



Drumbeat: November 18, 2009

Posted by [Leanan](#) on November 18, 2009 - 9:07am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[COP15 failure and Peak Oil success: Why exaggerate Global Warming?](#)

OECD leaders go far out of their way to never, ever mention Peak Oil. This in fact is the biggest real world driver for worldwide Energy Transition away from CO₂ emitting fossil fuels. Due to limited world oil reserves and production capacity, moving away from fossil fuels is necessary, whether or not there is climate change or global warming. Complicating this, world pipeline and LNG gas supplies are now entering a period of large or massive increase, depending on country and region, perhaps able to last 5 years or more. While oil can get very expensive, natural gas will likely remain cheap, and international traded coal will likely remain low cost on delivered energy terms.

For OECD leaderships seeking rapid transition away from oil, and cutting CO₂ emissions, natural gas is cleaner burning, with lower emissions than oil or coal. This is a rational energy strategy -- oil substitution by gas -- for the short term.

Waiting for the soft energy and electric car revolution will however be long-haul. Growing the role of non-hydro renewables in the energy mix to anything above 5%, by 2030 without also cutting global total energy demand every year by well above one percent, will be costly, complex and slow.

its pricing system must be changed to satisfy the needs both of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and Russia, the single largest oil producer in the world outside Opec, a Russian energy expert said at an industry conference here yesterday.

[Analyst sees contradiction between recession and rising oil prices](#)

The fact that Venezuela's Gross Domestic Product shrank 4.5 percent in the third quarter of the year compared with the same period last year is inconsistent with rising oil prices, which climbed 70 percent compared to levels recorded earlier this year, reported economist José Manuel Puente.

[COP15 failure and Peak Oil success: Why exaggerate Global Warming?](#)

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biggest real world driver for worldwide Energy Transition away from CO2 emitting fossil fuels. Due to limited world oil reserves and production capacity, moving away from fossil fuels is necessary, whether or not there is climate change or global warming. Complicating this, world pipeline and LNG gas supplies are now entering a period of large or massive increase, depending on country and region, perhaps able to last 5 years or more. While oil can get very expensive, natural gas will likely remain cheap, and international traded coal will likely remain low cost on delivered energy terms.

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[Mexico Not Considering Pricing Change for Oil Exports](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Mexico's government isn't considering changing how it sets prices for oil exports to the U.S. after Saudi Aramco abandoned West Texas Intermediate as the pricing reference.

New crude indices aren't "mature" enough to be used as a reference for Mexican oil, Petroleos Mexicanos said today in an e-mailed statement. Pemex, as the Mexico City-based company is known, is the country's state oil company.

Aramco, Saudi Arabia's state oil company, said last month it would begin using Argus Media Ltd.'s sour crude index to price its exports. Reuters said on Nov. 16 that Mexico, the third-largest supplier of crude to the U.S., could also drop WTI as its pricing reference.

[Gazprom defends rigid contract terms with Europe](#)

Gazprom on Tuesday defended its inflexible supply contracts with Europe, which critics say are driving customers away and under which the Russian producer claims it is owed \$2.5 billion.

Deputy Chief Executive Alexander Medvedev told a televised conference in Moscow that Gazprom does not have enough "grounds to bring substantial changes" to the take-or-pay terms of its long-term contracts.

[China May Spend \\$700 Million to Expand Costa Rica Oil Refinery](#)

(Bloomberg) -- China may spend \$700 million to help fund expansion of Costa Rica's Refinadora Costarricense de Petroleo SA oil refinery as it boosts energy ties in the region.

China National Petroleum Corp. may tap a China state-run bank for financing to triple capacity at the plant to 60,000 barrels a day, Jose Leon Desanti, head of the Costa Rican refining company, known as Recope, said in an interview. The Chinese company, known as CNPC, is a partner in the expansion.

[UBS Raises Oil Price Forecast on Weak Dollar, Demand](#)

(Bloomberg) -- UBS AG raised its forecast for crude oil because of a weaker dollar and improved demand from non-OECD countries, particularly China, the world's second-largest energy consuming-nation.

UBS increased its 2009 forecast of West Texas Intermediate, the U.S. benchmark crude, to \$62.30 a barrel, from \$59.10 a barrel, analysts led by Melbourne-based Gordon Ramsay said in a note dated yesterday to clients. Its 2010 projection has been raised to \$75 from \$70 and its 2011 assumption to \$80 from \$71.

[Duke Energy Study: China a Friend or Foe of the U.S.?](#)

China is both a friend and a foe to the greentech world.

Duke Energy has commissioned a study to explore what its growing relationship with companies and research institutions in China would mean on issues such as jobs creation and technology development. With a still struggling U.S. economy, any business deals that appear to create more jobs in the China than the United States have generated harsh rhetoric on the Capitol Hill.

[Experts: Smart grid poses privacy risks](#)

Technologists already are worried about the security implications of linking nearly all elements of the U.S. power grid to the public Internet. Now, privacy experts are warning that the so-called "smart grid" efforts could usher in a new class of concerns, as utilities begin collecting more granular data about consumers' daily power consumption.

[U.S. residents fight for the right to hang laundry](#)

PERKASIE, Pennsylvania (Reuters) – Carin Froehlich pegs her laundry to three clotheslines strung between trees outside her 18th-century farmhouse, knowing that her actions annoy local officials who have asked her to stop.

Froehlich is among the growing number of people across America fighting for the right to dry their laundry outside against a rising tide of housing associations who oppose the practice despite its energy-saving green appeal.

[Forget \\$100 oil. \\$80 oil is a problem](#)

NEW YORK (Fortune) -- Are cash-strapped American consumers on for another date with energy price misery?

The U.S. economy remains weak and one in six Americans can't find enough work. Yet oil prices have risen steadily this year. A barrel of crude costs \$79 and change, more than double its price at the end of 2008.

This year's runup pales in comparison to the one that peaked last summer above \$145 a barrel. Even so, some researchers warn we could once again be approaching the point at which rising energy costs will squeeze consumers.

[Rising fuel prices hit consumers](#)

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- Consumer prices in October were essentially unchanged from a year ago, the government reported Wednesday, as the rising cost of oil and gas offset earlier price declines.

The Consumer Price Index, the government's key inflation reading, is now down only 0.2% during the past 12 months compared to the same period a year ago. This is the smallest 12-month rate of decline since February.

[Some OPEC Nations Charge Ahead Despite Slow Oil Demand](#)

Energy forecasters increasingly predict slowing growth in global oil demand in the years ahead, but some OPEC nations are heading in the opposite direction and ramping up their capacity to pump oil.

Qatar, for example, is set to raise its oil-production capacity early next year from an existing field known as Al Shaheen. The more than \$6 billion expansion project brightens the revenue prospects of the Mideast state but highlights a bigger problem brewing for its partners in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

After keeping a tight tether on supply in recent years by cautiously investing, the 12-nation cartel finds itself battling an untimely convergence of lackluster consumption that magnifies its own rising supply capacity -- which may in turn reignite old battles between members over market share and ultimately push oil prices lower.

[Thanksgiving: Highways to be more crowded](#)

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- After a sharp drop last year, more Americans are expected to travel for the 2009 Thanksgiving holiday, although travel by air will decline, according to a forecast from motorist group AAA issued Wednesday.

[Commodities 101](#)

Whenever oil prices shudder, Washington blames energy traders. Meanwhile, pundits warn of peak oil. They say the earth is running out of dead dinosaurs. We cannot drill our way out of this mess, says T. Boone Pickens. He turned in his oil drill-bit for a flock of windmills. Since higher oil prices coincide with climbing sugar and cocoa prices, why don't those peak oil pundits stretch their argument to all commodities? They may not believe the world is flat, but they do seem to think the earth is hollow. In fact, the stumbling block is not geologic; it is not even environmental. It is a lack of talent. We are not suffering from peak oil; we're suffering from peak people. The U.S. graduates only 10 percent as many petroleum engineers as it did 25 years ago. West Virginia faces a shortage of coal miners because the coal miner's daughter doesn't want to strap on a headlamp.

[Canada's House of Commons must convene inquiry into fossil fuel supply](#)

“As a organization of family farmers, the NFU is acutely aware that food is tightly linked to energy, both locally and globally. Farmers use diesel fuel to run tractors and trucks. We require natural gas to make critical nitrogen fertilizer. Canadians depend on secure supplies of affordable energy to import and export food, to process and package it, and to refrigerate it. Shortage or volatility on global energy markets will rapidly turn into shortage and instability in food markets,” said NFU energy security analyst Rick Munroe.

[Spooks' take on Britain's energy crisis sparks run on candles](#)

The melodrama was gripping from the start. We open to a catastrophic accident at a single processing plant wiping out stored gas accounting for 80pc of the UK's supplies (nevermind that our gas still mostly comes from the North Sea via pipeline and we have more than one gas processing plant).

Then the grave-faced Home Secretary informs the Government that we've only got two weeks of gas before a rolling programme of power cuts “that would make the banking crisis look like a walk in the park” (nevermind trying to buy up some more liquefied natural gas on the international spot markets).

[Devon Raises the 'Big Oil' Question](#)

Not-quite-as-big oil doesn't sound as impressive as the industry's usual nickname. But Devon Energy is the latest energy producer to decide smaller is better, and with good reason.

[Market Report: Offline Gulf Production Impacts API Report](#)

Tropical Storm Ida may have had more of an impact on the weekly American Petroleum Institute report than she will in the big energy picture. A larger drop in Gulf Coast imports led to a drop in crude oil supply and is giving people a reason other than the dollar to buy oil. The API reported that US crude supply fell 4.4 million barrels in the latest week helping to drive oil higher yet again overnight. Oh sure you have that pesky little dollar falling again as well, but it's still off the recent lows.

Of course while the drop in crude supply can be easily explained away by the Gulf storm, but the rest of the numbers do not so easily add up. The API reported that gas supply fell by 96,300 barrels and distillates increased by 507,000 barrels. The rest of the country, according to the API, showed that crude imports actually increased yet the drop in the Gulf Coast seemed to offset this.

[Eq. Guinea says oil output to stay around 250,000 bpd](#)

LONDON (Reuters) - Equatorial Guinea's oil production has fallen to around 250,000 barrels a day (bpd) and is likely to remain largely unchanged for the foreseeable future as declining output in existing fields is offset by new production, its vice energy minister said on Wednesday.

"We are expecting in two years some of the wells that are already producing, Zafiro and different ones, probably they will start dropping production," Gabriel Obiang Lima told journalists on the sidelines of an African oil and gas conference in London.

[Petrobras Ranks as Sixth Biggest Energy Company by Platts](#)

Petrobras carved out the sixth spot in the top 250 Global Energy Company ranking posted by Platts, one of the leading global providers of information about energy and commodities. The Company rose six positions compared to last year, and outperformed companies from emerging countries of the likes of Russia and China. The improved performance reflects Petrobras' financial health and the successfully discoveries made in the pre-salt area. The top 250 company ranking features the energy companies with the best global performances and is based on a combination of assets, revenues, profit and return on capital using data from the Capital IQ, a database compiled and maintained by Standard & Poor's.

[Ecuador energy crisis cripples production, disrupts cities](#)

QUITO, Ecuador (UPI) -- Ecuador's energy crisis shows no sign of easing, but relief may be around the corner after emergency measures were taken by the government to import electricity from Colombia and Peru.

President Rafael Correa warned the country was in for a long haul and faced power shortages that could last over several months. Critics have blamed the government for mismanagement and failing to prepare for the crisis as water levels in the reservoirs depleted during the summer.

[China facing energy shortages amid cold spell](#)

SHANGHAI -- Unusually cold weather has caused shortfalls of power and natural gas in Shanghai and parts of central China, local government reports said Wednesday.

The surge in energy consumption due to the cold snap, which began last week, is typical of the challenges the country is facing as it struggles to meet demand from consumers whose growing earning power enables them to adopt more modern lifestyles.

[Western Australia Passes Legislation to Secure Gas Supplies](#)

Energy consumers will benefit from greater competition and greater certainty over gas supply as a result of legislation passed today in Western Australia's State Parliament.

Energy Minister Peter Collier said the legislation would allow the development of a greater range of gas fields to supply the domestic market.

[Why China Isn't Willing to Get Too Tough on Iran](#)

Unlike Russia, China defines a harmonious relationship with the U.S. as being among its core interests. But China now imports a growing share of Iran's oil output — Tehran is the China's third largest foreign supplier (behind Saudi Arabia and Angola), and Beijing has also significantly increased its investments in natural gas projects in Iran. Being forced to choose between an expanding energy relationship with Iran and maintaining diplomatic accord with the U.S. is precisely the kind of dilemma that makes China's leadership assume the foreign policy equivalent of the fetal position. Thus, Hu Jintao's public remarks Tuesday afternoon after meeting Obama: "We both stressed that to uphold the international nuclear nonproliferation regime and to appropriately resolve the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiations is very important to stability in the Middle East and in the Gulf region."

[Architects lobby for change at Copenhagen](#)

The paper covers issues ranging from the pressing need for an international standard of accounting for carbon emissions, to appropriate planning for the unavoidable impacts of climate change, and incentives to drive innovation to ensure greater and faster take-up of sustainable design.

Developed with Architecture Canada, the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Commonwealth Association of Architects, the statement highlights the importance of the crucial roles architecture and the built environment can play in reducing the climate change impact on the environment. Buildings and cities currently account for almost half of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

[China Sunergy Profit Soared on Lower Silicon Costs](#)

(Bloomberg) -- China Sunergy Co., a manufacturer of solar power cells, said third-quarter profit rose as production costs dropped and margins improved. The shares gained in early New York trading.

[The politics of hydro power stations -Part II](#)

In part I, the author showed how the British built Owen Falls Power Station to serve their colonial interests, how they locked in an agreement for Uganda to supply cheap electricity to British settlers in Kenya, and how the Kabalega and Ayago sites that could have produced electricity more cheaply were ignored.

[Island braced for winds of change](#)

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency has calculated the projected sea level rise around South Uist for BBC Scotland. It reports that by 2080 it's likely to have risen by 37cm. However, it could be as much 61cm.

Dr Dave Reay, from Edinburgh University, says that is a conservative estimate.

It was on the mind of Archie MacDonald who used to work for the Met Office.

He said: "It takes into account sea expansion, but the ice sheets are melting faster than we predicted and we could see a metre of sea level rise around the coast of Scotland this century."

[Greening the Las Vegas Strip](#)

The resorts along Las Vegas Boulevard sit not just in the middle of a desert, but at a crossroads where conspicuous consumption meets scarce resources.

Las Vegas wouldn't be what it is if not for Hoover Dam and the Colorado River water impounded behind it. On average, the city receives just four inches of rainfall a year, relying instead on Lake Mead for 90 percent of its water needs.

[No Plan for Oil Shortages in North America](#)

Munroe found numerous studies about peak oil by the GAO (U.S. Government Accountability Office), which were apparently dropped from any further consideration. As early as 1981 the GAO wrote: "It is questionable whether an adequate organizational structure exists which could effectively manage a crisis."

The IEA's messaging has been clearer. In 2005 it warned that pre-planning is critical, and that the public must be primed and well informed in advance. Yet their strategies for dealing with the impending oil crisis are laughable, boiling down to a short term "surge" in production, and drawing down emergency reserves—at most, a 90-day solution.

Munroe offered a quote by Dr. Helen Peck, a lecturer at Cranfield University in the UK and an expert in complex systems, energy security, and national emergency planning, that highlighted the relationship between food and energy I wrote about in my last article: "The fundamental problem is that it is the very efficiency of the nation's food and drink supply chains, under normal circumstances, that make them so vulnerable under abnormal ones."

[Peak Oil? Not Here and Not For Decades, CERA Study Says](#)

Of the 1,000 fields it studied in detail, 40 percent of production comes from fields that are in decline. CERA suggests, that based on those decline figures we can assume, a significant proportion of all production comes from fields building up or on plateau.

Giant fields — those with an estimate 500 million barrels of recoverable oil or gas equivalent— are still the cornerstone of global production with some 548 contributing 61 percent of the total supply, the report notes. Collectively, these giant oil fields are not in decline, CERA says. On the contrary, some 60 percent of their recoverable oil remains to be produced, according to the report.

[Canada's Heartland - Political Peak Oil's First Refuge](#)

Now think. Are there any of the oil majors not invested in Canada's tar sands? No. Even China's state-controlled oil company, PetroChina, is heavily invested. Without tar sands, indications of this and similar anecdotes are that they are approaching or at "political

peak oil."

I'll go a step farther and say that physical peak oil, besides being controversial as a mathematically described phenomena, is a relatively meaningless term. All that matters to the average driver is the price and availability of fuel, and that is controlled by political peak oil. The pros and cons of physical peak oil expert opinions are a distraction from that reality.

[The developing scandal around the International Energy Agency and peak oil](#)

The full impact of these developments has not yet been appreciated by the world economic community. For many years (up until its 2008 report) the IEA has predicted future world oil output based on what would be required to support future predicted economic growth. This is putting the cart before the horse since it is energy availability that constrains economic activity not the other way around.

Fortunately for the IEA in the past it has always been possible to increase oil production in line with a growing economy. However, this easy relationship began to break down in 2005 when conventional oil production plateaued and now, after the financial crash of 2008, oil production has begun to fall. (In fact, it is possible to make a very strong argument (PDF 637KB) that it was the high oil prices of 2008 - due to the supply/demand imbalance - that pricked the housing debt bubble in the USA and so triggered the current financial crisis.)

[When oils ain't oils](#)

In this article, we examined why, for investors at least, "peak oil" theory was inconsequential. What really matters is the cost of getting the stuff out - or the "marginal cost of production", as the economists call it.

Here we're going to explain how, contrary to economic theory, the oil price can rise while supply is increasing.

[The Oil Sands and the World Energy Outlook](#)

Suffice it to say at a certain point consumers started driving less, flying less, spending less--using less carbon-based fuel. As aggregate demand for energy declined steeply along with the global economy, however, companies began to scale back, postpone and/or cancel planned development projects.

At the same time, the era of easy energy is over; more and more development is focused on hard-to-reach and/or difficult-to-produce reserves. Satisfying global energy needs is becoming more and more complex. Marginal production costs are clearly rising, and realized prices must remain at elevated levels to make certain critical projects economic.

Determining what seems a magical level of sustainability--the per barrel price that allows E&P companies to efficiently find and deliver supply and demand isn't destroyed because prices at the pump are too dear-- is difficult, to say the least. But even in the model described here oil has to get back above USD130 before it would matter again for GDP growth.

[In signal to West, Iran boosts fuel output](#)

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iran said it temporarily boosted gasoline production by about 30 percent on Tuesday to show the West it can cope with any sanctions targeting its fuel imports.

Oil Minister Massoud Mirkazemi said the move to raise output by 14 million liters per day increased total output to 58.5 million liters. Domestic consumption stands at about 66.5 million liters per day.

The higher production level, carried out at three southern petrochemical plants, would only last for a few days, he said, making clear it was not economical in the long run.

"With this move we would like to show that the West can not use any limitations on selling gasoline to Iran as a tool against the Islamic Republic," Mirkazemi told a news conference.

[Iraq wants France's Total to work its oilfields: Talabani](#)

PARIS (AFP) – Iraqi President Jalal Talabani told business leaders in Paris that he wanted to see the French energy giant Total working in his country's oil fields.

"We might favour a French bid whatever the figures. Don't fear this auction ... The figures aren't everything," he said during a state visit to France. "We want to see Total work in our oil fields."

[Qatar in LNG Export Talks With Argentina, Salatt Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Qatar, the world's biggest exporter of liquefied natural gas, is in talks with two Argentinean companies to sell the cleaner-burning fuel, Abdullah Salatt, senior advisor to the Emirate's energy minister, said in Tokyo.

The negotiations for middle-to-long term supplies began last year, he said today without disclosing the name of the companies. Qatar also is holding talks with Uruguay on sales of the fuel, Salatt said without elaborating.

[Shooting heightens tensions in Nigerian oil delta](#)

PORT HARCOURT (Reuters) - Nigerian militants accused the army of threatening a ceasefire in the oil-producing Niger Delta on Tuesday by raiding a former rebel commander's home, but the military said it was just responding to reports of shooting.

[Energy issues top bill at EU-Russia summit](#)

STOCKHOLM (AFP) – EU and Russian leaders meet at a summit in Stockholm on Wednesday set to be dominated by energy issues, as Europe hopes to avoid an interruption of Russian natural gas supplies via Ukraine this winter.

[Venezuela's Economy May Shrink 2.2% in 2009, Rodriguez Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Venezuelan Finance Minister Ali Rodriguez said his country's economy may shrink 2.2 percent this year, revising an earlier forecast it would stagnate.

The economy contracted 4.5 percent in the third quarter from a year earlier after manufacturing and retail sales plunged, the central bank said yesterday. The decline was almost three times the 1.6 percent median estimate of 12 analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News.

[Long-awaited pipeline funnels gas across 8 states](#)

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – A 1,679-mile pipeline crossing eight states is now fully completed and funneling natural gas from Wyoming and Colorado to the eastern edge of Ohio.

The long-awaited Rockies Express Pipeline became fully operational Nov. 12 following the recent completion of the final 195-mile section between Warren and Monroe counties in eastern Ohio. The \$6.8 billion pipeline carries 1.8 billion cubic feet of gas, enough to heat 4 million homes, and took three years to complete.

[Marathon to Face Crowd Seeking Answers After Bad Refining Bets](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Marathon Oil Corp., the fourth-largest U.S. energy producer, may have some explaining to do to investors who say bad bets on refineries are holding back the company's growing exploration business.

Marathon is spending \$6 billion on plant upgrades that began before refining profit margins collapsed, leaving it with less capital to exploit its oil and natural-gas fields. When Marathon meets tomorrow with investors and analysts in New York, it should address possibly selling refineries or justify keeping plants that will be less profitable

than oil and gas wells, said Ted Harper of Frost Investment Advisors in Houston.

[Glencore Sets Aside Less Money for Staff Payments After Slump](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Glencore International AG, the world's biggest commodity-trading company, set aside less money for staff payments in the first nine months after prices and profit slumped, according to a report to bondholders.

[Lester Brown: Summary Presentation for Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization](#) (Powerpoint and PDF)

Updates for Plan B 4.0 Slideshow Presentation

The Challenges: Food Insecurity and Climate Change

[AP Poll: Sometimes it isn't easy being green](#)

WASHINGTON – A solid majority of Americans recognize the need to help the environment, although there are some things – like buying a hybrid car or taking mass transit – that people often talk about, but don't necessarily act on.

[Why Some People Go Green--and Others Don't](#)

It may seem that all Prius drivers are Democrats and that Republicans are behind the wheels of Hummers, but a new book from Duke University social scientists Scott de Marchi and James T. Hamilton argues that political affiliation has very little to do with consumer decisions. In *You Are What You Choose*, de Marchi and Hamilton make the case that green consumerism--along with many other consumer habits--is largely determined by basic personality traits, not political beliefs.

[Controversial wind farm to build turbine plant in USA](#)

Companies planning a controversial wind farm in Texas that would seek millions in federal stimulus funds said Tuesday that they'd build a U.S. plant to make wind turbines and employ 1,000 people.

The news follows criticism that the farm planned to use Chinese-made turbines and that too many federal stimulus dollars have gone to foreign-owned wind firms.

[Vestas Seeks to Double Wind Turbines in India on Incentives](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Vestas Wind Systems A/S, the world's biggest maker of wind turbines, said it plans to almost double its capacity to produce wind-power equipment in India as the government offers new incentives for renewable energy.

The Randers, Denmark-based company aims to boost capacity to about 500 megawatts in India in the next three years, said Sean Sutton, president, Vestas Asia Pacific.

[US should follow France, boost nuclear power: senator](#)

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The United States should consider following France's lead and ramping up use of nuclear power in an effort to contain global warming, a senior US senator helping craft climate change legislation said Tuesday.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, who is working with Democrat John Kerry on the bill, highlighted how France now derives 80 percent of its energy from nuclear power and is presently constructing a next-generation reactor, said to be the most advanced in the world.

"Surely we can be as bold as the French," Graham told reporters.

[PGE, EDF May Build Areva Nuclear Reactor in Poland](#)

(Bloomberg) -- PGE SA, Poland's largest power utility, and Electricite de France SA may build the central European country's first nuclear power plant, and agreed to study the use of Areva SA's Evolutionary Power Reactor design.

[ADB Plans to Increase Clean-Energy Lending After Kyoto Protocol](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The Asian Development Bank plans to increase lending for clean-energy projects in the Asia Pacific region by 2013 and reduce funds for polluting fossil-fuel ventures, an official said.

[Energy Dept. walks the walk with smart building](#)

GOLDEN, Colo. – Homes and office buildings consume three-quarters of U.S. electricity, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory wants to lower that figure by erecting what it believes will be the largest "net-zero" energy building in the world – one that produces as much power onsite as it uses.

The Department of Energy, which runs the Golden-based lab nestled in the foothills west of Denver, and its contractors hope the \$64 million structure will provide a national

blueprint for making buildings greener and cutting energy use.

[Jeff Rubin: We need another carbon tariff](#)

China and India can build all the coal plants they want, but when their manufacturing plants use dirty power to produce goods that are then exported to our market, the emissions embodied in those goods must be taxed at the same rate our domestic producers would pay for their own carbon emissions.

[Carbon peak is in the past, says Celsius](#)

Figures provided by the firm showed that during 2008, America's oil use fell by five percent, coal one percent and CO₂ emissions three percent.

According to the US Department of Energy, 2009 will see the country's oil use decrease by a further five percent, coal ten percent and CO₂, from burning fossil fuels, nine percent.

"In this new energy era carbon emissions are declining and they will likely continue to do so because of policies already on the books," a spokesperson said.

[Winemakers face climate change with dread](#)

"All over the world, alcohol levels are going up," said British wine critic Jancis Robinson at the WineFuture conference, citing just one problem producers are facing as a result of rising temperatures.

"Champagne alcohol levels are becoming embarrassingly high," she added, meaning that the heat which is raising the alcohol content changes both the texture and personality of a wine.

[Obama: Rally the world for climate deal next month](#)

BEIJING – President Barack Obama, with China's leader at his side, lifted his sights Tuesday for a broad interim accord at next month's climate conference that he said will lead to immediate action and "rally the world" toward a solution on global warming.

[Seychelles leader urges climate pact to boost food security](#)

ROME (AFP) – Global warming is "inextricably linked" to food security, Seychelles

President James Michel said Monday, lamenting reports that no binding agreement is expected at the UN climate change talks in Copenhagen next month.

Speaking to AFP on the sidelines of the UN Hunger Summit in Rome, Michel said: "Coming up with ideas at the FAO summit without tackling climate change makes no sense."

[Will Funding For Clean Coal Fuel Compromise On A Climate Bill?](#)

A divided Senate is struggling to put together a cap-and-trade climate-change bill. One reason why the effort remains alive despite numerous obstacles is "clean coal."

[Led by China, CO2 gases rise despite economy](#)

WASHINGTON - Pollution typically declines during a recession. Not this time.

Despite a global economic slump, worldwide carbon dioxide pollution rose 2 percent last year, most of the increase coming from China, according to a study published online Tuesday.

"The growth in emissions since 2000 is almost entirely driven by the growth in China," said study lead author Corinne Le Quere of the University of East Anglia. "It's China and India and all the developing countries together."

[Earth 'heading for 6C' of warming](#)

Average global temperatures are on course to rise by up to 6C without urgent action to curb CO2 emissions, the lead author of a new analysis says.

Emissions rose by 29% between 2000 and 2008, says the Global Carbon Project.

All of that growth came in developing countries, but a quarter of it came through production of goods for consumption in industrialised nations.

[Women 'bearing brunt' of climate change](#)

"Women are on the front lines of many societies buffeted by climate change -- and research indicates they tend to be more vulnerable to these impacts," said the report's lead author, Robert Engelman.

According to the report, women in poorer societies are most at risk because they make up a larger share of the agricultural workforce and have fewer income-earning opportunities. They also shoulder the burden of caring for other family members and

household management, limiting their mobility and trapping them in a cycle of deprivation, poverty and inequality.

[UN: Fight climate change with free condoms](#)

LONDON — The battle against global warming could be helped if the world slowed population growth by making free condoms and family planning advice more widely available, the U.N. Population Fund said Wednesday.

The agency did not recommend countries set limits on how many children people should have, but said: "Women with access to reproductive health services ... have lower fertility rates that contribute to slower growth in greenhouse gas emissions."

"As the growth of population, economies and consumption outpaces the Earth's capacity to adjust, climate change could become much more extreme and conceivably catastrophic," the report said.



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