



Drumbeat: December 3, 2009

Posted by [Leanan](#) on December 3, 2009 - 9:15am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Crude Reality: Oil Execs See a Glum 2010](#)

It's going to be a long 2010 for the oil industry.

That's the key takeaway from a survey of the chief financial officers of 100 U.S. oil and natural gas companies, conducted by the accounting and consulting firm BDO Seidman. (Check back here for a link when it's available.)

According to the survey, most companies don't expect demand for energy to rebound until 2011 or later (18% think it won't happen until after 2012). They also don't expect access to credit to improve until at least the second half of next year. And they don't expect industry spending to rebound to 2007 levels until 2011 or beyond.

U.S. oil demand to support higher prices.

[We the Six Billion: The Sky Is Lowering](#)

There was more reader response to my two-part "Ammonia Economy" than to anything I have written. The response was mostly critical, but from two opposite viewpoints. In one view I was insufficiently loyal to the "peak oil" cult. In the other, by saying that our local dependence on oil for heat was a disaster in the making I was crying "the sky is falling," when, in fact, abundant cheap oil will be with us for generations to come.

[Paradise Sinking](#)

According to most analysts, "peak" oil - the time when global petroleum extraction has reached its maximum - is already a reality, and another major oil shock and massive price spikes are not far off. Meanwhile the capital costs of renewable-energy equipment - particularly for solar - continue to decline, making this more affordable for individuals and communities alike.

Industrialized economies that run on petroleum are already feeling the pinch. They will find it much harder to readjust to new energy sources and means of production than island states that do not have a large industrial sector, but whose economies are based largely on agriculture and tourism.

[Transition Towns on the horizon in PA?: Fear about peak oil is spreading](#)

Rather than just wringing their hands over this draconian vision of vast global change and its dire consequences, groups around the world are attempting to do something about it: namely, change the way they live in their towns. Thus, Transition Towns was born.

Some examples of activities in the towns are: one hundred percent recycling, ensuring the purity of food, support of local farmers, promoting farmers markets, sharing means of transportation, sharing common garden space, creating a local currency that is used in place of traditional money to buy locally produced products and changing policies of local governments.

[Ghana: Oil and Gas Driven Industrialization - Country's Model of Petroleum Resource Management](#)

The United States and some European countries who have more oil and gas reserves than Ghana have followed the path of alternative energy sources to fuel their industries. The US especially is spending so much on energy diversification to reduce the share of oil and gas in their energy mix due to the fast rate of depletion of these resources in what has become known as 'the peak oil theory'.

Therefore if Ghana is to develop petroleum driven industrialization, the energy needs of the country in the long-term and whether the reserves can sustain her requirements must be examined. Otherwise, she must begin to look for energy supply sources elsewhere or design future petroleum agreements to reflect domestic energy security for industrial development.

[Why OPEC is treading cautiously](#)

OPEC should be cautious when it meets this month decide its oil output policy as it needs to balance signs of economic recovery and abundant supplies, the group's secretary general said on Thursday.

[Bubbling under: The hunt for shale gas in Europe](#)

ACROSS Europe, a stealthy land-grab is under way. Exxon Mobil is drilling in Germany's Lower Saxony. ConocoPhillips has joined 3 Legs Resources, a small firm based on the Isle of Man, to explore a large tract of land in Poland. Austria's OMV is testing geological formations near Vienna. Shell is targeting Sweden. A host of smaller firms is fanning out across other countries, including France. They are all looking for

natural gas trapped in shale (a type of flaky sedimentary rock)—a resource that has transformed the market for gas in America and may have a big impact on Europe, too.

[Why business is fretting over China's rebuke of Canada](#)

China's rebuke of Prime Minister Stephen Harper today could have broader implications as businesses shoot for a bigger piece of trade with the emerging economic powerhouse. At their first meeting, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao publicly scolded Mr. Harper for failing to visit China sooner, saying that “five years is too long a time for China-Canada relations and that's why there are comments in the media that your visit is one that should have taken place earlier.”

[California utility PG&E to buy first wind project](#)

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - PG&E Corp will build and operate a wind power project of up to 246 megawatts with the U.S. unit of Spain's Iberdrola SA, marking the utility's first foray to own wind generation.

PG&E said on Thursday that it expected to invest just over \$900 million in the project. That figure includes the cost for Iberdrola Renewables to develop and build the system.

[Cap and trade: America struggles with climate-change legislation](#)

After eight years of resistance from the Bush administration, America may be about to get mandatory federal greenhouse-gas emissions controls. The House of Representatives has passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act, otherwise known as the Waxman-Markey bill. It is sponsored by two powerful Democrats, Henry Waxman, chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Edward Markey, chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment.

The bill steers a difficult course between the demands of environmentalists and those of business. In attempting to bring emissions down by 17% below 2005 by 2020, or 4% below 1990 levels, it aims low by the standards of other rich countries, but is under attack in America on the ground that it will hurt the economy. In a cap-and-trade system designed purely for efficiency all permits would be auctioned, which is what Mr Obama wanted. But as a result of concessions made in committee, by the time it was passed, 85% were to be given away initially (though some of the value of the giveaways will be returned to power consumers as rebates).

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[Saudi Aramco to Complete Manifa Oil Field in 2015](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Saudi Arabia expects to complete its Manifa heavy oil field in 2015, according to a statement on the Web site of state-run oil company Saudi Aramco.

The project, which involves building a man-made causeway to 27 shallow-water drilling islands, will eventually produce 900,000 barrels a day of heavy crude oil, 900 million cubic feet a day of associated gas and 65,000 barrels a day of condensate, a high-value light oil.

Manifa is one of several oil field projects that the kingdom is undertaking to boost and maintain its production capacity. Daily output reached 12.5 million barrels in June, Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi said last month. The country maintains spare production capacity of about 4 million barrels a day, according to the Oil Ministry.

[NIOC world's 2nd largest oil company: report](#)

TEHRAN – National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) ranked the second in the list of the world's 50 largest oil companies published by Petroleum Intelligence Weekly (PIW).

The PIW's ranking is based on operational data from over 130 firms. The focus on operations allows meaningful comparisons of all types of companies -- including state-owned firms -- and thus differs from more financially oriented corporate rankings.

PIW's system uses as criteria oil reserves and production, natural gas reserves and output, refinery capacity, and sales volumes.

[Oil rise to turn Saudi fiscal deficit into surplus](#)

Saudi Arabia could escape its first fiscal deficit in seven years and bask under another surplus in 2009 because of the improvement in oil prices, according to an investment company in the kingdom.

Announcing its 2009 budget in late 2008, Riyadh projected a budget shortfall of SR65 billion (Dh64.3bn) but the actual balance could turn into a surplus of around SR5bn at

the end of the year, said NCB Capital, an offshoot of the Saudi National Commercial Bank.

[Saudi to keep Jan. crude steady to U.S. - refiners](#)

HOUSTON (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, plans to keep crude oil shipments to U.S. refiners unchanged in January, buyers of its crude said on Wednesday.

Sources at two U.S. buyers of Saudi crude said they expected cargoes to remain stable next month after several months of no change in allocations to the United States.

[British Navy leads the way as Iraqi sailors learn to safeguard nation's oil trade](#)

In recent weeks, the British military has made a stealthy return to Iraq, after leaving the country this year when its legal mandate ran out. A new deal was struck this month, and a contingent of 100 naval trainers has since arrived to prepare local sailors and Marines to defend the country's ports and sea routes. "Iraq's coastline is short but it still needs a capable navy," said Captain McMichael-Phillips.

Out in the Gulf lie the reasons why Iraq needs a navy: two massive oil delivery platforms that provide about 85 per cent of Iraqi government revenues. Around the clock, vast tankers dock at one platform, known as the al-Basra oil terminal (Abot), 17 miles from a disputed maritime border with Iran, to load crude oil that has been pumped out to sea from the desert oil fields.

[Qatar Oil Production Capacity Rises to 1 Million Barrels a Day](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Qatar's oil-production capacity increased 4.2 percent to an estimated 1 million barrels a day in 2009, the U.S. Energy Department said in a report on the Persian Gulf nation.

"Though Qatar's petroleum production has grown steadily since 2002, Qatar's fields are maturing," the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration said in the report. "To offset anticipated declines, enhanced oil recovery techniques are being considered for several fields."

[Chevron Exec Encouraged By Venezuela's New Oil Auction Terms](#)

A Chevron Corp. executive called the Venezuelan government's new terms for its Carabobo heavy oil drilling tender an improvement, and said he thinks the revisions are

most likely the final draft.

"It's encouraging that they've continued to improve the terms," Wes Lohec, Chevron's managing director for Latin America, said Wednesday. "I don't think there will be any further changes in the terms. These are the terms with which we'll have to make our bid decision."

[Shell Scraps Plan to Join Sinopec's Refinery Project](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Royal Dutch Shell Plc, Europe's largest oil company, scrapped plans to consider taking a stake in a refinery planned by China Petroleum & Chemical Corp. and Kuwait's national oil company, a spokeswoman said.

"We decided not to pursue this opportunity due to strategic and commercial considerations," Li Lusha, Shell's China manager of media relations, said by telephone today. "We've not pulled out because we've never expressed that we have joined."

[Medvedev, Berlusconi Oversee South Stream Accord With EDF](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi oversaw the signing of an agreement between OAO Gazprom, Eni SpA and Electricite de France SA on the South Stream pipeline aimed at bringing Europe "energy security."

Gazprom and Eni agreed in Rome today to give EDF 10 percent in South Stream AG, the operator of the planned offshore section of the natural-gas pipeline that will pass under the Black Sea. It will bypass Ukraine and like the Nord Stream pipeline that will run under the Baltic Sea, will help avoid a repetition of the gas disputes that have curbed supplies to Europe twice since 2006, Medvedev said.

[Chevron's \\$40 Billion Gorgon Plant Sparks Global Worker Hunt](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Chevron Corp.'s \$40 billion Australian natural gas project will drive a global hunt for construction workers and has prompted calls to ease immigration rules to prevent labor shortages and cost overruns at energy and mining projects fueling the country's economy.

[Higher Inventories Drag Down Oil Price](#)

The U.S. Energy Department's weekly inventory release showed a surprise buildup in crude stockpiles. The agency's bearish report further added that gasoline supplies rose much more than analysts projected, while refinery rates remained at historically low

levels. The only saving grace came in the form of distillates, whose stocks were down more than expected.

[Cnooc to Triple Zhejiang LNG Capacity to Meet Demand](#)

(Bloomberg) -- China National Offshore Oil Corp. will triple the receiving capacity of its Ningbo liquefied natural gas terminal in Zhejiang province to meet the country's increased demand for cleaner-burning fuel.

[With 1.2MM Energy Jobs Available, Will Obama Open OCS for Business?](#)

On December 3, President Obama, business and labor leaders, academics and other elected officials will gather at the White House for a jobs summit. Thomas J. Pyle, president of the Institute for Energy Research (IER), issued the following statement on the positive economic impacts that safe, responsible offshore energy exploration could have on our nation's ailing economy and our long-term energy security:

"Affordable energy is the linchpin to a strong and prosperous nation and workforce. And there isn't an industry that can produce more good-paying jobs more quickly, especially through responsibly expanding homegrown offshore energy production. For more than 25 years, presidents and leaders in Congress -- of both political stripes -- have kept enormous amounts of America's job-creating energy resources off-limits.

[Falling remittances one factor in possible peso devaluation](#)

If current conditions persist long enough, however, it could be bad. Mexico's main three sources of foreign money are oil exports, remittances and tourism, in that order, and all three are in decline. Migrant workers in the U.S. are having such a hard time finding work that relatives in Mexico are having to send money north. And then there's oil.

[Fears Of Food Shortage Due To Drivers Strike](#)

French supermarkets could face some empty shelves in the run-up to Christmas, due to a potential strike by lorry drivers across the country. Local reports said drivers from five separate unions plan to stop work from 13 December, as they look for increased pay.

The strike will aim to block access to supermarket and hypermarket depots, and perhaps also fuel depots, and is likely to target chains such as Auchan and Carrefour.

[Oil sharks](#)

So is there any credence to the fact that bad boys are sitting off the coast ripping us off? I can't believe I am even giving this space but here goes: Firstly, when oil was driven to \$147 last year the resulting petrol price (which was blamed on oil) was less than it is today. Crude oil is priced at \$77.07 today. (1) Explain that then.

Need I go on?

[Obama decision on Afghanistan buildup brings out strong reactions locally](#)

"Occupations are doomed to create more problems than they're supposed to solve," Weiss said.

Michael T. Klare, a Five Colleges professor of peace and world security studies, expressed a similar concern that a military surge could lead to greater anti-American sentiments in the Middle East. "It will appear like America is performing an occupying role," Klare said. "There will be increased resentment."

[GDF to Open Pipeline Access to Settle Antitrust Case](#)

(Bloomberg) -- GDF Suez, operator of Europe's largest natural-gas network, reached a settlement with European Union regulators after an investigation into whether it harmed competition by restricting access to its French pipelines.

The European Commission, the EU's antitrust regulator, said GDF Suez agreed to "a major structural reduction of its long-term reservations on French gas import infrastructure capacity." The commission's decision today makes the company's initial settlement offer in July legally binding.

[Moody's Raises Oil, Gas Industry to 'Positive' on Higher Prices](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Integrated oil and gas companies such as Royal Dutch Shell Plc and BP Plc, Europe's largest, will benefit as higher oil prices and lower industry costs stem declines in cash flow, Moody's Investors Service said.

The agency revised its outlook for the oil and natural-gas industry to "positive" from "negative," it said today in a statement. Rising demand and "a gradual economic upturn are expected to underpin the recent recovery in oil prices in 2010," Moody's said.

[Nigeria farmers sue Shell over oil spill](#)

A group of Nigerian farmers is suing Royal Dutch Shell, claiming that the oil firm

polluted their land in the Niger Delta region.

The four farmers allege that oil spilt from the supply lines of a subsidiary of Shell contaminated fish ponds and farms, ruining villagers' livelihoods.

[Oil Sands Clean-up Efforts Criticized](#)

With Canada facing mounting international pressure to confront its sluggish emission reduction record heading into the Copenhagen climate meetings next week, environmental groups this week released yet another unflattering appraisal, this one showing that seven of Alberta's nine oil sands projects will fail to meet new clean-up rules for the vast tailing ponds located near bitumen refineries.

[Explosion Ruptures Tank at Imperium Renewables Biodiesel Plant](#)

(Bloomberg) -- An explosion ruptured a glycerin processing tank at Imperium Renewables Inc.'s Grays Harbor, Washington, biodiesel facility, causing the plant to shut.

[Climate e-mail hack 'will impact on Copenhagen summit'](#)

E-mails hacked from a climate research institute suggest climate change does not have a human cause, according to Saudi Arabia's lead climate negotiator.

Mohammad Al-Sabban told BBC News that the issue will have a "huge impact" on next week's UN climate summit, with countries unwilling to cut emissions.

[A journey through the Earth's climate history](#)

As world leaders prepare to meet in Copenhagen to discuss climate change - how did the Earth's climate arrive at its current state and how do scientists delve into the secrets of our planet's past?

[Climate change denial is the new article of faith for the far right](#)

Despite nearly two weeks of frantic brandishing of the "smoking gun", there is still no evidence of the alleged bullets that would constitute an overturning of 200 years of climate research. The greenhouse effect still exists and the Earth is still warming.

[The Science and Politics of Climate Change](#)

I am a climate scientist who worked in the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) at the University of East Anglia in the 1990s. I have been reflecting on the bigger lessons to be learned from the stolen emails, some of which were mine. One thing the episode has made clear is that it has become difficult to disentangle political arguments about climate policies from scientific arguments about the evidence for man-made climate change and the confidence placed in predictions of future change. The quality of both political debate and scientific practice suffers as a consequence.

[Climate change threatens life in Shishmaref, Alaska](#)

Shishmaref, Alaska (CNN) -- When the arctic winds howl and angry waves pummel the shore of this Inupiat Eskimo village, Shelton and Clara Kokeok fear that their house, already at the edge of the Earth, finally may plunge into the gray sea below.

"The land is going away," said Shelton Kokeok, 65, whose home is on the tip of a bluff that's been melting in part because of climate change. "I think it's going to vanish one of these days."

[Contraception won't solve climate change](#)

In fact, there is no causal relationship between population density and poverty. People are only too happy to accept that India is overpopulated but they would never suggest such a thing of the Netherlands or Israel, both with higher population density.

[Groups Petition EPA to Set Greenhouse Gas Limits Under Clean Air Act](#)

Two environmental groups petitioned U.S. EPA today to set national limits for greenhouse gases using the Clean Air Act.

[The Ministry of Climate Change Misinformation](#)

Climate Cover-Up grew out of the good, old-fashioned muckracking that James Hoggan (with co-author Richard Littlemore) has been publishing since 2005 on the invaluable website DeSmogBlog. The book, through meticulously documented analysis, lays out the deliberate, nefarious, and immoral campaign to manipulate the public discourse on climate change. It also helps explain why, despite the well-established science, there are still ads on TV trumpeting the benefits of carbon dioxide ("They call it pollution, We call it life"), why anonymous commenters continue to bombard climate-related articles and blog posts (and, likely, this column) with uninformed "it's a hoax" or "the world is cooling" denial talking points, why just over half of registered Republicans believe climate change is happening at all, and why, last week, some stolen personal emails from climate scientists that don't actually discredit their work is a bigger news story than the

very severe, enormously dire findings released by the scientifically sound Copenhagen Diagnosis.

[Climate un-changed: experts say Copenhagen conference a 'process', not a resolution](#)

Even as the highly-anticipated United Nations Climate Change Conference is about to begin in Copenhagen next week, two energy experts are already warning against expecting huge strides to be made at the global warming talks.

“I think it does seem that Copenhagen is being cast more and more as a process and not as a conclusion, to not have expectations that there's going to be an agreement there. I think there's still a lot of tough negotiating that's going ahead and I think it's probably harder to do it during a time of economic recession,” says Daniel Yergin, Chairman of IHS Cambridge Energy Research Associates and Pulitzer-prize winning author of *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money and Power*.

Likewise, Harvard Kennedy School Professor Bill Hogan, who is also the Research Director of the Harvard Electricity Policy Group, thinks “declared success but little else” will emerge from the summit. Speaking in Singapore ahead of the summit, he said: “Perhaps next year maybe in Mexico, when the next round of the COP (Conference of the Parties) meets in Mexico, some stronger agreement would take place. But I think it's too late for Copenhagen.” Those comments though were made shortly before the White House stated that President Barack Obama will pledge to cut greenhouse gas emissions in the US in several stages, beginning with a 17 per cent cut by 2020.

[UK: Government announces second wave of eco towns](#)

Housing Minister John Healey has announced proposals for a second wave of eco towns and pledged to double the money, to a total of £10 million, in Government support to local councils in developing green settlements.

In July, Healey announced that four locations had met the strict criteria for zero carbon developments. The sites in Hampshire, Norfolk, Cornwall and Oxfordshire are currently developing masterplans for local planning approval. Healey also laid out ambitious plans in July for a further six eco communities to be built by 2020.

[Why cheap oil is here to stay](#): *With oil supplies rising and the economy becoming ever more efficient, a super-spike in prices is looking increasingly unlikely.*

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- Because oil prices have always been directly related to the strength of the economy, a recovery might have seen headlines like these:

- The recession ends: Get ready for \$100 oil
- The economy roars: \$140 oil, is there an end in sight?

- Everyone in China buys a Cadillac: World tapped out

But a growing number of experts are saying that you can forget all that. For the next couple of years, they say, oil prices will remain well below \$100 a barrel as the economy remains fragile and efficiency measures kick in.

"The world will never run out of oil," Deutsche Bank analysts wrote in a recent research note, echoing the old logic that the Stone Age didn't end because the world ran out of stone. "If the oil age does end, it likely will be because we become more efficient and simply use less petroleum."

[Brazil to Produce Extra 1.8 Million Barrels of Oil a Day by 2022](#)

The world in order to meet the growing demand for oil, will need a surplus production volume equivalent to the Saudi production every two years, up until 2020. The statement was made by the president of Petrobras, José Sergio Gabrielli, during a seminar on the pre-salt layer held December 1st at the University of São Paulo (USP), in the capital of the state of São Paulo.

The Saudi output is currently around 11 million barrels of oil per day. According to Gabrielli, Petrobras should contribute to meeting the global demand with an increase of 1.8 million barrels a day, as a consequence of pre-salt production. The volume should be attained within 12 years, according to projections by the state-owned company.

[Crude Oil Buyers Risk 'Bull Trap' Near \\$80: Technical Analysis](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Crude oil buyers may misinterpret the market's climb this week as a signal for further gains, exposing themselves to a potential price reversal, according to Cameron Hanover Inc.

Oil, rising for a third week in four, will face stronger resistance the closer it gets to \$82 a barrel, a one-year high reached on Oct. 21, said Peter Beutel, president of the trading adviser in New Canaan, Connecticut. Buyers should watch for the market to settle higher each day before stepping in, rather than take their cues from intraday price swings, he said.

[John Michael Greer: Lies and Statistics](#)

As important as the misinformation generated by such arbitrary statistical constructs is the void that results because other, arguably more important figures are not being collected at all. In an age that will increasingly be constrained by energy limits, for example, a more useful measure of productivity might be energy productivity – that is, output per barrel of oil equivalent (BOE) of energy consumed. An economy that

produces more value with less energy input is arguably an economy better suited to the downslope of Hubbert's peak, and the relative position of different nations, to say nothing of the trendline of their energy productivity over time, would provide useful information to governments, investors, and the general public alike. For all I know, somebody already calculates this figure, but I'm still waiting to see a politician or an executive crowing over the fact that the country now produces 2% more output per unit of energy.

[Vancouver mayor Gregor Robertson an ambitious dreamer](#)

The growing political power of cities, Robertson says, makes innovative places like Vancouver a sort of ground zero for exploring the changes needed as Earth faces the dangers ahead. Peak oil, the loss of cities' manufacturing and service jobs, the health costs of unmitigated pollution, the decline of energy-inefficient suburbs, and the environmental advantages of metropolitan densification, eating locally, pedestrianized downtown streets, and community gardens are, Robertson knows, behind a public desire for dramatic urban transformation. In many, many ways, this new urbanism is, in fact, an old movie called Back to the Future, trolley lines, farmers markets, bicycles, and all.

[Local food activist makes the farm-bike-sailboat connection](#)

Jan Lundberg moved to Portland a year ago because it seemed like the best place to pursue his intersecting passions for food security, peak oil, bicycles, and sailing.

These passions will be coming to fruition later this month when the oil analyst's brainchild, the Sail Transport Network, will launch into its first major, ongoing local venture. Lundberg is finalizing plans to deliver malted grain grown on Sauvie Island in Northwest Portland to a brewery further down the Columbia River by a combination of cargo bike and sailboat.

[This time, a real jobs program](#)

President Barack Obama is holding a "jobs summit" today, and Congress is currently discussing a jobs bill. Unfortunately, the current talk of combating unemployment has been plagued by false assumptions encapsulated in the word "stimulus," which evokes an organism that can quickly generate the desired response with the right "input." In reality, the U.S. economy will falter for many years unless a government-led jobs program recognizes new economic and environmental realities and confronts the challenges before us.

Facing peak oil and global competition for scarce natural resources, we must repair and reform the physical and intellectual undergirding of our economy to build a broad base of prosperity. That means major infrastructure investments in public works, communications and energy.

[Copenhagen Failure Defied by \\$200 Billion in Green Investments](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Renewable-energy investment may climb to a record \$200 billion worldwide next year as companies from Hong Kong's CLP Holdings Ltd. to American Electric Power Co. start projects that don't depend on a new climate-change treaty.

Private and public spending on technology such as solar panels and wind turbines will rise about 50 percent from \$130 billion this year and top the previous high of \$155 billion in 2008, according to Michael Liebreich, chairman of London-based New Energy Finance, a consulting firm whose data is used by the United Nations and Deutsche Bank AG.

[Elusive Goal of Greening U.S. Energy](#)

President Obama, both during his campaign and in his first year in office, has promoted the promise of new jobs in cutting-edge, nonpolluting industries, and such green jobs will be a major issue at his jobs "summit" meeting Thursday.

But, increasingly, skeptics who point to the need for more jobs are wondering why he is not doing more to create green jobs faster.

Growth in clean energy industries and in green jobs has been considerably slower and bumpier than anticipated, industry experts say.

[Bode: Oklahoma needs renewable energy standard](#)

OKLAHOMA CITY – A former member of the state board that regulates utilities said Wednesday that Oklahoma needs to develop a renewable energy standard to encourage development of its wind energy sector and potentially lure manufacturing jobs.

[Mass. gov: Utility to pursue Cape Wind power deal](#)

BOSTON – Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick has announced that National Grid will pursue a long term deal with Cape Wind to purchase power from its proposed 130 turbine wind farm.

Patrick said Wednesday that such a deal is critical to securing financing for the Nantucket Sound project and getting it operating in time to qualify for federal incentives that could reduce its \$1 billion cost by 30 percent.

[Rising Partisanship Sharply Erodes U.S. Public's Belief in Global Warming](#)

"This is a big problem for the president," said Julian Zelizer, a professor of history and public affairs at Princeton University. "One of the main tactics of opponents of environmental regulation since the 1940s has been to challenge the science."

The dramatic 30-percentage-point drop over two years in the Harris poll is the starkest indicator yet that belief in climate change has plummeted in a short amount of time. The shift in numbers since 2007 came from a 15-point percentage increase from those saying they "are not sure" about the cause of climate change.

[Ancient Animals Fled to Antarctica to Escape Warming](#)

Antarctica served as a climatic refuge for animals during the world's largest known, and probably global warming-fueled, mass extinction event, according to new research that focused on one scrappy survivor.

[David Strahan - Extreme oil: Scraping the bottom of Earth's barrel](#)



EIGHTY-FIVE million barrels. That's how much oil we consume every day. It's a staggering amount - enough to fill over 5400 Olympic swimming pools - and demand is expected to keep on rising, despite the impending supply crunch.

The International Energy Agency forecasts that by 2030 it will rise to about 105 million barrels per day with a commensurate increase in production (see graph), although whistle-blowers recently told *The Guardian* newspaper in London that insiders at the IEA believe the agency vastly over-estimates our chances of plugging that gap. The agency officially denies this.

Wherever the truth lies, it is widely expected that by 2030 we will have passed the peak of conventional oil production - the moment that output from conventional oil reserves goes into terminal decline. A report from the UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC) published in August said there was a "significant risk" it would happen before 2020. And that means we will soon be staring down the barrel of the ultimate oil crisis.

[Plenty more oil, but use it wisely](#)

CHEAP oil has been the driving force behind the phenomenal economic growth of the past century, at least in the west. Oil is the lifeblood of the modern world. If we were to remove it tomorrow, it is no exaggeration to say that civilisation would collapse.

But the days of abundant, easy-to-extract oil are numbered. It's a mantra we've all heard before. Oil production is poised to enter terminal decline: if "peak oil" hasn't already arrived, it is imminent.

[The Peak Oil Crisis: China in 2010](#)

It is looking like the course of China's economy will have a lot more to do with your life and lifestyle over the next year or so than you had ever imagined possible. The logic behind this assertion is simple.

The U.S. and for that matter the rest of the OECD economies seem unlikely to be doing much growing in the near future.

[Is shale an answer to the energy question?](#)

"The United States is sitting on over 100 years of gas supply at the current rates of consumption," he said. Because natural gas emits half the greenhouse gases of coal, he added, that "provides the United States with a unique opportunity to address concerns about energy security and climate change."

Recoverable U.S. gas reserves could now be bigger than the immense gas reserves of Russia, some experts say. The Marcellus shale formation, stretching across swaths of Pennsylvania, New York and West Virginia, has enough gas to meet the entire nation's needs for at least 14 years, according to an estimate by two Pennsylvania State University experts.

...With new supplies, the country will be less vulnerable to disruptions from Gulf Coast hurricanes and need to rely less on imports. Already, deliveries of liquefied natural gas from places such as Qatar, Nigeria and Trinidad are down 58 percent in 2008, idling costly U.S. terminals.

[Cost of oil declines as country uses less energy: Gasoline sales actually slumped during Thanksgiving holiday weekend](#)

Oil prices dipped Wednesday with more evidence that the country is using less energy while oil and gasoline supplies continue to grow.

Demand for gasoline slumped during the Thanksgiving week, when millions of people take to the road and gas sales usually jump.

[Fed's Bullard - oil, gold spike not inflationary](#)

WASHINGTON (MarketWatch) -- The recent run-up in gold and oil prices is not inflationary, said James Bullard, the president of St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, in a CNBC television interview Wednesday. Bullard said the Fed generally would not like to start tightening monetary policy until the unemployment rate starts down.

[Controversy flares over space-based power plan](#)

Space solar power advocates may soon get their day in the sun, as different projects aimed at beaming energy to Earth from orbit begin to take shape. But at least one space power scientist worries that a U.S.-based project may be promising too much, too soon.

[China solar panel makers see boost from Copenhagen](#)

CHANGZHOU, China (AFP) – In Trina Solar's brilliant white factory in eastern China, masked workers in lab coats turn silicon wafers into solar power cells capable of harnessing the sun's clean and limitless energy.

China is now the world's top producer of the cells -- the tile-like engines of solar panels - - and firms like Trina see next week's climate talks as a potential key moment in the wider adoption of renewable energies like solar.

[Biofuels: Hope or Hype?](#)

“All of these myths about biofuel being clean, green, sustainable, or furthering energy independence, are supported by the Big Myth, which is that we can consume our way out of over-consumption.”

[Idaho Plant Gets Permit With CO₂ Limits](#)

Idaho state air regulators issued a permit on Monday – said to be the first of its kind in the country – requiring a proposed fertilizer plant to curb its carbon dioxide emissions.

[State's water delivery outlook is grim](#)

Operators of the sprawling state system that supplies water to 25 million Californians from Butte County to San Diego issued their lowest-ever estimate on the amount of water they will be able to deliver.

Officials predicted Tuesday they will be able to offer only 5 percent of the total volume of water requested by California cities and farms next year. That's the smallest water allocation the agency has released since its creation in 1967.

[Calif Gov: Climate Adaptation Will Require Water Conservation](#)

SAN FRANCISCO -(Dow Jones)- California will have to conserve water and other resources amid declining water supplies, rising sea levels and more frequent wildfires and floods that are expected to result from climate change, the state's governor said Wednesday.

"There's no single (crisis) that threatens our health more than climate change," said Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

[Google Earth explores climate risks to California](#)

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Google Inc. launched a new feature in its Google Earth Web site Wednesday designed to let Californians see the risks of climate change.

Google unveiled the new interactive tool in San Francisco as part of a climate change press conference by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

[Sea Level Is Rising Along U.S. Atlantic Coast, According to Data Analysis by Penn Environmental Scientists](#)

PHILADELPHIA -- An international team of environmental scientists led by the University of Pennsylvania has shown that sea-level rise along the Atlantic Coast of the United States was 2 millimeters faster in the 20th century than at any time in the past 4,000 years.

[Low-carbon future: We can afford to go green](#)

TACKLING climate change will cost consumers the earth. Those who campaign for a green revolution are out to destroy our western lifestyles. Such are the cries of opponents of emissions cuts, and their message has political clout: a number of surveys, including one by *New Scientist* in 2007, have found that the enthusiasm of voters for policies to alleviate climate change falls off as the price tag increases.

However, a new modelling exercise conducted exclusively for this magazine suggests that these fears are largely unfounded. It projects that radical cuts to the UK's emissions will cause barely noticeable increases in the price of food, drink and most other goods by 2050 (see the figures). Electricity and petrol costs will rise significantly, but with the right policies in place, say the modellers, this need not lead to big changes in our lifestyle.

[Indefinite population growth is not an option](#)

The Optimum Population trust today launched a unique project that enables carbon offsets to be made through the support of family planning.

This innovative approach stems from a report that shows meeting the otherwise unmet demand for family planning could be the most cost-effective means of achieving CO2 reductions. For example, we believe every £4 spent on family planning saves one tonne of CO2. A similar reduction would require an £8 investment in tree planting, £15 in wind power, £31 in solar energy and £56 in hybrid vehicle technology.

[President Obama Launches Secret Green Partnership With India to Cut Greenhouse Gas Emissions Despite Senate Boycott](#)

In a move sure to anger the Let's-do-nothing-about-climate-change-till-China-and-India-do crowd, President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India launched a secret Green Partnership to do something about climate change.

The secret arrangement was made while the President was on his failed Asian trip resulting in pre-Copenhagen announcements from China and India; of 40% cuts, and 20% cuts respectively, in carbon emissions. (His secret Red partnership with China is another story)

[India to slow carbon emissions growth by 20-25 pct](#)

NEW DELHI – India's Environment Minister says the country will significantly slow its carbon dioxide emissions over the next decade.

The pledge to reduce by 20 to 25 percent the ratio of pollution to GDP comes just days before world leaders are set gather to discuss a new climate pact.

[Climate e-mails debated at House hearing](#)

WASHINGTON - House Republicans pointed to controversial e-mails leaked from climate scientists and said it was evidence of corruption. Top administration scientists

looking at the same thing found no such sign, saying it doesn't change the fact that the world is warming.

[NASA climate expert hopes Copenhagen summit fails](#)

LONDON — A leading scientist who helped alert the world to the dangers of global warming said on Thursday that climate talks in Copenhagen next week were based on such flawed proposals that he hoped they failed.

James Hansen, the director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies since 1981, said attempts to forge a global deal on cutting emissions after the Kyoto treaty expires were based on a "fundamentally wrong" approach.

"I would rather it not happen if people accept that as being the right track because it's a disaster track," he told Britain's Guardian newspaper ahead of the December 7-18 summit.

[Proposed emissions cuts aren't enough, U.N. says](#)

WASHINGTON — Promises by the U.S. and other industrialized countries to cut the emissions causing global warming are insufficient to avoid the worst effects of climate change, the United Nations climate chief said Wednesday.

[On climate change, China could show the way](#)

With Copenhagen all but written off, is there any chance we can prevent average global temperatures from increasing more than two degrees? Any bigger rise and large parts of the planet would resemble downtown Detroit. But don't give up all hope, for economic and business forces could come into play to prevent carbon output skyrocketing even if the summit proves a dud.

The first factor is Chinese pride and technical prowess, both rising. The second is higher oil prices. The two are related.

[China should adapt to climate change: meteorologist](#)

BEIJING — China's top meteorologist has warned climate change could cause "incalculable" damage to the country and that efforts should focus on adapting to global warming rather than slowing it.

The comments by the head of the China Meteorological Administration appeared to mark a departure from the government stance that has so far stressed both as equally important.

"Global warming is a fact. For a huge developing country like China it's more practical and urgent to adapt to climate change than to seek to slow down the process," said Zheng Guoguang.

[Nepal ministers gather for Everest meeting](#)

LUKLA, Nepal (AFP) – Nepalese ministers arrived Thursday in Lukla, one of the main towns in the Everest region, ahead of a high-altitude cabinet meeting to stress the impact of global warming on the Himalayas.

[Australian PM warns on climate change](#)

SYDNEY (AFP) – Australia's Prime Minister Kevin Rudd warned there was no "magic pudding" solution to climate change on Thursday as he lashed out over the defeat of his flagship carbon-trading scheme.

Rudd mocked the opposition Liberal Party's reported plan to slash pollution with energy efficiency measures as a "bit of fairy dust" and called for "wiser heads" to pass the bill at the third attempt.

[Paul McCartney takes Meat-Free Monday to EU](#)

BRUSSELS – Paul McCartney has taken his Meat-Free Monday campaign to the European Parliament, saying the power to halt global warming lies as much with individuals as with their governments.

McCartney met in Brussels with Rajendra K. Pachauri, head of the U.N.'s global climate change panel, and praised the virtue of skipping meat one day a week for the sake of the environment.

[Earth could plunge into sudden ice age](#)

In the film, "The Day After Tomorrow," the world gets gripped in ice within the span of just a few weeks. Now research now suggests an eerily similar event might indeed have occurred in the past.

Looking ahead to the future, there is no reason why such a freeze shouldn't happen again – and in ironic fashion it could be precipitated if ongoing changes in climate force the Greenland ice sheet to suddenly melt, scientists say.

[The world four degrees hotter? An unwelcome idea](#)

Once that threshold is crossed, what might a four-degree world look like?

Brace yourself.

Oceans have risen by at least a metre (3.25 feet), drowning several island nations and driving hundreds of millions of people in Bangladesh, Thailand and Vietnam and other delta nations to scramble for higher ground.

Polar bears are a folk memory, starved to extinction in an Arctic where temperatures have soared by 15 C (27 F), nearly four-fold the global average.

Australia is routinely swept by white-hot fires of the kind that claimed 170 lives last February.



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