the Right Questions: Why Invest in Clean Energy?](#)

I believe that the inconvenience and cost of dealing with the looming crises of climate change and peak oil are the main reasons that there continues to be a broad segment of the population intent on denying that they exist, despite the evidence to the contrary. As a human being, I find this endlessly frustrating. We're likely to continue burning coal and driving Hummers until some disaster forces us to reconsider the implications of our actions, even though the costs of dealing with the problems we are creating continue to escalate in the meantime.

[36 football fields deforested each minute: WWF](#)

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) – The equivalent of 36 football fields are being stripped from the world's forests each minute, the environmental group World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) said in a statement released here on Thursday.

The group, presenting its figures during a UN-organized World Forestry Congress held in the Argentine capital, called for "net deforestation of zero" by 2020.

[TelecoWork's 'Celebrate Green I.T.' at Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia -- A Green Success](#)

The program included a Celebrate Green I.T. success story, presented by Joe Tait, CIO of NMS Labs in Willow Grove. Guests listened to Joe's story of how he "greened" his company and saw more success because of it! Following Joe Tait, attendees thrilled over the performance troupe Quiet Riot.

They took the audience on a 4 billion year joyride through the History of Oil, bringing us to our present twin challenges: Peak Oil & Climate Change. Quiet Riot uses comedy, storytelling, music, and sound effects to create expressive and meaningful events.

[Looking Up](#)

Renewable energy is taking off. The Global Renewable Energy Forum that took place recently in Leon, Mexico, only two months before the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change, is recent evidence of its escalating momentum.

The event's organizer, the Industrial Development Organization of the United Nations (UNIDO), "aspires to a world of opportunity where progress is equitable, accessible, and sustainable and where the alleviation of poverty is considered a common aim and global responsibility." A large and perhaps impossible task, what with so many black swans on the horizon. (Climate change, peak oil, and world debt come to mind.)

[Adopt green tech by 2014 to avert climate calamity](#)

GREEN technologies can prevent catastrophic climate change, but only if we commit to them by 2014. Miss the deadline and we risk runaway global warming and economic meltdown.

That's the conclusion of a report published this week by the environment group WWF, which says green technologies will have to grow by 22 per cent each year for the next four decades. Such growth would be the "fastest industrial revolution witnessed in our history," says Kim Carstensen of WWF. The result would be a 63 per cent drop in emissions of key greenhouse gases between 1990 and 2050 - enough to prevent global warming exceeding the 2 °C limit agreed by the G8 industrial nations.

[Biofuels could increase greenhouse gases: US studies](#)

WASHINGTON (AFP) – US experts warn that rules governing biofuel production encourage deforestation and mean the technology is therefore a "false" method of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In a study to be published Friday in the US journal Science, a group of 13 scientists called for the rules, which contain a loophole exempting carbon dioxide emitted by bioenergy regardless of its source, to be overturned.

"The error is serious, but readily fixable," said lead researcher Timothy Searchinger of Princeton University.

[Satellites to help Kenyans insure against drought](#)

OSLO (Reuters) - Satellites measuring the greenness of Kenya from space are set to help insure livestock herders against droughts and mitigate the effects of climate change, experts said on Friday.

[Why the World Disagrees on Climate Change](#)

Mike Hulme, a professor at the University of East Anglia School of Environmental Sciences in Britain and a veteran climate adviser, has climbed way above the global warming debate to decode the nature of discord over climate change in a new book: "Why We Disagree About Climate Change."

[Dogs 'as bad for global warming as an SUV'](#)

According to *Time to Eat the Dog: The Real Guide to Sustainable Living* keeping a medium-sized dog has the same impact in the environment as driving a 4.6l Land Cruiser.

[Betting the Farm](#)

The ag lobby's response was simple and direct: They insisted that Waxman-Markey be changed to forbid federal agencies from considering indirect land-use changes when assessing the greenhouse gas footprint of ethanol. End of discussion.

The experts were agog. "This is not a close scientific call," wrote Michael O'Hare, a public policy professor at UC-Berkeley who's studied land-use issues extensively for the California Air Resources Board. "If we are willing to make stuff up and stifle the science with legislation like this, countries like India and China and the Europeans have no reason to get on board...It will be a catastrophe."

[Japan may weaken CO2 target if no global pact](#)

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan could weaken its target for a 25 percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 if all major emitters do not reach agreement on an ambitious global climate pact, the environment minister said on Friday.

[Obama 'ought to do a lot more' on climate: Pachauri](#)

STOCKHOLM (AFP) – US President Barack Obama should do more to push for a US climate deal, Rajendra Pachauri, the head of the Nobel Peace Prize winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said Thursday.

"I personally feel he ought to be doing a lot more," Pachauri told reporters after a debate on climate change in Stockholm, adding the president "really has to assert himself to see that the US passes legislation" prior to the Copenhagen summit.

[Poll: US belief in global warming is cooling](#)

WASHINGTON – Americans seem to be cooling toward global warming.

Just 57 percent think there is solid evidence the world is getting warmer, down 20 points in just three years, a new poll says. And the share of people who believe pollution caused by humans is causing temperatures to rise has also taken a dip, even as the U.S. and world forums gear up for possible action against climate change.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/23/world/europe/23degrees.html>

STOCKHOLM — Shopping for oatmeal, Helena Bergstrom, 37, admitted that she was flummoxed by the label on the blue box reading, “Climate declared: .87 kg CO₂ per kg of product.”

“Right now, I don’t know what this means,” said Ms. Bergstrom, a pharmaceutical company employee.

But if a new experiment here succeeds, she and millions of other Swedes will soon find out. New labels listing the carbon dioxide emissions associated with the production of foods, from whole wheat pasta to fast food burgers, are appearing on some grocery items and restaurant menus around the country.

[Freakonomics without the facts](#)

I thought I had read enough about Superfreakonomics and its horrifyingly ignorant chapter on climate change to prepare myself for the actual text. But nothing could prepare me for the assault on science, logic and the English language that is this excerpt.

Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner managed to pull together just over 43 pages on science they clearly don't understand, with contradictory assumptions, clichés and gimmicky analogies. The chapter reads like a student term paper, a compilation of various factoids accumulated over the semester but displaying no real grasp of the subject matter. The logical leaps between sentences and at times bizarre sentence structure make me wonder if they actually farmed this chapter out to an undergraduate.

[Update: Warming continues to affect far north](#)

WASHINGTON – Global warming is messing with the planet's thermostat.

That warning came Thursday from Richard Spinrad, head of research at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in releasing the annual update of science's Arctic report card.

Warming temperatures continue in the polar north, changing wind patterns, melting sea

ice and glaciers and affecting ocean and land life, the report said.



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