



Drumbeat: November 30, 2009

Posted by [Leanan](#) on November 30, 2009 - 8:58am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[US Sept oil demand off 2.7 pct vs prev estimate - EIA](#)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. oil demand in September was 518,000 barrels per day less than previously estimated, but still up 523,000 bpd from a year earlier, the Energy Information Administration said on Monday.

U.S. oil demand in September was revised down by 2.74 percent to 18.362 million bpd from EIA's earlier estimate of 18.880 million bpd, and was up 2.93 percent from demand of 17.839 million bpd a year ago.

reed to rescue failing banks, building levels of debt lacking any realistic collateral. Following outdated economic principles, developed during the *First Half of the Oil Age*, they assumed that the provision of this largely imaginary liquidity would stimulate new consumerism and a return to past prosperity. The policies may indeed meet with a brief success, but if they do so, the demand for oil and gas will rise to again breach the supply limits, giving rise to another price shock followed by a deeper recession. It will be remembered that for every gallon used, one less remains, so it becomes progressively more difficult to raise production.

[Oil Rises as Iran Seizes U.K. Yacht, Business Activity Gains](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Crude oil rose after a British yacht crew was seized by Iran and a report showed that U.S. business activity gained for a second month.

Oil advanced as much as 2.6 percent after the U.K. government said that the boat was stopped by Iranian naval vessels and that the crew members are being held in Iran. The Institute for Supply Management-Chicago Inc. said today its business barometer increased to 56.1, the highest level since August 2008. Readings above 50 signal expansion.

[Big rise in oil demand after 2010 may hit growth: IEA](#)

WARSAW: Demand for oil after 2010 could increase significantly and this may pose a risk to global recovery, International Energy Agency (IEA) chief economist Fatih Birol said on Monday.

"In 2010, there are signs there will be a small green sign (improvement). After 2010, with the improvement in the global economy, we may see a very strong increase in oil demand, which may pose a risk for the global recovery," Birol said in Warsaw.

[Venezuela softens Carabobo oil bid terms - source](#)

CARACAS (Reuters) - Venezuela has slightly softened conditions for the auction of its Carabobo oil project and is due to deliver the finalized terms to interested companies later on Monday, a government source said.

Worried by lukewarm private sector interest in its first oil auction in more than a decade, Venezuela last month said it was lowering taxes and extending the production timeline for the project.

[The Difference Between Oil Shale and Shale Oil](#)

There's a huge difference between oil shale and oil produced from shale reservoirs, often called shale oil. The former remains a promising, yet expensive-to-produce resource that may eventually see more development. The latter generates significant, real production growth for a host of independent North American E&P firms; with crude around \$70 to \$80 a barrel, many shale oil projects are generating an after-tax return on investment of as much as 100%.

[Constellation buys Maryland wind project](#)

BALTIMORE (AP) -- Power company Constellation Energy said Monday that it will buy and develop a \$140 million wind project in Maryland from Clipper Windpower, one of several clean energy initiatives that Constellation is planning for the state.

The 70-megawatt Criterion wind project in Garrett County will generate enough electricity to power 23,000 households a year. Commercial operation at the plant is expected next fall.

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[Russia ups Dec seaborne oil exports 3.2 pct vs Nov](#)

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Seaborne crude supplies via Russian oil pipeline monopoly Transneft's export terminals in December will rise 3.2 percent, or by 86,400 barrels per day, from November, a final export schedule showed on Monday.

Urals supplies to the Mediterranean market URL-E will fall by 4.1 percent on lower supplies from the Black Sea port of Novorossiisk, the final plan obtained by Reuters showed.

[Natural Gas: Powering the Dubai Overshoot](#)

You've seen the before-and-after pictures, like a Vegas slug of glass rising in the desert. And, you've read the stories about indebted foreign workers leaving their Range Rovers behind, as they flee. Perhaps you've seen video of the indoor ski arcade? Or, caught the gaze of the photographer's eye on the poor, underpaid migrant workers constructing the Burj Dubai. Welcome to today's obligatory Dubai blog post. Brought to you courtesy of some very hot, sovereign default action as the UAE's most glittery city announced overnight a request for a stay on debt payments from Dubai World. How could a country so rich in energy resources have gotten itself into such a mess?

[Vast supply alters gas industry](#)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- West Virginia's natural gas industry is being transformed by an increase in supply as spectacular as the oil discoveries made at the turn of the last century by the late Michael Benedum.

But instead of new discoveries like those made by Benedum, Bridgeport's favorite son who was known as "The Great Wildcatter," the increase in natural gas supplies is coming from shale formations that have been known for years to contain natural gas.

[Iran Atomic Sites Plan Decried by U.S., U.K., France](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Iran's plans to expand its nuclear program in defiance of United Nations demands were condemned by the Obama administration, while France called the move by the government in Tehran "infantile."

"It's dangerous, but above all it's dangerous for Iran," French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said in an interview with RTL radio today. U.K. Foreign Secretary David Miliband said the government in Tehran had chosen to "provoke" the international community.

[China and Oil: Future Indicators](#)

At any rate, there is nothing strange about this new relation with the Arab oil producing countries. China is a huge and promising market, and is the second largest energy consumer in the world after the United States. For this reason, Arab petroleum companies are seeking to have an active presence there. At the same time, China is trying to develop its relations with oil producing countries, in order to secure oil supplies by means of its own companies, and not through foreign companies. Furthermore, the expansion of Chinese petroleum companies covers most oil producing countries around the world, and not just the Arab countries; also, the Chinese companies are implementing new means and methods that have been hitherto unknown in the circles of the oil industry. One of these methods, for instance, is becoming partners in national oil companies, and securing massive loans for the countries concerned. In Kazakhstan, for example, the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) bought a 49 percent stake in a local oil company, in addition to providing a five billion dollar loan to Kazakhstan in return for this deal. The Chinese oil companies have also followed similar approaches to obtain shares in Russian, Venezuelan, and Brazilian oil companies.

[Russia's Medvedev inks bill transferring gas pipe tax to regions](#)

MOSCOW (Itar-Tass) - Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has signed a bill into law transferring revenues from the tax on movable property of natural gas giant Gazprom's gas pipeline system to regional governments, the president's press service reported Monday.

[Venezuela May Advance Long-Delayed Oil Auction](#)

Venezuela's economy is tumbling just as the rest of the world begins to recover, which may create the perfect combination needed for the country's long-delayed oil drilling auction to finally get under way.

Industry sources say a contracting local economy alongside stronger global growth, which has pushed up worldwide oil prices, is providing incentive for both sides -- the Hugo Chavez-led government and foreign oil firms -- to make concessions and find common ground on the terms of the so-called Carabobo oil tender.

[BP, Eni to Pump World's First Coal-Bed Gas for LNG](#)

(Bloomberg) -- BP Plc, Europe's second-largest oil company, and Italy's Eni SpA plan to produce the world's first coal-bed methane for liquefaction as global demand expands.

Their VICO joint venture signed a production-sharing contract with the Indonesian

government to extract coal-bed methane, or CBM, from the Sanga-Sanga block in East Kalimantan, London-based BP said today in a statement. The fuel may be sent through pipelines to the Bontang liquefied natural gas plant.

“We expect production to begin rapidly -- in a very few years,” William Lin, president of BP Indonesia, said in the statement. “Its supply to Bontang will enable Indonesia to become the world’s first CBM-to-LNG producer.”

[Inflation fuels Pakistan dissatisfaction with govt](#)

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan — Pakistan's middle classes are increasingly being squeezed by price hikes, fuelling dissatisfaction with an unstable government that is struggling to contain Taliban attacks.

In a country with huge disparity in wealth, life has always been a struggle for the third of the population that lives below the poverty line but now lower-middle class and professional families find it increasingly difficult to make ends meet.

The rupee has depreciated by 35 percent in the last year while electricity, gas and petrol prices have doubled in the last two.

The country faces a crippling energy crisis, producing only 80 percent of its power needs, causing debilitating blackouts and suffocating industry.

[Nigeria: Commuters stranded in Abuja as fuel queues return](#)

Stranded commuters lined many routes in the Federal Capital Territory over the weekend after fresh fuel shortage hit the city in the middle of the Sallah celebration. Between Saturday and Sunday, many passengers stayed at bus stops for hours waiting to be lifted to destinations at increased fares because motorists either bought petrol from the black-market or spent too long at filling stations to buy petrol at the official N65 a litre rate.

[‘Extreme green’ house](#)

The home has geothermal heating and cooling, radiant floors, Icynene insulation (spray-on foam) in the attic and vaulted ceilings, low-VOC (volatile organic compound) paints and stains, sky tubes for natural light and a heat recovery ventilation system that moves stale air out and fresh air in. There are numerous Energy Star products. The placement of the home on the lot ensures the maximum use of solar resources, and native plants conserve water.

[Rush is on for stimulus's high-speed rail dollars](#)

The prospect of bullet trains whisking travelers from city to city at more than 200 miles an hour, stalled for years in America's car-loving culture, should finally get a boost this winter.

That's when the Federal Railroad Administration will start handing out \$8 billion in stimulus money, according to spokesman Rob Kulat.

[A Jewish Response to the Energy Challenge?](#)

Israel is an example of a country driven to energy innovation borne by necessity. Israel does not have the vast oil reserves of its neighbors, does have abundant sunshine, and also has water shortage problems. These conditions make it an ideal country for solar energy, energy efficiency, recycling, and water desalinization measures. Israel has been experiencing a solar revolution--Arava Power at Kibbutz Ketura is an example of this. Because Israel is a small country, its clean tech companies need to expand their markets to achieve economies of scale. Israel could become a beta site for clean energy and clean fuel.

[Green technology emerges as serious business in Gulf](#)

Green technology is no more a marketing jargon in the Gulf as it has gained relevance in 2009 helping cut down operating and capital expenditure.

With enterprises facing the brunt of cuts in expenses this year, investments in green technologies took the spotlight. Two years ago, it was more of a marketing tool for technology companies and not top priority for Gulf-based enterprises.

[Review: Energy Crisis](#)

Interest in space-based solar power (SBSP) has been cyclical over the last 40 years. The first wave of interest came in the late 1960s through the '70s, from Peter Glaser's initial promulgation of the concept through the design studies funded by NASA and the Department of Energy. The second wave came in the late 1990s with NASA's "Fresh Look" studies. Today we appear to be in the midst of a third wave that started a couple of years ago, primarily because of the interest in the concept by the Pentagon's National Security Space Office (NSSO), which supported a new study of SBSP (see "A renaissance for space solar power?", The Space Review, August 13, 2007). Earlier this year a major California utility, Pacific Gas and Electric, agreed to purchase electricity from Solaren, a startup that plans to develop SBSP systems that would be operational as early as 2016; that deal won approval from state utility regulators earlier this month.

SBSP is not without its detractors, though. Some argue that the technology needed for a large-scale SBSP system doesn't exist and would take decades to develop—if it's even feasible at all. Others argue that even if the technology exists, SBSP would be

uneconomical: it couldn't generate electricity that would be cost-competitive with terrestrial sources, thanks in large part to the high costs of space access. SBSP advocates have argued, in turn, that not only can these problems be overcome, they *must* be, in order to tap the environmentally clean and plentiful energy people across the world need. In *Energy Crisis*, Ralph Nansen takes on primarily the latter portion of that argument.

[Sustainable Living: A real game-changer in home heating](#)

“Douglas County is the Saudi Arabia of biomass” — Joe Laurance, Douglas County Commissioner

We native Oregonians have another word for it: firewood. Our family has used firewood for heat and hot water most of our lives; it is part of our rituals of the seasons.

We cut or buy the wood in the winter, let it dry the next summer, and burn it the following winter. Then repeat. Relying on the land for energy is as natural as growing our own food. It is a part of being connected to this place.

I remember driving through the Medford area one winter in the 1980s when many people were burning wood in response to the last energy crisis.

The air pollution was thicker than anything I had ever seen in Los Angeles. Wood stoves then were simple steel boxes with an adjustable air draft.

[CO2 In The Cuckoo's Nest](#)

Climategate has come and gone, like Dubai World, with only ripples in the agonizing V-shaped, W-shaped or X-shaped recession and recovery sequence. Recession and recovery of hopes and fears that COP15 will be a success or failure have also rippled.

For the global economy there is a new, X-shape recovery outlook. Global Warming finance, like Keynesian recovery finance might cross out the risks of double dip, with a big new raft of funny money channelled to the right hands. Like the cash needed to cancel out "troubled assets" and bankrupt banks, it can be printed, borrowed and guaranteed in extreme high amounts but in full media view with full media support. Public opinion, as for the Keynesian recovery trillions, will matter little "because this is a complex and urgent affair". The media can be counted on to give all sides of the story, plus additional sides they invented to amuse the crowd.

[A Growing Disaster](#)

THE ethanol industry, once the darling of corn growers, environmentalists and the auto industry, has fallen on hard times. Producers spent this year caught between falling

ethanol prices and rising corn costs, causing many to go bankrupt. In response, they are pushing the Environmental Protection Agency to increase the amount of ethanol they can blend into gasoline to 15 percent, up from the current 10 percent. Allowing this, however, would only double down on a discredited environmental policy without solving the industry's fundamental economic problem.

That problem is simple: Ethanol prices trend higher and lower along with the price of gasoline, yet the cost of producing ethanol tends to rise with demand, since higher ethanol production exerts upward pressure on the price of corn. In a free market, corn prices might be expected to eventually fall as the market adjusts to increased demand. But because the government heavily promotes ethanol use through subsidies and regulation, the market is continually strained.

The problem is magnified because corn is a water- and fertilizer-intensive crop that requires considerable investment. Worse, since fertilizer is often an oil-based product, the cost of growing corn tends to rise at the very moment ethanol prices, which rise with oil prices, might bring a good return.

[Somali pirates hijack U.S.-bound oil tanker](#)

NAIROBI, Kenya - Somali pirates seized a tanker carrying crude oil from Saudi Arabia to the United States in the increasingly dangerous waters off East Africa, an official said Monday, an attack that could pose a huge environmental or security threat to the region.

[Dubai woes give China chance to buy oil, gold: report](#)

BEIJING (Reuters) - Dubai's debt crisis could be China's opportunity to snap up gold and oil assets, a senior Chinese official said in remarks published on Monday.

No Chinese banks have yet reported exposure to debt from Dubai World, a flagship firm that last week said it was seeking to delay debt payments by six months. Some Chinese real estate and construction firms have limited exposure to projects in the emirate, state television reported this weekend.

China's \$2.27 trillion in foreign exchange reserves are mostly parked in U.S. treasuries, despite calls from some in China to invest the reserves in oil and other natural resources that the fast-growing Chinese economy will need in future.

[The Vicious Competition For Peak Oil](#)

The more relevant concern, at least in the short-term, about oil should not be how much there is but who will own it. The fight for crude ownership has picked up recently. Two decades from now there may be as much annual supply as there is this year, but the Chinese may have doubled or tripled their share of that market. The obstacle to that

happening is that Western oil firms such as Exxon Mobil and BP will get into bidding wars with China-based oil operations for new deposits but that bidding could become extraordinarily expensive.

[OPEC unlikely to cut output - Iran national oil co](#)

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is unlikely to cut output at its meeting on Dec. 22, Seifollah Jashnsaz, managing director of the National Iranian Oil Co. told reporters on Monday.

"We don't think there would be such a reaction," he said in New Delhi, when asked if OPEC was likely to cut output to support prices.

[Correa Says Ecuador Oil Output to Rise in 2010, Ending Declines](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Ecuador, the smallest member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, will increase crude output next year, ending three years of declines, President Rafael Correa said.

"Production will increase a little," Correa said in an interview in the outskirts of Lisbon, where he's attending an Ibero-American summit. "In natural gas, we are exploring and we hope that in the next few months we may have some more concrete data on what the potential reserves could be."

[Poland, Russia may not agree gas contract in 2009](#)

KRAKOW, Poland (Reuters) - Russia and Poland may not agree a gas contract by the end of this year, Poland's Deputy Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak said on Monday, contradicting earlier comments by Warsaw and Kremlin officials.

[Natural Gas Glut Overwhelms Speculators, Defies Rally](#)

(Bloomberg) -- When Qatar's biggest natural gas shipment to the U.S. arrived this month, it signaled to Barclays Capital Inc. and PFC Energy that this year's worst performing commodity investment won't recover in 2010.

Murwab, a Qatari liquefied natural gas tanker, carried the first shipment to the U.S. from the Persian Gulf nation since June 2008. Its cargo, enough to heat about 9 million homes for a day, added to the largest gas inventories for this time of year since at least 1994, Energy Department data show.

[Algeria gas project delayed - Sonatrach](#)

ALGIERS, Nov 30 (Reuters) - Completion of Algeria's Gassi Touil gas production and LNG project has been delayed until 2012 or 2013, the Algerian official news agency quoted the head of state energy firm Sonatrach as saying.

[Oil May Drop to \\$70 on Channel, SocGen Says: Technical Analysis](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Crude oil prices may slide toward \$70 a barrel in New York after breaching the bottom of a monthlong price channel, according to technical analysis by Societe Generale SA.

Oil for January delivery fell as low as \$72.39 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange on Nov. 27, breaking through a "descending channel" that formed after the commodity reached a year-to-date high on Oct. 21. This may trigger a decline to the next supportive layer in a Fibonacci sequence of price thresholds, Societe Generale said.

[Iran restructuring its naval forces](#)

Iran has reorganized its naval forces to give operational control of the strategic Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz to the naval component of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the paramilitary organization that is playing an increasingly central role not only in Iran's military but also its political and economic life.

[BP Pipeline Spills Crude Oil, Natural Gas in Alaska](#)

(Bloomberg) -- A crude oil and natural gas pipeline spilled an unknown amount of fuel at BP Plc's Prudhoe Bay field in Alaska, the state regulator said.

The spill has affected 8,400 square feet (780 square meters) of tundra, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation said. The leak on a closed 18-inch pipeline carrying crude oil, gas and water was discovered at 3:05 a.m. local time on Nov. 29 about 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers) from the Lisburne Production Center along Drill Site Line 3, according to the filing.

[Tata says plans Nano hybrid cars - paper](#)

SEOUL (Reuters) – Tata Group is planning to produce hybrid versions of its Nano, billed as the world's cheapest car, to join in the environment-friendly trend, its chairman said in an interview with a South Korean newspaper.

The Maeil Business Newspaper on Monday quoted Ratan Tata, chairman of the Tata Group, as saying in Mumbai that low-priced goods would create stronger demand than

high-end products in India, and the so-called low-price revolution would continue across the world.

[Energy projects limit role of foreign firms' U.S. units](#)

The Energy Department is preventing U.S. subsidiaries of foreign corporations from full participation in a \$400 million program designed to develop "transformational" technologies.

Affected companies including giants such as Siemens and Philips complain that the policy exceeds the requirements of the "Buy America" provision of this year's stimulus legislation. They say it will deprive the effort to achieve energy and environmental breakthroughs of unique scientific expertise and will discourage the creation of jobs at the foreign-owned U.S. facilities.

[The new politics of the global energy crisis](#)

The events currently tearing the Liberal Party apart are indications of the new politics emerging out of the global energy crisis. Australia, with the highest per capita carbon emissions and heavy reliance on cheap fossil fuels, is ahead of the pack as the "business as usual" politics of the last few decades comes to an end.

Global warming and peak oil are but two of the aspects of the global energy crisis. Measures to cut carbon emissions, such as an ETS, along with peaking oil and gas resources will see all energy costs become increasingly volatile with a general and continuing upwards movement. The world economy will have to shift out of its heavy reliance on cheap fossil fuels and drastically cut energy usage as it attempts a transition to new energy sources.

As such, the ETS is just the beginning of the great changes on the way, and those political parties that fail to adjust to this hard fact will disappear.

[Climate Change You Can Believe In](#)

The consensus among the global warming deniers is that the war is over. Thanks to a handful of e-mails we now know that global warming is a gigantic hoax foisted upon an unsuspecting public by a cabal of climate scientists bent on garnering grant money to further their own careers.

Okay. Suppose that is true. What now? Do we just go on with business as usual? Do we keep using fossil fuels at a fast and furious rate until ... Until what? Until they run out?

Oops. That would seem to be a bit of a problem, one that the e-mail hoax theory doesn't even begin to address. This has nothing to do with global warming. Rather, this is about

the theory of peak oil, the idea that at some point we begin taking less oil out of the ground than before and that this marks the beginning of the end, so to speak, of the fossil fuel era. It even comes complete with its own whistle-blower scandal.

Well guess what? There is a whole community of self-styled peak oil debunkers who will assure you that peak oil is not a problem. Why? Because when all else fails we can switch to alternative energy sources like solar or wind or nuclear power.

[An Upbeat Perspective on Peak Oil: Bart Anderson on Coming Challenges](#)

With last year's high gas prices fading in our memories, and with the Copenhagen climate talks grabbing the headlines, the peak oil meme seemed, until recently, to have been taking a bit of a breather. Then along came an (admittedly anonymous) whistleblower from the International Energy Agency claiming that statistics on global oil reserves have been massively inflated under political pressure. So what are we to do about peak oil?

There's no shortage of folks out there telling you you need to grab a gun and run to the hills. Luckily Bart Anderson, former editor of EnergyBulletin.net, is a little more optimistic. In this interview with Peak Moment TV—the folks who have brought us videos on everything from backyard permaculture and safe, legal graywater—Bart expounds on everything from the importance of building resilience, to not painting ourselves into a corner with any one solution or philosophy.

[Thanks for the blessings of oil](#)

Thanksgiving Day is a special day for those following the peak oil news. Geologist Kenneth Deffeyes, author of Hubbert's Peak, predicted that Thanksgiving Day 2005 would mark the peak in world oil production. After that, oil production would decline, irreversibly. And he may have been right. Crude oil production figures have been removed from the most widely influential official statistics, so it's not easy to check. Even if crude production numbers were easily available, the numbers are so uncertain that it's hard to see anything other than the biggest trends.

When Deffeyes made the prediction, almost two years before Thanksgiving 2005, his tongue was only slightly in his cheek. Oil production data are not nearly precise enough to establish a peak day.

Was Deffeyes at least right about the year of peak oil?

[Incredible Edible: How To Make Your Town Self-sufficient](#)

While citizens of the world turn their eyes to Copenhagen, awaiting leadership with dwindling hope, one town has taken matters into the hands of the people. An idea that

started around a kitchen table has grown into a reality demonstrating wisdom not seen since Gandhi. Starting from just a few herb gardens, the "Incredible Edible" project grew organically, out of the energy of local people who sought no public funds because they wanted to do it their way. Now "their way" shows the way. Prepare to be inspired.

[Brothels-R-Us](#)

It is important not to try rebuilding the Aspen economy on the rotten pillars of conspicuous consumption and conspicuous waste. Anyone who still thinks these are appropriate values for sustainable economic vitality is either ignorant of climate change and peak oil, or has made a few too many trips to the local pot dispensaries.

In light of today's downturn, Aspen is faced with converting liabilities into assets. The most obvious liabilities are the vacant pleasure palaces whose resident mice and packrats are now visited only by property management drones making sure the gas is turned on all snowmelt surfaces and that the teak and mahogany doors are secured against vagrants.

[Europe's post-Soviet greening — gains and failures](#)

DNIPRODZERZHYNISK, Ukraine – Twenty years ago, when the Iron Curtain came down, the world gagged in horror as it witnessed firsthand the ravages inflicted on nature by the Soviet industrial machine.

Throughout the crumbling communist empire, sewage and chemicals clogged rivers; industrial smog choked cities; radiation seeped through the soil; open pit mines scarred green valleys. It was hard to measure how bad it was and still is: The focus was more on production quotas than environmental data.

Today, Europe has two easts — one that has been largely cleaned up with the help of a massive infusion of Western funds and the prospect of membership in the prosperous European Union; another that still looks as though the commissars never left.

[Russia vows quick completion of Iran atom plant](#)

TEHRAN - Russia's energy minister pledged on Sunday a quick completion of Iran's first nuclear power station, Iran's state broadcaster IRIB reported, weeks after Moscow announced the latest delay to the Bushehr plant.

The reported statement, which did not give a specific time for the launch of Bushehr, came as Iran's government announced plans to build 10 new uranium enrichment plants, in a major expansion of its disputed nuclear programme. Russia said in mid-November that technical issues would prevent its engineers from starting up the reactor at Bushehr by the end of the year as previously planned.

[The great green fraud](#)

All responsible people want to assist the disadvantaged parts of the world and do what we reasonably can for our own descendants, but not to the point of self-impoverishment now for the sake of a marginal gain against a wildly unproved prognosis a century from now. This is the flimsiest justification imaginable for the mad slogan parroted endlessly by the eco-Zouaves, from Hollywood to the UN to Ducks Unlimited: "Save the Planet!," as they try to force-march the world into biodegradable pastoralism.

[What Happens When Your Country Drowns?](#)

IT'S A BRIGHT, BALMY SUNDAY afternoon and I'm driving through the western outskirts of Auckland, New Zealand, the kind of place you never see on a postcard. No majestic mountains, no improbably green pastures—just a bland tangle of shopping malls and suburbia. I follow a dead-end street, past a rubber plant, a roofing company, a drainage service, and a plastics manufacturer, until I reach a white building behind a chain-link fence. Inside is a kernel of a nation within a nation—a sneak preview of what a climate change exodus looks like.

[Monbiot: Please, Canada, clean up your act](#)

The excuses made by the Canadian government for its filibustering and obstruction become more feeble by the day. As I understand his current position, your Environment Minister, Jim Prentice, will not contribute to an international treaty until his government knows what its domestic policies will be, and he will not formulate its domestic policies until there's an international treaty. He appears to be seeking to delay and weaken any international agreement, while claiming that there is no point in setting strong national targets if the rest of the world isn't pulling its weight.

Canada's tactics have caused shock and revulsion everywhere. They are dragging your good name through the mud. Stephen Harper and Jim Prentice threaten to do as much damage to your international standing as George W. Bush and Dick Cheney did to that of the United States.

[China must show leadership on climate change, EU says](#)

NANJING, China — The European Union said Monday that cataclysmic climate change cannot be averted without Chinese leadership but Beijing stood firm in pushing for the rich world to take the lead.

"We cannot solve the climate challenge to mankind without China taking on leadership and responsibility," Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt said in his capacity as EU president at a summit in the eastern city of Nanjing.

[India Says Emission Cut Offers by Rich Nations Not Good Enough](#)

(Bloomberg) -- India, the world's fourth-biggest polluter, said emission reduction offers by rich nations before next week's climate change talks in Copenhagen are insufficient.

"If we take all the offers that are on the table at the moment, it will add up to, at the most, about 15 percent to 20 percent reduction by 2020 as compared to 1990," Shyam Saran, special envoy of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, said in New Delhi today. The offers are "far below even the conservative 25 percent" projected by the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, he said.

[Rudd Carbon Bill Faces Senate Test Before Obama Talks](#)

The political twists and turns -- Senators from the Liberal and Nationals coalition will meet today to decide whether to defer a vote until next year -- threaten to leave Rudd empty-handed when he travels to the United Nations summit on climate change. The political debate also sows confusion at electricity providers and mining companies as they prepare to deal with the proposed cap-and-trade carbon emissions trading plan.

[Australian PM to meet Obama for talks](#)

WASHINGTON — Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd visits the White House Monday for talks with US President Barack Obama set to be dominated by climate change and the conflict in Afghanistan.

Rudd will arrive fresh from a Commonwealth summit in Trinidad where he helped steer a landmark declaration backing moves to draw up a legally binding pact to fight global warming at climate talks beginning next week in Copenhagen.

The two men will also discuss Afghanistan on the eve of a nationwide address by Obama to lay out a new strategy for the conflict including deploying more than 30,000 extra troops.

[Dalai Lama urges world to act on climate change](#)

SYDNEY — The world's leaders must prioritize the issue of global warming above all else, the Dalai Lama said Monday, adding that he feels encouraged by next month's climate change summit in Copenhagen.

The revered Buddhist figure and Nobel Peace Prize winner, in Australia for a series of lectures on universal responsibility and the environment, said politicians must focus their energy on finding a solution to climate change.

"Sometimes their number one importance is national interest, national economic interest, then global (warming) issue is sometimes second," he said during a news conference. "That I think should change. The global issue, it should be number one."

[Ski Resorts Fight Global Warming](#)

Ski resorts across the country used the Thanksgiving weekend to jump start their winter seasons, but with every passing year comes a frightening realization: If global temperatures continue to rise, fewer and fewer resorts will be able to open for the traditional beginning of ski season.

[McCartney calls for meat-free day to cut CO2](#)

BRUSSELS — Paul McCartney is urging consumers to fight global warming by going vegetarian at least once a week, ahead of an address he will deliver on Thursday to the European Parliament.

"By making a simple change in the way you eat, you are taking part in a world changing campaign where what's good for you is also good for the planet," the former Beatle told the Parliament Magazine.

[Climate research e-mail controversy simmers](#)

The case for global warming rests on "all kinds of evidence," says climate scientist Don Wuebbles of the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. "Look at what's happening to ice in the Arctic. Explain that as 'no global warming.' It doesn't take a genius to see, obviously, warming is happening, e-mails or not."

Further, notes IPCC chief Rajendra Pachauri, the evidence for warming in the 2007 IPCC report comes from multiple lines of evidence besides surface temperatures, such as ocean heat, atmospheric water vapor and sea ice. The 2007 report found man-made gases have raised average atmospheric temperatures about 1.3 degrees Fahrenheit since 1905 and probably will raise them 3 to 7 degrees by 2100, depending on future emission cuts.

"The East Anglia temperature records aren't the core problem," says climatologist Patrick Michaels of the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C., which advocates for limited regulation.

[Expert: Climate change affecting Midwest](#)

Warmer winters, wetter springs and more flooding along riverfront communities in Illinois may become the norm, according to Wes Jarrell.

“The time for debate about global warming is over,” he said. “It’s not a matter of opinion. It’s a matter of fact. Climate changes are already occurring in the Midwest.”

Jarrell, interim director of the University of Illinois’ Environmental Change Institute, said temperatures are generally rising, especially in the winter, and noted that the spring rains that delayed planting in Illinois may become typical.

[What Is the Right Number to Combat Climate Change?](#)

Despite all these variables, scientists from Svante Arrhenius to those on the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have noted that doubling preindustrial concentrations of CO₂ in the atmosphere from 280 parts per million (ppm) would likely result in a world with average temperatures roughly 3 degrees C warmer.

But how much heating and added CO₂ is safe for human civilization remains a judgment call. European politicians have agreed that global average temperatures should not rise more than 2 degrees C above preindustrial levels by 2100, which equals a greenhouse gas concentration of roughly 450 ppm. “We’re at 387 now and we’re going up at two ppm per year,” says geochemist Wallace Broecker of Columbia University’s Earth Institute. “That means 450 is only 30 years away. We’d be lucky if we could stop at 550.”

[How Can Humanity Avoid or Reverse the Dangers Posed by a Warming Climate?](#)

So how do we keep global average temperatures from warming more than two degrees Celsius? Scientists have begun to turn their attention to answering this critical question now that the potential impacts of climate change have become clear. The solutions offered range from a tax on emissions of carbon dioxide to an end to forest-clearing for agriculture.

[Climate Change Is Inevitable — It’s Time to Adapt](#)

The really inconvenient truth: We’re toast. Fried. Steamed. Poached. More so than even many hand-wringing carbonistas admit. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, CO₂ that’s already in the air or in the pipeline will stoke “irreversible” warming for the next 1,000 years. Any scheme cobbled together in Copenhagen for slowing—forget reversing—the growth of greenhouse gases will be way too little, way too late. In the apt jargon of industry, a hotter planet is already “baked in.” James Lovelock, the British chemist who redubbed Mother Earth as “Gaia,” tells the ungilded truth: Can we hit a carbon Undo button? “Not a hope in hell.”

Now here’s some good news: We can still come out OK. Because by one of those strokes

of luck that seem to follow the most charmed species on earth, climate change arrives just at the moment when we have—or have in sight—an array of tools for adapting and extending human civilization to any and every environment. Homo sapiens now splash golf courses across deserts, joyride in outer space, update their Facebook profiles from the South Pole. And technological change is accelerating. By 2050—zero hour for many warming scenarios—the 2010s will look as primitive as the buggy-whipped 1890s do today.

[Climate Change: Survival Kit](#)

Are there low-cost ways to adjust to a warming world? The United Nations' Local Coping Strategies Database tracks techniques already being used as communities feel the heat.



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