



Drumbeat: November 13, 2009

Posted by [Leanan](#) on November 13, 2009 - 9:06am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Oil dips to lowest level since October](#)

NEW YORK – Oil slid Friday to its lowest price in a month as investors started to pay more attention to a yearlong slump in American energy demand.

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conventional sources with sufficient energy from alternative sources to sustain industrial society at its present scale of operations. To achieve such a transition would require (1) a vast financial investment beyond society's practical abilities, (2) a very long time—too long in practical terms—for build-out, and (3) significant sacrifices in terms of energy quality and reliability.

[US natural gas rig count falls, first time in 4 wks](#)

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The number of rigs drilling for natural gas in the United States fell by six this week to 728, according to a report on Friday by oil services firm Baker Hughes in Houston.

It was only the third time in the last 17 weeks that the U.S. natural gas drilling rig count lost ground after bottoming at 665 on July 17, its lowest level since May 3, 2002, when there were 640 gas rigs operating.

[MMS Issues Final Offshore Activity Update Following Gulf Storm](#)

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) Continuity of Operations Plan team is concluding its activities related to Tropical Storm Ida. This is the final update of evacuation and shut-in production statistics for Tropical Storm Ida.

Based on data from offshore operator reports submitted as of 11:30 a.m. CST today, personnel have been evacuated from a total of 1 production platforms, equivalent to 0.1% of the 694 manned platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. Production platforms are the structures located offshore from which oil and natural gas are produced. These structures remain in the same location throughout a project's duration unlike drilling rigs which typically move from location to location.

[Anadarko-Independence Hub natgas platform ramps up](#)

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Anadarko Petroleum Corp said Friday production at the huge Independence Hub natural gas platform in the Gulf of Mexico had ramped up to pre-shut in levels of about 700 million cubic feet per day following Tropical Storm Ida.

[First Permits Sought to Drill in Marcellus Shale Deposits](#)

An Oklahoma-based energy company has applied for the first permits to drill for natural gas in Marcellus shale deposits in Western Maryland, the state Department of the Environment said Thursday.

[Governmental commission updates Shtokman field estimate](#)

MOSCOW (Itar-Tass) -- The Governmental Commission for Natural Resources has updated the Shtokman field estimate, Gazprom said on Friday.

The field's C1 reserves amount to 3.8 trillion cubic meters of gas and 53.3 million tonnes of gas condensate or 71% more than the previous C1+C2 estimate.

[Bulgaria to get gas from Azerbaijan](#)

SOFIA, Bulgaria—Bulgaria and Azerbaijan signed a deal Friday for the delivery of Caspian gas, which will mark the first easing of Bulgaria's dependence on supplies from Russia.

[Exxon, Chevron Likely to Lift 2010 Capital Spending](#)

Oil giants ExxonMobil Corp. and Chevron Corp. are expected to inch up their capital

spending in 2010 and continue their massive investments in major projects in an effort to lift production.

The increases, which would come amid an improved outlook of the global economy and hopes of sustained higher commodity prices, would sharply contrast with rival ConocoPhillips' decision to reduce 12% its next-year capital budget. Some analysts said this reduced level of spending will make it difficult for the Houston-based company to maintain production or continue with projects that require intense capital allocation.

[Suncor to Spend C\\$5.5 Billion in 2010 to Boost Output](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Suncor Energy Inc., which bought rival Petro-Canada in August, will spend C\$5.5 billion (\$5.2 billion) next year, partly to boost production from oil-sands projects such as Firebag.

[Chinese Downstream Oil Sector Entering a New Stage of Multi Player Competition](#)

The Chinese downstream oil sector began entering a new stage of development since early 2009, when CNOOC turned its first world-class refinery into operation in Guangdong Province. And Increasing market competition is also opening opportunities to active international oil companies. The new multi player competition scenario will no doubt produce significant influences on the Chinese downstream oil sector.

[Petrobras Tupi Well Reinforces Oil-Reserve Estimates](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Petroleo Brasileiro SA, Brazil's state-controlled oil producer, said additional drilling reinforced estimates that its offshore Tupi field may hold 5 billion to 8 billion barrels of recoverable light oil and natural gas.

Petrobras, as the company is known, said in a regulatory filing today that it finished drilling its fourth well in the area. The well is in 2,115 meters (6,900 feet) of water and about 265 kilometers (164 miles) off the coast of Rio de Janeiro.

[Is Solar Power Expensive or Competitive?](#)

"Solar is cheaper than coal today," asserts Jigar Shah, the founder of Sun Edison who now heads the Carbon War Room, a new nonprofit group.

This is a provocative statement, given that — as my colleague Matthew L. Wald reported this year — studies by the Electric Power Research Institute and elsewhere show that solar thermal technologies are far more expensive than coal, and photovoltaic rooftop solar panels, in turn, generally produce more expensive electricity than solar thermal.

[Nigeria: The good, bad of charcoal](#)

FOR the past two years, Mrs. Salmotu Adigun, who lives in Kurna Asabe, off the Kano metropolis had cooked for her family with charcoal.

Before then, she used kerosene as cooking fuel, but she told The Guardian she packed and put away the stove she was using when the price of kerosene rose beyond her reach.

"We had a stove I used when I could afford to buy kerosene. But about two years ago, the price rose to about N90.00 per litre and I did not have that kind of money. That was when I switched over to charcoal."

[Canada wants U.S. on board on climate change](#)

CALGARY, Alberta (Reuters) - Canadian Environment Minister Jim Prentice said on Friday that the United States and other big greenhouse gas emitters will need to agree on steps to cut emissions, and said Canada would harmonize its policies with its big southern neighbor.

[Barter boom: Swapping sex toys for plumbing](#)

BRISTOL, Conn. (CNNMoney.com) -- Short on cash? Join the new old economy and swap.

"There's no recession in barter," said Debbie Lombardi as she navigated the crowd at the Barter Business Unlimited's Annual Business & Holiday Barter Show, held Thursday in Bristol, Conn.

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[Natural Gas Stocks Grow More Than Expected](#) - *Natural gas reserve rise to new record high, beating forecasts*

Natural gas stockpile levels rose more than expected last week, the government said Thursday.

The Energy Department's Energy Information Administration said in its weekly report that natural gas inventories held in underground storage in the lower 48 states grew by 25 billion cubic feet to a new record high of about 3.81 trillion cubic feet for the week ended Nov. 6.

[Peak oil: what does the data say?](#)

The controversy over the International Energy Agency (IEA) figures has highlighted the peak oil debate. What do the numbers say?

[Exxon's Tillerson: weak dollar adds \\$25 to oil](#)

SINGAPORE (AP) - The top Exxon Mobil executive says a weakening U.S\$. has added between \$20 and \$25 to the price of each barrel of crude oil.

[OPEC May Keep Output Unchanged at December Meeting](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries may keep oil production at current levels when it meets next month, the group's President, Jose Botelho de Vasconcelos, said.

The inclination is to leave output unchanged, although "there is a provision" for an increase, he told reporters today in the Angolan capital, Luanda. "This is a situation that, of course, will be discussed" when OPEC meets in December, said de Vasconcelos, who is also the Angolan oil minister.

[Banker Seeks to Put a Price on Nature](#)

According to Pavan Sukhdev, a banker working with the United Nations Environment Program, putting a price on the world's trees, water stores and other natural resources will be the most cost-effective way of tackling the challenges posed by climate change — at least until cleaner energy technologies become available.

[Balancing Energy Needs and Material Hazards](#)

BRUSSELS — First Solar should have a bright future doing business in the European Union.

Based in Tempe, Arizona, the company is among the top solar manufacturers in the world. Most of the company's annual sales of \$1.2 billion already are in Europe, where nations have committed to generating a fifth of their power from renewable sources by 2020.

The rapid growth of First Solar is the result of its focus on ultrathin photovoltaic panels that are more versatile than conventional crystalline models. The technology has helped displace the view that solar power could never become an affordable or realistic way of lowering emissions on a large scale.

But these new panels contain a compound of cadmium, an extremely toxic metal already banned from most products in Europe. The compound is made with the element tellurium to create cadmium telluride, which enables the conversion of light to electricity.

[Senators Seek CO2 Scrubbing Technology](#)

Senators John Barrasso, Republican of Wyoming, and Jeff Bingaman, Democrat of New Mexico, have joined in introducing a bill that would establish awards for researchers who develop technologies that can economically extract carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and stash it away.

In doing so, they are potentially upping the ante offered in 2007 by Richard Branson, the aviation and music magnate, for such an advance.

[A Hunt for Seeds to Save Species, Perhaps by Helping Them Move](#)

“In 50 to 100 years, because habitats or climates are so altered, we might end up trying to move species in a restoration context, in assemblages of species,” said Pati Vitt, a conservation scientist and curator of the Dixon National Tallgrass Prairie Seed Bank at the botanic garden.

The garden is seeking permits to test the concept with the thistle, by pushing it into new, colder territory along the shores of Lake Ontario. “It may be the best test case for moving an individual species outside its range,” Dr. Vitt said.

[Afloat in the Ocean, Expanding Islands of Trash](#)

ABOARD THE ALGUITA, 1,000 miles northeast of Hawaii — In this remote patch of the Pacific Ocean, hundreds of miles from any national boundary, the detritus of human life is collecting in a swirling current so large that it defies precise measurement.

Light bulbs, bottle caps, toothbrushes, Popsicle sticks and tiny pieces of plastic, each the size of a grain of rice, inhabit the Pacific garbage patch, an area of widely dispersed trash that doubles in size every decade and is now believed to be roughly twice the size of Texas. But one research organization estimates that the garbage now actually pervades the Pacific, though most of it is caught in what oceanographers call a gyre like this one — an area of heavy currents and slack winds that keep the trash swirling in a giant whirlpool.

[For U.S. Military, More Oil Means More Death](#) - *Want to save lives in Iraq and Afghanistan? Save fuel, says a new report.*

HOUSTON -- If President Obama decides to send another 20,000 soldiers to Afghanistan, the Department of Defense will also have to figure out how to send along another half-million gallons of fuel a day to support them. Since the end of World War II, the use of petroleum-based fuels has risen 175% to 22 gallons per soldier per day. In 2008 U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan burned through 25 million barrels of oil.

It's more than a conservation issue. More fuel consumption correlates directly to more deaths. So asserts a new report by Deloitte Consulting on the military's energy security. "The biggest game changer for reducing casualties is reduction in convoys," says retired Air Force General Charles Wald, the lead author of the report. Fuel convoys are easy targets for roadside bombs, which have accounted for nearly half of American deaths in Iraq and almost 40% of deaths in Afghanistan.

[Crude Oil Rebounds From One-Month Low as U.S. Dollar Weakens](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Crude oil advanced as the dollar dropped, buoying demand for commodities as an alternative investment to the U.S. currency.

Oil recovered after falling to its lowest in almost a month yesterday as a U.S. government report showed rising stockpiles of crude and oil products. The dollar weakened today to \$1.4902 against the euro from yesterday's close of \$1.4850.

[Pumped-up prices: \\$4 per gallon gasoline may be coming in 2010](#)

Gasoline demand down, but the price is up. What's going on here? Well, part of the reason is the price of oil, currently around \$80 per barrel. Oil -- boosted by the weak dollar and by likely increasing global oil demand during the economic recovery -- has essentially doubled since hitting a post-leverage boom low of about \$35 per barrel a year ago.

The other part concerns the business of refining and the nation's refinery system. With oil prices high and gasoline demand low, the "crack spread" -- basically the difference between what refiners pay for oil and the total revenue received for products created from a barrel of crude -- has been low. That's prompted many refineries to reduce capacity: if a refiner can't earn a decent profit refining crude into gasoline (and other products), the company stops refining it.

[Double-barrelled trouble in a triple-digit world](#)

Personally, I don't see how the end of the 5,000-year Mayan calendar on the winter solstice spells the end of the world. It's no more ominous than your vehicle's odometer rolling over to a neat, round number.

I'm more intrigued by the bold prediction that by 2012, the cost of crude oil will hit \$225 per barrel -- almost triple today's price of \$80. Now that would spell the end of a world.

[The coming economic collapse and oil at \\$200: Are the issues Stephen Leeb raised in his book still relevant?](#)

When Stephen Leeb wrote *The Coming Economic Collapse* in 2006, few could even attempt to disprove his prophecy of the oil price escalating to \$200. Oil escalated to the never-seen before price of \$147 last year and Leeb looked more correct than ever.

Oil has now plunged to less than 1/3 of last year's peak and one wonders whether the prophecy of it hitting \$200 will ever come true.

[No responsible leader can afford to ignore the implosion of US democracy](#)

Our country is utterly dependent upon unlimited supplies of relatively cheap gasoline. Our population is dispersed and the private automobile is essential to personal existence. We say the US worker works to buy gasoline, and buys gasoline in order to work. This syllogism is now fatally compromised.

[Peak Oil: Caused by Geology, Politics or Infrastructure Issues?](#)

I started to wonder... if we are indeed entering a period of Peak Oil, is it truly being caused by strictly Supply/Demand numbers, or is there more than meets the eye? There are a few reasons why we could be entering Peak Oil... Here is a closer look...

[Dollar-Oil Link Soon to Be Broken?](#) - Saudi Arabia is pursuing new oil trade opportunities at America's expense

Some oil experts (like Matt Simmons) believe that Saudi Arabia is now beyond peak oil production, or very soon will be. The low-quality crude oil (sour and heavy) coming out of Saudi Arabia would also suggest that its oil fields are approaching exhaustion.

In this context, the Saudis are now attempting to break loose from the way their oil is priced, which is linked to Western institutions' mechanisms (including West Texas Intermediate, and the New York Mercantile Exchange).

[World's top oil producer sees potential in Chinese market](#)

BEIJING (Xinhua) -- China's robust economic recovery has assured oil supplies and investment from Saudi Aramco, the world's biggest oil producer, chief executive officer Khalid Al-Falih said Friday.

"There are signs of recovery in oil demand in developing and emerging economies led by the Chinese economy," Al-Falih, also company president, told Xinhua in an interview in Beijing.

[Crude Oil Prices at "Extremes" Are Detrimental, Al-Naimi Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Ali al-Naimi, Saudi Arabia's oil minister, comments on global oil price volatility. He spoke today at Beijing University, where he was conferred an honorary doctorate.

"While we have been concerned over oil-price volatility and the contribution of other non-fundamental factors to such volatility, we have maintained that price extremes in the low and high ends are not sustainable; they are detrimental to oil producers and consumers alike."

[Shell sees rise in Nigeria oil theft](#)

LAGOS (Reuters) - Suspected oil thieves in Nigeria have increased their attacks on Royal Dutch Shell-operated (RDSa.L) oil facilities, the company said on Friday, reporting five separate incidents already in the last three months.

Shell said suspected thieves sabotaged five oil wellheads in the oil-producing Niger Delta since Aug. 14, some resulting in fires. No production was affected since most of the oilfields were already shutdown because of insecurity in the region.

[Saudi Arabia Expands Oil, Gas Plants for \\$100 Billion](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil producer, has started to expand and upgrade its oil and gas production and refining business at a cost of \$100 billion to tap rising demand in Asia, Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi said.

"China's and Asia's demand are projected to be met mainly from supplies from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states," al- Naimi said in a speech at Beijing University today.

Saudi Arabia is doubling its domestic and international oil refining capacity by 2015, he said. The kingdom's current share of refining capacity in China, Japan and South Korea totals 1.32 million barrels a day, Al-Naimi said.

[Frontline Says Fujairah Ban to Spur Tanker Scrapping](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Frontline Ltd., the world's biggest supertanker company, said owners of single-hulled vessels are more likely to scrap their ships after the Port of Fujairah said it would ban them next year.

Fujairah, in the United Arab Emirates, is the most common regional refueling point for ships carrying crude from the Persian Gulf. About 90 supertankers, or 17 percent of the global fleet, have single hulls, according to Lloyd's Register-Fairplay data on Bloomberg.

[Crude Oil Futures May Decline on Ample Stockpiles, Survey Shows](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Crude oil may decline next week as U.S. fuel stockpiles increase and refineries reduce operating rates because of weak demand in the world's biggest energy- consuming country.

Fourteen of 28 analysts, or 50 percent, said futures will drop through Nov. 20, according to a Bloomberg News survey of analysts. Six respondents, or 21 percent, predicted the market will rise and eight forecast little change. Last week, analysts were split over whether oil would rise or fall.

[Winter demand won't dent stockpiles](#)

ExxonMobil's chief sees winter oil demand having a limited effect in reducing a global

fuel inventory glut and there needs to be a pick-up in industrial and transport demand to bring stocks back to normal.

[Cnooc Not Allowed by Ghana to Bid for Jubilee Stake, Fu Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Cnooc Ltd., China's largest offshore oil producer, said the Ghanaian government hasn't allowed it to bid for Kosmos Energy LLC's assets in the African nation.

"We haven't participated as the government doesn't allow us to," Fu Chengyu, chairman of the Chinese energy explorer, said in an interview in Beijing today. Asked if Cnooc has dropped plans to buy Kosmos's stake in the offshore Jubilee oilfield, Fu said: "You can't say it that way."

[Natural gas surge, Is it a pipe dream?](#)

Climate change legislation in Congress appears to be based in part on the optimistic view that the United States has a plentiful supply of natural gas and would push businesses to switch to gas from coal, critics say, even before the supply has been secured.

The legislation takes a cue from industry proponents who proclaim the United States has a century's supply of natural gas -- a clean, efficient fuel that could help solve the nation's energy problems -- from climate change to dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

But some environmental groups, scientists and analysts say the industry is raising false hopes, as fracturing techniques for releasing the gas found in shale rock underlying much of the country are not yet proved to be economical or safe, and could contaminate groundwater.

[U.S. natural gas supply may dry up within 30 years, T. Boone Pickens says](#)

T. Boone Pickens, who has spent more than a year telling Americans the answer to their energy woes is natural gas, said Thursday the U.S. natural gas supply will probably dry up in about 30 years.

At that point, Americans will have to find some other technology to fuel vehicles, Pickens said during a speech Thursday at the University of Texas at Dallas.

"Natural gas is just a bridge," he said.

[Is Peak Oil steeper than we thought?](#)

If the allegations are true, the world's governments have been operating with bad data. Peak oil is a reality, the numbers seem to indicate that we're past the peak, and if we're looking at a steeper decline on the downside we could be in for a global world of hurt. Our lives are built with cheap oil, if prices rise faster than society and technology, particularly of the green variety, can absorb it, many, if not most, of the systems that support our lives could be severely disrupted.

[Power Shift: Winners and Losers In the Energy Future, From the IEA](#)

We mentioned yesterday the International Energy Agency's outline of what the world's energy future would look like over the next 20 years if it took serious steps to tackle climate change, rather than continuing on a business-as-usual course.

In a nutshell, the IEA's vision of the next two decades would make T. Boone Pickens crow: Wind power and natural gas are the two big winners under the IEA's climate-change scenario. In contrast, clean coal and nuclear power—battlehorses of the traditional energy business—might play only a relatively minor role over the next two decades, the IEA says.

[Green Energy Investing for Beginners, Part II](#)

The connection between fossil fuel prices and the performance of green energy stocks is tenuous at best. Investors should not expect their solar stocks to go up or down with the oil price. After all, we do not yet have a fleet of plug-in vehicles which might let us substitute electricity from solar for gasoline from oil. Hence, investors motivated by peak oil should stick to green energy sectors which reduce the need for liquid transportation fuels. These sectors include biofuels, hydrogen fuel cells, technologies which make transportation more efficient, and technologies such as batteries which enable the electrification of transport.

[How Countries Can Integrate Wind Power Smoothly Into Power Systems](#)

It is easier to balance load and wind production from larger areas. This is because both wind variability and uncertainty will be reduced when geographically diverse power plants are aggregated. Additionally, larger balancing areas also can pool balancing resources. Large open electricity markets combined with intra-day and real-time trading lead to lower electricity costs. This market design also facilitates wind integration, because forecast errors of wind power production are much lower some hours ahead than day-ahead, and forecast errors also decrease when combining distributed wind power plants.

A wide, strong transmission network is a prerequisite for large electricity markets and aggregation benefits to smooth out variability. Increase in interconnection capacity between certain countries is needed in addition to national efforts, allowing stronger trading of (also) wind generated energy. Building the transmission for final amount of

wind power will be more cost effective than reinforcing the grid piece by piece. Ambitious wind power targets in Ireland, Denmark, Germany, UK and US already foresee major upgrades in the transmission network. This is challenging, as building permits for new lines are difficult to obtain.

[Govt to unveil 20,000 MW solar power plan](#)

MUMBAI (Reuters) – India will soon launch an ambitious plan to boost its solar power generation from 3 MW to 20,000 MW by 2022, the minister for new and renewable energy said on Friday.

"The amount which we are going to talk about is huge. I can only say that much," Farooq Abdullah, told reporters, adding that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh plans to announce its new policy next week.

[Report: Toyota plans bigger Prius with new battery](#)

TOKYO – Toyota is planning a larger version of its popular Prius hybrid, which will be powered by a new kind of battery, a Japanese newspaper reported Friday.

The new Prius, either a station wagon or SUV, is set to go on sale by the end of next year. It will be the first from Toyota Motor Corp. with a lithium-ion battery, which is more powerful than the nickel-metal hydride battery, now in its hybrids, according to the nationally circulated Yomiuri newspaper.

[Transition Town: It's time to make the change](#)

Among the successful carbon reduction initiatives now in operation under the Transition Town banner are local food groups, garden share schemes, reskilling projects, clean energy collectives and local currency schemes including the Lewes pound and the Brixton pound both of which are accepted by an increasing range of retail chains as well as by independent businesses.

"The transition vision is really about acknowledging that the move towards relocalisation is an inevitability and is also an enormous opportunity.

Inherent within responding to peak oil and climate change is the potential for an economic, social and cultural renaissance the likes of which we have never seen before," Rob told the conference.

[Mayfly May Thwart \\$3 Billion in Coal Mined in U.S. Mountaintops](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Mayflies may seal the fate of mountaintop mining in the Appalachian hills of the eastern U.S.

Companies such as Massey Energy Co. that mine coal there by stripping mountain peaks and dumping debris in streams are being asked by the Environmental Protection Agency for the first time to safeguard the mayfly, one of the oldest winged insects and a bait favored by fly-fisherman.

[Groups challenge TVA river discharge from plant](#)

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. – Environmental activists are trying to stop the Tennessee Valley Authority from starting a daily 1 million gallon discharge of water that contains mercury, selenium and other pollutants into the same river where coal ash was spilled at its Kingston Plant.

[Brazil stems loss of Amazon rainforest](#)

BRASILIA (AFP) – Brazil experienced the smallest loss of its sprawling Amazon rainforest over the past year in more than two decades, the government said, attributing the change to its tougher environmental policies.

The region, considered the world's "lungs" for its capacity to absorb carbon emissions, still lost 7,000 square kilometers (2,700 square miles) of rainforest between July 2008 and July 2009.

But that was 45 percent less than what was lost during the previous 12 month period to inroads by ranchers, loggers and other human development in the planet's largest expanse of tropical forest, officials said.

[The World Energy Outlook report on energy supplies, peak oil and climate change](#)

At 1000 ppm we are essentially guaranteed to experience catastrophic climate change.

The WEO-2009 report recommends massive investments, worldwide, in infrastructure changes and changes to energy usage. These investments are required to avoid not only climate change but also energy security. Transportation system change is perhaps the largest part of that investment, and they recommend a large-scale switch to less carbon intensive vehicles. They describe today's transportation system as 100% internal combustion fossil fuel burning vehicles with a carbon intensity of "205", and to meet the 450 ppm scenario requires a switch to 40% internal combustion fossil fuel vehicles with a carbon intensity of "90".

[China's Drive to Cut Greenhouse Gases Faces Critics](#)

(Bloomberg) -- China, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, faces unlikely critics of its efforts to cut pollution: the U.S. and European Union.

At issue is China's duty on exported metals aimed at curbing overproduction and emissions of carbon and sulfur gases from furnaces. China's decision last year to introduce taxes of 40 percent on coke prompted the U.S. and the EU last week to file a complaint to the World Trade Organization, saying the tariffs unfairly inflate prices for overseas buyers.

[Warming drives off Cape Cod's namesake](#)

PORTLAND, Maine - Fishermen have known for years that they've had to steam farther and farther from shore to find the cod, haddock and winter flounder that typically fill dinner plates in New England.

A new federal study documenting the warming waters of the North Atlantic confirms that they're right — and that the typical meal could eventually change to the Atlantic croaker, red hake and summer flounder normally found to the south.

[Bolivia: Lake Titicaca at dangerously low levels](#)

LA PAZ, Bolivia – Evaporation blamed on global warming has reduced Lake Titicaca, one of the world's highest navigable lakes, to its lowest level since 1949, authorities said Thursday.

Diminished rainfall and a rise in solar radiation have in the past four years led to critically low water levels that now threaten fish spawning areas and plant life, the Lake Titicaca Authority said in a statement.

[Warming brings early demise to Bolivian glacier](#)

CHACALTAYA, Bolivia (AFP) – Once home to the highest ski resort in the world and now reduced to a rocky mountainside, Bolivia's Chacaltaya range bears powerful witness to the precipitous melting of glaciers.

The rusting remains of a ski lift now dominate what was once the highest ski-run in the world perched on the Chacaltaya glacier at some 5,300 meters (17,390 feet) high.

Only a snowy ice cap of some 50 square meters (538 square feet) remains of the magnificent Chacaltaya glacier which spread over 1,600 square meters in the 1950s.

[U.S. weighs backing interim international climate agreement](#)

Less than a month before negotiators will meet in Copenhagen with the lofty goal of crafting a deal to curb global greenhouse gas emissions, the Obama administration is considering endorsing a limited short-term climate pact and deferring more ambitious action until next year.

The scaled-back strategy is driven largely by the realities of domestic politics: The administration is hampered in making an international deal because Congress has not passed climate legislation. So any global pact would be postponed until next year when it would be constrained by whatever domestic climate legislation Congress enacts.

[Haggling over global warming](#)

A deal to trade more nuclear power and offshore oil drilling for a cap on greenhouse gases may go nowhere, but don't rule out even bigger schemes.

[Kerry's green side takes center stage](#)

After a quarter century in Washington, Kerry is emerging as a critical environmental dealmaker. He is leading the US Senate delegation that will try to broker a worldwide climate change agreement and is chief sponsor of a massive global warming bill in the Senate, a measure that was all but buried until Kerry forged an unlikely partnership with Republican Lindsey O. Graham of South Carolina last month.

[Boreal forests store carbon, need help: Canada study](#)

OTTAWA (Reuters) - The world needs to do more to protect boreal forests and peatlands, which store more carbon than any other ecosystem and help mitigate the effects of climate change, a Canadian report issued Thursday said.

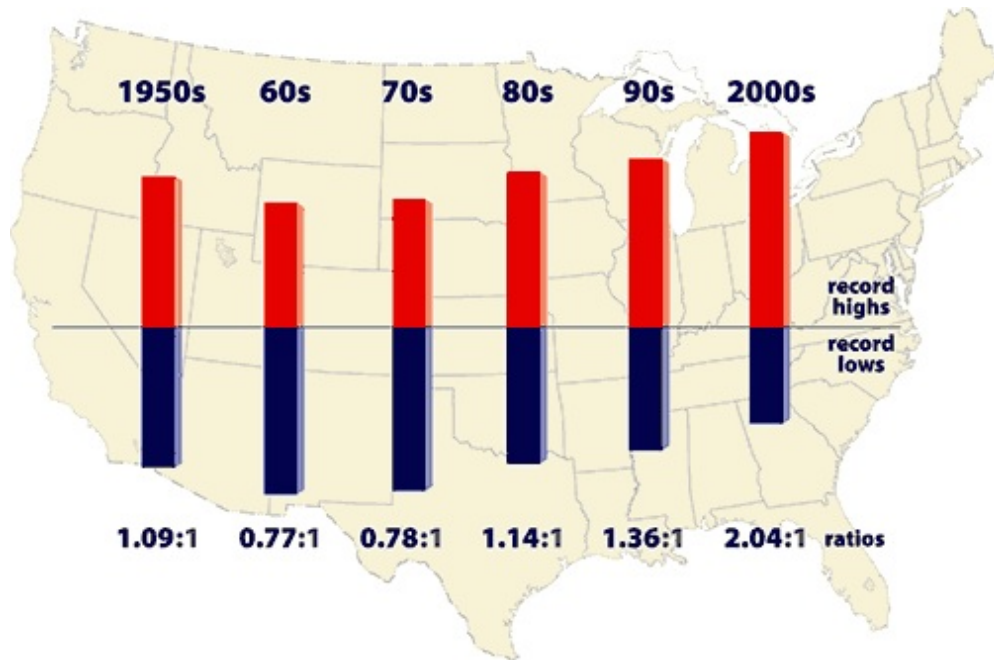
Boreal forests, found in northern areas like Canada, Russia, Scandinavia and parts of the United States, cover 11 percent of the earth and store 22 percent of all carbon on the land surface in soil, permafrost, peatlands and wetlands.

[Black Carbon: An Overlooked Factor in Warming](#)

According to some estimates, black carbon may be responsible for as much as 18% of the planet's warming, making it the No. 2 contributor to climate change after carbon dioxide, which accounts for 40%. "The world could think that we just cut CO₂ and the problem is solved and we all go home, but it's not," says Veerabhadran Ramanathan, a climatologist

from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and an expert on black carbon. "That's my nightmare."

[Record High Temperatures Far Outpace Record Lows Across U.S.](#)



BOULDER—Spurred by a warming climate, daily record high temperatures occurred twice as often as record lows over the last decade across the continental United States, new research shows. The ratio of record highs to lows is likely to increase dramatically in coming decades if emissions of greenhouse gases continue to climb.

"Climate change is making itself felt in terms of day-to-day weather in the United States," says Gerald Meehl, the lead author and a senior scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). "The ways these records are being broken show how our climate is already shifting."

[Greenland ice cap melting faster than ever](#)

Satellite observations and a state-of-the-art regional atmospheric model have independently confirmed that the Greenland ice sheet is losing mass at an accelerating rate, reports a new study in *Science*.

This mass loss is equally distributed between increased iceberg production, driven by acceleration of Greenland's fast-flowing outlet glaciers, and increased meltwater production at the ice sheet surface. Recent warm summers further accelerated the mass loss to 273 Gt per year (1 Gt is the mass of 1 cubic kilometre of water), in the period 2006-2008, which represents 0.75 mm of global sea level rise per year.

[Invest in nature now, save trillions later: study](#)

PARIS (AFP) – Investing billions today to protect threatened ecosystems and dwindling biodiversity would reap trillions in savings over the long haul, according to a UN-backed report issued Friday.

More than a billion of Earth's poorest denizens depend directly on coral reefs, forests, mangroves, aquifers and other forms of "natural capital" to eke out a living.

Unless world leaders take swift action to halt the accelerating depletion of these resources, the result could be hunger, conflict and environment refugees, the study warned.



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