



Drumbeat: February 1, 2010

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Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Obama 2011 budget request: Energy Department](#)

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The budget would eliminate funding, however, for the long-discussed Yucca Mountain, Nev., repository for nuclear waste. The budget proposal says that Yucca "is not a workable option."

he further weakening of fragile governments. Climate change will contribute to food and water scarcity, will increase the spread of disease and may spur or exacerbate mass migration.

The report also describes a longstanding, and now intensifying, focus on cutting the use of fuels, which is a huge cost and a security concern on the battlefield. There's yet another plea — particularly in light of expanding shipping activity in the Arctic Ocean — for ratification of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea, which despite support from a series of presidents faces persistent resistance from a small cluster of influential senators.

[Navy: Time is now to prepare for ice-free Arctic](#)

The Navy will soon have a new battlefield on its hands. Climate changes near the North Pole have been dramatic. The amount of summertime ice has decreased by half over the past 50 years. The ice is also 50 percent thinner, resulting in greater seasonal variations.

"The Arctic is changing, and it is changing rapidly," said Rear Adm. David Titley, oceanographer of the Navy. "If the Navy does not start looking at this today ... we could wake up in seven or eight years and find ourselves way behind the power curve."

[The oil world and its villains](#)

CLIMATE change and worries about energy security have been the two dominant forces behind a growing popular resentment of the hydrocarbons sector in recent years. But, suggests Peter Maass, a New York Times journalist, there remain more basic and equally compelling reasons why the world should conquer its addiction to oil. From Iraq to Texas, to Central Asia, to west Africa, oil and the companies that seek it bring havoc and violence in their wake, he says.

[Population Taboo – Bid It Adieu!](#)

Today marks the beginning of Global Population Speak Out.

It's human nature to blend in with the crowd. Nobody wants to be the "only one" with a given viewpoint. The cultural taboo on discussing overpopulation renders politicians, scientists and other opinion leaders reluctant to mention population when discussing both causes and solutions of modern challenges. Famed physicist Al Bartlett (author of the ultra-logical *Laws Relating to Sustainability*) nicely summed up his frustration about this in the Spring 2008 *Teachers Clearinghouse for Science and Society Education Newsletter: Why Have Scientists Succumbed To Political Correctness?* (Incidentally, my film, *Hooked on Growth*, is dedicated to Professor Bartlett.)

[Australia: Knox Council devotes half an hour to potential global oil crisis](#)

COUNCILLORS spent nearly half an hour last week debating how Knox would cope when the world's oil supplies run low.

Debate raged among councillors who attempted to chop and change the council motion, which included the possibility of adding a business case to the tune of \$5000 in the next budget to discuss ways of coping with this international crisis.

The council document outlined Knox's social, environmental and economic vulnerability on the issue, also known as peak oil (when the oil supplies run low).

[Cost of Bataan nuke plant rehab set at \\$1-B](#)

MANILA, Philippines - Rehabilitating the moth-balled Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) will cost \$1 billion, according to an estimate provided by Korea Electric Power Corp. (Kepco) to National Power Corp. (Napocor).

"[The] estimate is \$1 billion," Napocor President Froilan A. Tampinco said in a text message. "We are currently evaluating it prior to submission to the Napocor board."

[Experts on the chances of a global climate deal working in Mexico in 2010](#)

With the rancour of the failed Copenhagen climate talks still fresh, the election of Scott Brown leaving President Obama without a super-majority in the Senate and doubts over the reputation of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the chances of a global climate deal look further away than ever. The Guardian asked 39 politicians, climate negotiators, scientists and representatives of NGOs whether they thought a global deal was likely in 2010. Many would not speak on the record, but this is what the rest had to say.

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[O&G Execs Tout Increase in Upstream Employment](#)

Half of U.S. oil and gas senior executives expect to increase employment this year and two-thirds believe that the recession burdening 2009 will end this year, according to Grant Thornton LLP's eighth annual Survey of Upstream U.S. Energy Companies.

Reed Wood, Grant Thornton LLP's partner-in-charge of the firm's energy practice, detected optimism from the respondents of the 2010 survey. "It was convincingly evident in their outlooks for prices, capital expenditures and employment."

[Fuel Exports From India Fall as Reliance Raises Domestic Sales](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Fuel exports from India's west coast, the home of two Reliance Industries Ltd. refineries, fell in January as the company increased domestic sales.

Shipments of at least 690,000 metric tons, or about 5.87 million barrels, of oil products left west India for places such as Japan, the U.K., and South Korea, down from 1.39 million the previous month and 1.28 million a year earlier, data collected by Clarkson Research Services Ltd. showed.

[Kjell Aleklett: The OPEC bulletin and focus on Angola](#)

At the moment it seems like everyone wants a piece of Angola. The queue of prominent visitors is long with the USA's Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at its head. Where it smells of oil one can also find China and they mention that China is thought to have contributed \$5 billion in loans to develop Angola's infrastructure. The investment is necessary after 25 years of civil war. The repayment will, presumably, be made in the form of oil.

[China to Raise Resource Acquisitions as Car, Home Sales Jump](#)

(Bloomberg) -- China, the world's largest metal consumer, will add to last year's record \$32 billion spending on resource acquisitions as demand for iron ore, copper and oil soars with the fastest economic growth since 2007.

Chinese companies will hunt for iron ore, coal, oil, copper and gold assets, said Jing Ulrich, the chairwoman of China equities and commodities at JPMorgan Chase & Co. in Hong Kong.

[Chinese oil giant leads pack in bid to build Saudi fuel hub](#)

China's Sinopec International Petroleum Service Corp has submitted the lowest bid to build a new fuel distribution plant for Saudi Aramco, industry sources said.

[Saudi to up March crude prices to Asia - poll](#)

SINGAPORE - Top oil exporter Saudi Arabia is expected to raise prices of all its crudes heading to Asia for March on healthy fuel oil cracks and improving refining margins, after cuts last month, traders said on Monday.

In a poll of five refiners and traders, all expected the official selling prices (OSPs) to rise across the board.

[Russia oil output to hit 500 mln T in 2010 - Sechin](#)

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian oil production will rise to 500 million tonnes this year and zero export duties for East Siberian fields will remain in place, the country's foremost energy official said on Monday.

[State Won Big in Sakhalin Buy](#)

Immediately after Gazprom bought out international companies' stakes in Sakhalin-2, the state received a privileged share in Sakhalin Energy, which paid a \$1.35 billion

dividend.

"I want to thank our partners for their flexibility," Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said when Shell, Mitsui and Mitsubishi agreed to cede control over Sakhalin Energy, the operator of the Sakhalin-2 natural gas deposit, to Gazprom for \$7.45 billion.

[Exxon Mobil profits fall 23% in fourth quarter](#)

US oil giant Exxon Mobil has reported a 23% drop in profits, but the result was better than many analysts had expected.

[Chavez announced a billion dollar boost to Venezuela's power grid](#)

Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez on Sunday announced in its Sunday TV program a special one billion dollar fund to strengthen Venezuela's power grid and prevent another energy crisis like the one the country is now suffering.

[Countering energy crisis with alternative resources](#)

As Pakistan grapples with acute energy shortage due to fast depleting conventional resources combined with a struggling economy, there is an urgent need for adopting energy conservation measures.

Experts believe that by harnessing the alternative methods for energy generation, Pakistan can overcome the present crisis to a great extent. A number of western countries have successfully developed renewable energy sources based on wind, sun, biomass, geothermal, ocean tides and bio fuels to minimize dependence on fossil fuels.

[Are We Yeast in a Wine Vat? Reflections on Sustainability](#)

From Bill O'Reilly to Bill Moyers there is consensus that a return to growth is the remedy for what they see as an economic recession. Their political divisions arise over how to rekindle demand and consumption, with the right favoring a market led recovery and the left typically advocating massive government stimulus spending.

Were I to meet O'Reilly or Moyers I would ask, "Since we live on a finite planet, with finite resources, why is economic growth the solution and not the source of our dilemmas?" The failure of media, political, educational, scientific, and cultural leaders to consider this question illustrates what Joseph Campbell calls the power of myth. Questioning growth is at odds with our faith in the American Dream, whose main promise is that future generations are entitled to a higher material standard of living than their parents enjoyed.

[Kunstler: The Jive Economy](#)

Memo to nation: we're not really growing, we're shrinking. Is this necessarily a bad thing? I dunno. Unlike, say, the stockholders of Toll Brothers I'm not so sure that "housing starts" represents my idea of a healthy economy -- since it really means we're destroying every cornfield and cow pasture left outside our cities, which will play havoc with our national life when the reality of our Wile E. Coyote agribusiness fiasco starts to hit home and we discover what cornfields and cow pastures were really all about in the first place.

['Climate emails hacked by spies'](#)

A highly sophisticated hacking operation that led to the leaking of hundreds of emails from the Climatic Research Unit in East Anglia was probably carried out by a foreign intelligence agency, according to the Government's former chief scientist. Sir David King, who was Tony Blair's chief scientific adviser for seven years until 2007, said that the hacking and selective leaking of the unit's emails, going back 13 years, bore all the hallmarks of a co-ordinated intelligence operation – especially given their release just before the Copenhagen climate conference in December.

[Japan JGC in deal to cut Saudi refinery emissions](#)

KHOBAR, Saudi Arabia (Reuters) - State oil firm Saudi Aramco and Royal Dutch Shell said on Monday they signed a deal with a unit of Japan's JGC to improve the environmental performance of their joint Sasref refinery.

JGC Gulf International will carry out the engineering, procurement and construction work to add two units to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions at the Sasref refinery in Jubail on Saudi Arabia's Gulf coast, a statement said.

[Environmental groups losing interest in lobbying Prentice](#)

Canada's leading environmentalists say they're losing interest in lobbying federal Environment Minister Jim Prentice because the government has locked itself into an environmental policy "bunker" and is not giving their ideas serious consideration.

Meanwhile, according to the Registry of Lobbyists, representatives for big oil companies frequently lobby the minister, and appear to be a major source of policy advice on energy and climate issues.

[A Review of 'Climate Cover-up' by James Hoggan](#)

This very timely book is essential reading for those bewildered by the recent backlash against climate science. It takes things back to basics, and rather than being an exploration of the climate science itself, it seeks to equip the reader with the tools to be able to distinguish between the sources of climate-related information. If you want to board an aeroplane, but were told by a large group of aeronautical engineers that the plane was 90% certain to crash upon take-off, would you listen to them, or to a small group, comprising a PR consultant, a botanist and a plumber, who presented as evidence an article from Readers Digest magazine? The debate as to whether climate change is happening or not, and the need felt by media organisations to always present 'both sides', was over several years ago, yet since just before Copenhagen, contrarianism is back, and is back bigtime. So who are these people? Are they right? And how can we tell the difference?

[Crack Spreads Widen as Refineries Close in the U.S.](#)

(Bloomberg) -- As refineries from New Jersey to New Mexico close at the fastest pace in three decades, traders in Singapore are profiting from a new plant on India's west coast and a ship heading for Florida filled with jet fuel from Taiwan.

The so-called refinery crack spread in Singapore, representing the value of fuels minus the cost of crude oil, may climb 50 percent to as much as \$4.50 a barrel this year, according to a Bloomberg News survey of five analysts. U.S. refinery margins will drop 35 percent by December, futures contracts on the New York Mercantile Exchange show.

That means higher profits for oil companies and traders in Asia, where consumption is growing 13 times faster than in Europe and the U.S. That's also why Morgan Stanley can buy jet fuel in Taiwan and ship it 11,500 miles to Port Everglades, Florida, and still make money.

[Oil drops in Asia as stock markets extend slide](#)

BANGKOK – Oil prices extended losses Monday in Asia as stock markets fell and hopes faded for a sudden revival in energy demand.

Benchmark crude for March delivery was down 23 cents at \$72.66 a barrel by early afternoon Bangkok time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract dropped 75 cents on Friday to settle at \$72.89.

[South Korea Crude Oil Imports Decline for Third Month](#)

(Bloomberg) -- South Korea, Asia's fourth-largest buyer of crude oil, imported less of the fuel by volume for a third month as refiners maintained low crude run rates.

Imports dropped 20 percent to 74.5 million barrels in January from 93.3 million barrels

a year earlier, the Ministry of Knowledge Economy said in an e-mailed statement today. Imports gained 5.5 percent from December.

[Cosmo to cut refining capacity as demand wilts](#)

TOKYO (Reuters) - Cosmo Oil Co Ltd will cut refining capacity by 80,000 barrels per day (bpd) from Tuesday and consider further reductions at mid-year, becoming the latest Japanese refiner taking action on declining domestic demand.

[Taiwan LNG Imports Drop for First Time on Recession](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Taiwan, Asia's third-biggest importer of liquefied natural gas, reduced purchases of the fuel for the first time last year because of the global recession.

Imports of LNG, used as a fuel in power stations, fell 2.5 percent to 19.4 million kiloliters, or 8.78 million metric tons, from 19.9 million kiloliters in 2008, e-mailed data from Taiwan's Bureau of Energy showed today.

[Russia Suffered Record Economic Contraction in 2009](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Russia's economy shrank the most on record in 2009 after the price of oil slumped 77 percent from peak to trough and left businesses to start the year trying to adjust to smaller profits as banks cut off credit.

[Peak Oil Debate Piques Interest at Davos](#)

The BP-Shell duo have a long road to go to convince all markets of their point of view. It is said that the oil majors are creating speculative pressure on the commodity markets with the help of commodity speculators and banks like Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley . Europe's falling oil output at North Sea has been the talk of the energy circles during the last few years, even as intense speculative activity around Brent Oil at the London Exchange has been driving oil prices upwards.

[Fire breaks out at Kuwait oil gathering centre](#)

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) – Firemen were on Monday trying to douse a blaze that broke out at an oil gathering centre, the state-run Kuwait Oil Company said, adding that production has not been affected.

[Falkland Plans to Drill Toroa Well in April, CEO Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Falkland Oil & Gas Ltd., a U.K.-based explorer in the south Atlantic, plans to start drilling a well southeast of the Falkland Islands in April.

[Four shot dead at PNG LNG site](#)

ExxonMobil has suspended work near a liquefied natural gas (LNG) site in Papua New Guinea after four local villagers were killed in a tribal dispute.

The clash between two rival coastal villages near the capital Port Moresby occurred in an area where ExxonMobil is to build a plant to liquefy, store and load gas for shipment overseas.

[Shell Shuts Nigerian Oil Flow Stations After Sabotage](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Royal Dutch Shell Plc's Nigerian unit halted some flow stations in the country's southern oil region after sabotage caused a pipeline leak.

"We have shut in some flow stations which produce into the line and the leak has stopped," Precious Okolobo, Shell's spokesman in Nigeria, said today in an e-mailed statement. "Repair work will commence as soon as possible."

[Nigeria militants deny Shell pipeline attack](#)

LAGOS, Nigeria — The main militant group in Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta says they were not involved in the rupture of an important Royal Dutch Shell PLC pipeline.

[Incremental Steps in Iraq To Let Kurdistan Oil Flow](#)

ERBIL, Iraq — The semiautonomous region of Kurdistan is the one place in battered Iraq that promised economic boom times, but some of the foreign oil companies that rushed in over the past few years are becoming increasingly restless.

Their multibillion-dollar deals are still mired in a bitter political dispute between the Kurdish region and the central government in Baghdad.

They may have a stake in what is shaping up to be one of the greatest oil bonanzas of modern times, but the prospect of earning a profit, let alone recovering their costs, remains highly uncertain.

[Voser's Shell Overhaul May Signal Output Revival in BP Fight](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Peter Voser is using lessons from his two-year stint rescuing Swiss engineering company ABB Ltd. from near bankruptcy to turn around Royal Dutch Shell Plc by selling assets, cutting thousands of jobs and speeding up decisions.

Not only has Shell suffered six years of falling output, it's been overtaken as Europe's biggest energy producer in terms of market value by BP Plc for the first time since 2006.

[Oilpatch expected to post solid Q4 earnings](#)

"Oil producers should have a pretty solid quarter," said Chris Feltin, an analyst at Macquarie Group in Calgary. Crude prices, he noted, climbed "materially" in the fourth quarter over the third, as well as in the same period last year.

"Those exposed to natural gas are likely to show weaker results because natural gas prices were still relatively weak," he said.

[Gazprom Profit Rises on Weaker Ruble, Tax Decline](#)

(Bloomberg) -- OAO Gazprom's profit climbed a more- than-expected 33 percent in the third quarter after the Russian gas export monopoly paid less tax and the ruble weakened against the dollar.

Net income rose to 174.6 billion rubles (\$5.75 billion) from 131.7 billion rubles a year earlier, the Moscow-based company said on its Web site. That beat the median estimate of 156 billion rubles in a Bloomberg survey of 12 analysts.

[Russia, Venezuela step up oil cooperation](#)

High-ranking officials from Russia and Venezuela on Sunday discussed oil cooperation and export of Russian cars to the Latin American country, Russian news agency reported.

Russian Deputy Premier Igor Sechin and Venezuelan Oil and Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez held talks in Moscow over the operation of the Russian National Oil Consortium in Venezuela, the reports said.

[Do you use more energy than your neighbors?](#)

More than 1 million U.S. households now receive reports on how their energy

consumption compares with their neighbors as utilities encourage conservation, some with smiley faces for those doing well.

The reports — deployed by 25 utilities, including six of the 10 biggest — have resulted in households cutting energy use an average of 2% to 3%, says Alex Laskey, co-founder of Opower, which provides the reports.

[Getting connected: Europe's green energy 'supergrid'](#)

It is a criticism frequently leveled at those promoting wind or solar power as an alternative to fossil fuels: what happens when the wind doesn't blow or the sun doesn't shine?

Well, now there is a smart answer, at least in Europe -- we'll simply and instantly switch to another source of clean, green power.

Plans for a massive electricity grid dedicated to uniting the varied sources of renewable energy available in northern Europe have taken a step forward in January as nine countries formally agreed to work together on the project.

[Speed is only part of rail project scope](#)

In all, President Barack Obama funneled \$8 billion in stimulus funds to high-speed rail projects across the country. Missouri is getting money, too — \$31 million — but that won't let trains run faster than 79 mph between St. Louis and Kansas City. Instead, it will reduce delays with such improvements as a parallel bridge over the Osage River, crossed now by a single track.

"This whole package is being sold as high-speed," said Matt Van Hattem, senior editor for Trains magazine. "But in fact, \$5 billion of the \$8 billion is being used to upgrade existing systems."

[The great uranium stampede](#)

Bakouma is not an isolated case.

It's just one example of a silent landgrab unfolding around the globe. After decades as a forgotten commodity, uranium, the radioactive element used as the primary fuel for nuclear power, is hot property again. Agents for companies, many of them government-controlled, are fanning out across the globe to gain access to the powdery, radioactive ore.

The scramble has been set off by the comeback of nuclear power. In the past couple of years countries that for decades had shunned it as an expensive, pariah technology have

embraced it anew. Britain is leading the charge. The government envisages a new generation of reactors to replace the rickety old stations that will be retired in the coming years. The renaissance has taken hold elsewhere, from America to the Middle East and China.

[Singapore to Consider Nuclear Power, Fewer Foreigners](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Singapore should consider using nuclear power and depend less on foreign workers in its efforts to transform the economy in the next decade, a government-appointed panel said.

[World's most powerful laser to trigger fusion reaction this year](#)

A pivotal step in the march towards fusion power, the "holy grail" of sustainable clean energy, could be taken this year.

[Brazil Cosan, Shell in \\$12 billion ethanol merger deal](#)

SAO PAULO (Reuters) - Brazil's Cosan, the world's largest ethanol and sugar processor, said on Monday it signed an agreement to merge its ethanol and fuels distribution business in the country with Royal Dutch Shell in a deal valued as much as \$12 billion.

[Fuel the future](#)

Lithium is touted as the 'new oil' but the debate rages if it's a long-term solution or short-term burst of optimism.

[Canada: Residents fear prospect race for lithium](#)

The rush to find lithium in West Quebec has some residents concerned that prospectors will cut trees and tunnel or drill on their land to meet the demand for the volatile metal used in rechargeable electric car batteries.

["Energy-Louisiana Style" at the 2010 Washington Mardi Gras](#)

The theme of the 62ND annual Washington Mardi Gras Ball is "Energy-Louisiana Style." That's why Louisiana's business leaders in attendance were looking forward to hearing from the luncheon's keynote speaker Matthew Simmons, chairman emeritus of Simmons and Company, an investment banking firm for the nation's energy industry. But when a technical snafu prevented Simmons from presenting his original Power Point

presentation detailing the history and future of Louisiana's energy industry, many in the audience, including executives of the nation's leading oil and gas corporations, were taken aback when Simmons decided to call up his favorite "go-to" topic, wind energy in the state of Maine, and why he feels that windmills may one day replace oil derricks and natural gas platforms in the Gulf of Mexico as the supplier of our nation's energy needs.

[Cuba: creative, complex and contradictory](#)

The Cuban travel experience is otherworldly. It's like falling into a Caribbean Stargate, constructed from rusting Russian tank parts, vacuum tubes and Marxist boilerplate, and stumbling out into a Terry Gilliam fever dream.

On the surface, Cuba would seem to have little to offer the rest of the world, other than a lesson in stubbornness and staying power – especially considering this nation of 11 million people is only 140 kilometres from its erstwhile enemy, the US. But with today's contentious issues of diminishing resources, food security and healthcare, Cuba may have a hard-won lesson for westerners about getting by in hard times.

[Town joins Transition network](#)

A CORNISH town has become the latest to join the Transition network of communities encouraging sustainable development.

Saltash, in South East Cornwall, is the latest addition to the network of more than 160 communities across England.

[How Can We Talk About Transformational Change Without Losing Hope?](#)

Every time we're subjected to more dramatic predictions of global warming without being given solutions, a seed of helplessness is planted in our souls.

[Poisoned Shipments: Are Strange, Illicit Sinkings Making the Mediterranean Toxic?](#)

In October 2009 the government of Italy announced that a wreck discovered off the southwestern tip of the country is the *Catania*, a passenger vessel sunk during World War I—and not the *Cunski*, a cargo ship loaded with radioactive waste, as alleged by district authorities from nearby Calabria. Few locals are reassured, says Michael Leonardi of the University of Calabria. He and others maintain that the putative *Cunski* is still out there and is just one of numerous ships full of poisonous garbage that a crime syndicate has scuttled in the Mediterranean Sea. Such a startling allegation, if true, would not only damage the tourism and fishing industries along this idyllic coast but also compromise the health of Mediterranean residents.

[Emissions of Potent Greenhouse Gas Increase Despite Reduction Efforts](#)

Despite a decade of efforts worldwide to curb its release into the atmosphere, NOAA and university scientists have measured increased emissions of a greenhouse gas that is thousands of times more efficient at trapping heat than carbon dioxide and persists in the atmosphere for nearly 300 years.

The substance HFC-23, or trifluoromethane, is a byproduct of chlorodifluoromethane, or HCFC-22, a refrigerant in air conditioners and refrigerators and a starting material for producing heat and chemical-resistant products, cables and coatings.

[IMF plans 100 billion fund to help poor mitigate climate impact](#)

The International Monetary Fund is planning a 100 billion dollar fund to help countries mitigate the effects of climate change, the agency's head said.

"The new growth model will be low carbon," Dominique Strauss-Kahn, managing director of the IMF, told political and business leaders meeting at the World Economic Forum in the Swiss ski resort of Davos this weekend.

[Germany Greenhouse-Gas Emissions Fall 22%; Kyoto Target Achieved](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Germany's greenhouse-gas emissions fell 22 percent between 1990 and 2008, the environment ministry said today.

[China Reaffirms Greenhouse-Gas Goals to UN, Yu Qingtai Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- China told the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change it supports the Copenhagen Accord reached in December and reaffirmed its goal to cut carbon-dioxide emissions per unit of gross domestic product by 40 percent to 45 percent from 2005 through 2020.

[Rudd Takes Up Fight With 'Mad Monk' on Australian Climate Bill](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd this week will make a third attempt to introduce a carbon trading bill, confronted by a new opposition leader who views the climate-change debate as his ticket to power.

[Brown Says UN Climate Negotiations Were 'Flawed,' Need Reform](#)

(Bloomberg) -- U.K. Prime Minister Gordon Brown said the climate negotiations that failed to produce a binding treaty to rein in greenhouse gases were flawed, putting pressure on the United Nations to change the way the talks are structured.

[Ecologists Outline Necessary Actions for Mitigating to a Changing Climate](#)

Global warming may impair the ability of ecosystems to perform vital services -- such as providing food, clean water and carbon sequestration -- says the nation's largest organization of ecological scientists. In a statement released Jan. 26, the Ecological Society of America (ESA) outlines strategies that focus on restoring and maintaining natural ecosystem functions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

"Decision-makers cannot overlook the critical services ecosystems provide," says ESA President Mary Power. "If we are going to reduce the possibility of irreversible damage to the environment under climate change, we need to take swift but measured action to protect and manage our ecosystems."

[GFDL Study Suggests Doubling of Category 4 and 5 Hurricanes this Century](#)

A team of scientists from NOAA's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) used a unique downscaling approach to model hurricane activity through the end of the 21st century, and their results produce nearly a doubling of the frequency of category 4 and 5 storms.



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