



## Drumbeat: March 4, 2010

Posted by [Leanan](#) on March 4, 2010 - 9:03am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Plumbing the depths](#): *A recent wave of advances is enabling oil companies to detect and recover offshore oil in ever more difficult places*

Growing resource nationalism in countries that hold most of the world's onshore oil reserves is forcing private oil companies to go farther afield. Inconveniently, that means looking for oil in deep water, miles offshore.

This poses daunting physical challenges. Drill strings, the interlocking sections of pipe that are used in offshore drilling, are heavy: the pipe used by Transocean, an offshore-drilling company, weighs over 30kg per metre, for example. Deeper water means a longer and heavier drill string, which in turn requires a bigger platform to support such a large "hook load". Ever-larger platforms and the increasing use of drill ships—giant vessels that are even heavier than moored platforms—have given companies the heft required to work at greater depths.

been expected.

Methane had become trapped in the permafrost over time and a warming climate is now resulting in its release, researchers report in Friday's edition of the journal Science.

"The amount of methane currently coming out of the East Siberian Arctic Shelf is comparable to the amount coming out of the entire world's oceans," said Natalia Shakhova, of the University of Alaska Fairbanks International Arctic Research Center and the co-author.

[EU draws up plans for first direct tax with fuel levy](#)

The European Union is drawing up plans for its first direct tax with a "green" levy on petrol, coal and natural gas that could cost British consumers up to £3 billion.

[ConocoPhillips, Vitol Charter Tankers to Ship Fuels to Chile](#)

(Bloomberg) -- ConocoPhillips and Vitol Group have booked tankers to ship fuels to Chile, whose refining industry was disrupted by the Feb. 27 earthquake. Morgan Stanley has also chartered a tanker.

## [Peak oil? How about snake oil!](#)

I keep hearing about peak oil. We are running out of oil. The price can only go one way - up. US production peaked in the 1970s, and as fields decline, they're producing less and less (the average decline in production is 9% a year once a field has passed its peak). No one is finding any new oil, reserves are running down, it's time to panic and within ten years we'll be living in an apocalyptic wasteland reminiscent of Mad Max and the Thunderdome.

Yeah right. Actually there are some very big problems with the peak oil scenario. One is that it's usually the new mantra for those people who in 2007 were telling me that UK residential property could only go up in value because 'They're not making land any more'. No, they're not making land any more - and a good thing too, because if you were making it right now, you'd probably be going bust. Or at least you'd have fired half the staff you had two years ago! Sorry, but peak oil does not guarantee that putting your money in oil stocks is a one-way street. And here's why.

## [Plumbing the depths: A recent wave of advances is enabling oil companies to detect and recover offshore oil in ever more difficult places](#)

Growing resource nationalism in countries that hold most of the world's onshore oil reserves is forcing private oil companies to go farther afield. Inconveniently, that means looking for oil in deep water, miles offshore.

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## [Natural Gas Drops to Three-Month Low After U.S. Supply Report](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Natural gas futures fell to a three-month low in New York after an Energy Department report showed that stockpiles dropped less than anticipated last week, indicating slowing demand for the heating fuel.

A gas supply surplus to the five-year average expanded to 1.2 percent from 0.7 percent a week earlier, the department said. Forecasts for mild weather and economic reports showing a slow recovery from the recession also weighed on prices. Industrial users account for about 29 percent of gas demand.

## [How the Big Oil Executive Sees Electric Cars](#)

When asked about the theory of “peak” oil in the world and whether that theory was now dead, Mr. Voser said “I think what is dead is cheap oil.”

## [Gazprom Boosts Output 14% in January-February on Economy, Cold](#)

(Bloomberg) -- OAO Gazprom increased output 14 percent in January and February compared with the first two months of last year as the economy began to recover and Russia and Europe used more fuel during the cold winter.

## [Petrobras Buys Stake in Block From Repsol, Statoil](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Petroleo Brasileiro SA, Brazil’s state-controlled oil producer, received approval to buy 30 percent of an offshore block from Repsol YPF and Statoil ASA, the South American country’s oil regulator said.

## [Have We Reached Peak Tuna?](#)

Barry Foy, author of the fictional culinary reference manual, *The Devil’s Food Dictionary*, once wrote a story called, “Bluefin tuna finally extinct: ‘Well worth it,’ say sushi fans.” The piece described heads of state and film producers in Japan nibbling on raw beef and watermelon, both substitutes for tuna. Not everyone understood the story was an attempt at satire. And those who were in on the joke weren’t sure there was anything funny about the tuna’s extinction, which, to many, resembled the awful truth. This was nearly two years ago. Things are much worse now.

## [Lester Brown: Plan B 4.0 by the Numbers - Data Highlights on China’s Changing Energy Economy](#)

Over the past several decades, China has largely relied on coal to provide energy for its rapidly expanding economy. Coal consumption has grown quickly in recent years, doubling from 2002 to 2008. Although it accounts for a smaller share of electricity production, natural gas consumption has been increasing even more quickly, nearly tripling over the same period. Oil, largely used for transportation, is also on the way up, growing by an average of 7 percent each year.

Going forward, however, the picture may be changing, as China is investing heavily in renewable energy. Wind energy in China has grown nearly 10 times faster than fossil fuel consumption, expanding from less than 500 megawatts of capacity in 2002 to over 12,000 megawatts in 2008. The exponential growth of China’s wind energy sector is expected to continue, with major projects moving forward including the Wind Base program’s seven mega-complexes, each with a capacity of 10,000 to 30,000

megawatts. Once built, they will together exceed the entire world's wind generating capacity at the start of 2008. These ambitious projects are just scratching the surface; a study published in the journal *Science* calculates that China could generate more than seven times its current electricity consumption from the wind alone.

### [Plot to grow vegetables outside Belsize Park Tube station](#)

TUBE station forecourts are usually the haunt of newspaper sellers or smokers grabbing a cigarette, but the pavements outside Belsize Park Tube could become a mouth-watering vegetable garden if green group Transition Belsize get their way.

### [Whither Our Exit?](#)

In Jean Paul Sartre's *No Exit* — a play I once directed — one of the character opines, "Hell is other people." Alan Farago's article, "The Potemkin Village Economy," is a good example of why this statement is so often true. It is also a superb illustration of the forces impeding our ability to limit our ecological footprint. Think Kunstler meets Kafka. Kunstler being James Howard Kunstler. A new urbanist, author of *The Long Emergency*, and star of the documentary *Escape from Suburbia*. Kafka needs no introduction. Suffice to say both men meditate usefully on how hard it is to escape 'The system'.

### [Somali pirates seize Saudi tanker: official](#)

NAIROBI (AFP) — Somali pirates have captured a small Saudi tanker and its crew of 14 in the Gulf of Aden, a Kenyan maritime official said Wednesday.

The MT Al Nisr Al Saudi, a 5,136 deadweight-tonne tanker, was seized Monday with its Greek captain and 13 Sri Lankan crew members, said Andrew Mwangura, who heads the East African Seafarers Assistance Programme.

"It was on its way from Japan to Jeddah" in Saudi Arabia, he said.

### [Syria denies concealing nuclear activities](#)

VIENNA -- Syria on Thursday denied hiding nuclear activities from the world and said Israel was the source of suspicious uranium particles found at a Syrian desert complex bombed two years ago by the Jewish state.

### [Libya warns US oil players over row](#)

Libya's top oil official today summoned the local heads of US energy companies to tell them a diplomatic row with Washington could have a negative impact on US businesses in Libya, the state oil company said.

### [Hedging Against Cheaper Oil](#)

Maria asked, "Do you think the price of oil is about to spike higher because Israel and the U.S. will soon attack Iran to stop it from making a nuclear bomb? If so, do you recommend that I buy oil company stocks, or an oil ETF?"

No to the first question and, thus, no to the second.

### [Bangladesh: Sloppy handling hurts govt's ambitious gas exploration](#)

The government's 'fast-track' gas exploration programme involving foreign companies drilling wells in state-owned onshore gas fields is limping thanks to a lack of coordination among the energy ministry high-ups, officials said Wednesday.

It could not short-list the aspiring foreign bidders even after five month's of receiving the expression of interest (EoI) from them to carry out the much-needed gas exploration and seismic activities in the unexplored gas fields.

### [Asia supply to ease China's gas shortage](#)

China will avoid a gas shortage this year thanks to increased supplies from sources such as Central Asia, the country's energy chief said after a winter supply squeeze led to gas rationing.

### [Power Cuts From Drought Will Hit Manila](#)

MANILA — The city of Manila and several neighboring provinces will experience blackouts in the coming days as the energy crisis worsens in the Philippines, utilities officials said Thursday.

...The Philippines are struggling with shortfalls in power generation because of a drought — created by the weather phenomenon El Niño weather — that has devastated more than a dozen provinces, many of which rely on hydroelectric plants.

### [Striking a blow for wind power](#)

(CNN) -- Wind power provides a fifth of Denmark's electricity, most of it generated by giant wind farms built on land and in the country's coastal waters.

But the tiny Danish island of Samsø is proving bigger isn't necessarily better by generating all its electricity using wind turbines of its own.

### [Electric vehicle range: What, me worry? - Studies show 'range anxiety' may be low hurdle for EV acceptance](#)

To all those cities worrying about how they are going to get wired for electric vehicles: Fret not. "Range anxiety" may not be as acute as you think.

Studies of drivers who already have electric cars are finding that they prefer the convenience of charging at home, and despite their vehicles' limited range, most are able to avoid public charging.

### [Energy Department Files to Withdraw Yucca Mountain License Application](#)

WASHINGTON—The Energy Department filed to withdraw an application for a nuclear-waste repository at Yucca Mountain, formally seeking Wednesday to reverse a Bush administration policy.

### [The Uncertainty Factor](#)

In the late '60s, one year after Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) was first given permission to begin construction on the plant, geologists discovered a monster fault capable of generating a 7.5 earthquake just three miles offshore of Avila Beach. The discovery of the Hosgri Fault — named after the two Shell Oil geologists who mapped it — sent Diablo Canyon's future into a tailspin for six years. An animated, grassroots anti-nuke campaign began, during which 10,000 people were arrested for acts of civil disobedience. At last, and at great expense, Diablo Canyon was rebuilt to withstand the worst Hosgri quake probable, and by the mid 1980s, the plant was delivering 2,200 megawatts of electricity a year, enough to power nearly two million California households. For the last 22 years, the Hosgri Fault was the defining seismic factor concerning the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant.

But 15 months ago, the seismic picture got a whole lot more complicated. And more troubling.

### [John Michael Greer: An Exergy Crisis](#)

In last week's Archdruid Report post, I discussed the difference between energy and

exergy, or in slightly less jargon-laden terms, between the quantity of energy and the concentration of energy. It's hard to think of a more critical difference to keep in mind if you're trying to make sense of the predicament of modern industrial civilization, but it's even harder to think of a point more often missed in the rising spiral of debates about that predicament.

The basic principle is simple enough, and bears repeating here: the amount of work you get out of a given energy source depends, not on the quantity of energy in the source, but on the difference in energy concentration between the energy source and the environment. That's basic thermodynamics, of the sort that every high school student used to learn in physics class back in those far-off days when American high school students took physics classes worth the name. Put that principle to work, though, and the results are often highly counterintuitive; this probably has more than a little to do with the way that even professional scientists miss them, and fumble predictions as a result.

### [Richard Heinberg: Life after growth](#) - *What if the economy doesn't recover?*

In late 2009 and early 2010, the economy showed some signs of renewed vigor. Understandably, everyone wants it to get "back to normal." But here's a disturbing thought: What if that is not possible? What if the goalposts have been moved, the rules rewritten, the game changed? What if the decades-long era of economic growth based on ever-increasing rates of resource extraction, manufacturing, and consumption is over, finished, and done? What if the economic conditions that all of us grew up expecting to continue practically forever were merely a blip on history's timeline?

It's an uncomfortable idea, but one that cannot be ignored: The "normal" late-20th century economy of seemingly endless growth actually emerged from an aberrant set of conditions that cannot be perpetuated.

That "normal" is gone. One way or another, a "new normal" will emerge to replace it. Can we build a different, more sustainable economy to replace the one now in tatters?

### [An Ominous Drilling Sign for the Truth](#)

The Interior Department under Barack Obama offered for sale more acres of dry-land drilling on public lands than the Bush Administration had at the same point in 2008.

An economy in a state of rigor mortis doesn't need oil to lubricate an engine that blew up on October 29, 2008, and our way of life won't come back if the oil industry creates a handful of jobs or we reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

### [Oil falls toward \\$80 after 2-day jump](#)

A stronger dollar pushed oil prices down toward \$80 a barrel Thursday after a two-day jump fueled by growing investor optimism that global crude demand is recovering.

By early afternoon in Europe, benchmark crude for April delivery was down 38 cents to \$80.49 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract climbed \$1.19 to settle at \$80.87 on Wednesday after rising 98 cents on Tuesday.

### [Terrorist Group Planning Malacca Oil-Tanker Attacks](#)

(Bloomberg) -- A terror alert from the Singapore navy to oil tankers in the Malacca Strait, a shipping lane that's almost six times busier than the Suez Canal, may be linked to regional groups associated with al-Qaeda.

Singapore's navy has "received indication" that a terrorist group is planning attacks on oil tankers in the Malacca Strait, according to an advisory today from its Information Fusion Centre.

"The warning should be taken seriously," Rohan Gunaratna, the head of the Singapore-based International Center for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, said in an interview. "There are terrorist groups in the region that have the intent to carry out terrorist attacks and some of these groups have relationships with al-Qaeda."

### [FACTBOX - Malacca Strait is a strategic 'chokepoint'](#)

REUTERS - Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia said on Thursday they are stepping up security in the Strait of Malacca, a key shipping lane for world trade, following warnings of possible attacks on oil tankers in the area.

Here is some key information about the strait.

### [Nigeria rebel faction says attacks Agip oil facility](#)

ABUJA (Reuters) - A militant faction in Nigeria's restive Niger Delta said on Thursday it had blown up an oil manifold operated by Italy's Agip in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

### [China, Russia Agree on Gas Supply Pricing Formula](#)

(Bloomberg) -- China reached an initial agreement with Russia on the pricing formula for the supply of natural gas to the world's second-biggest energy-consuming country.

Pricing was the “most difficult part” of the negotiations, Zhang Guobao, the head of China’s National Energy Administration, told reporters after a meeting of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, an advisory body to the country’s legislature. Prices of Russian gas sold to China will be linked to oil prices under a formula, Zhang said, without elaborating.

### [Norway 2010 spending outlook cut](#)

Norway’s national statistic agency today cut its oil and gas investment forecast for 2010 to Nkr135.6 billion (\$23 billion), down Nkr3 billion from its forecast in the last quarter of 2009.

### [Iraq Opening to BP, Exxon Mobil, Shell for First Time Since 1972](#)

(Bloomberg) -- BP Plc and Exxon Mobil Corp. took the best deal they could get in Iraq last year when they won the largest oil contracts since Saddam Hussein was toppled in 2003. Oil companies may wait a long time to get a better one.

Parliamentary elections may produce a weak or unstable government incapable of tendering new oil contracts, said Samuel Ciszuk, a London-based analyst at IHS Global Insight. He said he does expect the 10 technical-services contracts won by Exxon, BP and 20 other companies to be honored.

### [Reliance Said to Have No Plans to Raise Lyondell Bid](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Reliance Industries Ltd. has no plans to increase its bid for bankrupt chemicals maker LyondellBasell Industries AF following the rejection of its \$14.5 billion offer, two people briefed on the matter said.

Market conditions didn’t justify raising the offer further, the people said yesterday, declining to be identified because they aren’t authorized to speak to the media. Chairman Mukesh Ambani, Asia’s richest man, may be prompted to spend Reliance’s \$3.5 billion of cash elsewhere, analyst Victor Shum said.

### [Shell Aims for ‘New Nigeria’ as Qatari Plant Starts](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Royal Dutch Shell Plc spent \$19 billion to build the world’s largest gas-to-liquids project, triple the original estimate. Now, it’s pay-off time and the plant may generate \$6 billion a year for the company and Qatar.

### [China all at sea over Japan island row](#)

Japan's Okinotori Island, which has a Tokyo postal address even though it lies roughly 1,770 kilometers south of the capital and it is actually a pair of tiny islets, has become a bone of contention for China.

Among other things, China refuses to grant it island status, and refers to it instead as an atoll, reef or simply a rock. By doing so, China hopes to throttle back Japan's plan to create an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) there. The dispute over Okinotori, which Japan calls Okinotorishima, persists because it involves strategic concerns and rights to undersea resources over an area that is roughly equivalent to the entire land mass of the four main Japanese islands.

### [US, EU, urge Syria to drop nuclear secrecy](#)

VIENNA -- The U.S. and the European Union are urging Syria to stop stonewalling attempts by the International Atomic Energy Agency to investigate its nuclear activities.

### [Clinton Fails to Win Brazilian Support for UN Sanctions on Iran](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit to Brazil failed to win support for tougher United Nations penalties on Iran's suspected nuclear weapons program.

### [China car sales speed past U.S. as world's top auto market](#)

The Chinese auto industry grew nearly 50% last year after the government unleashed \$15 billion in auto incentives, about five times the size of the U.S. auto industry's cash-for-clunkers program. But analysts question how much of the Chinese market's growth is sustainable. Manufacturers here are struggling to appeal to consumers in their own market. And the quality of Chinese brands, while improving, still lags behind foreign ones.

### [Hummer, symbol of machismo, may be headed to graveyard](#)

A single sticky note, left on Russ Builta's 2005 Hummer, sums up the emotion stirred by the super-sized SUVs. "You are polluting our air and abusing our national resources," the unsigned note said. "And all because of greed and selfishness. You should be very ashamed of yourself."

Built, who served in the Marine Corps, still gets mad: "It was not even on recycled paper!"

Built installed a supercharger that gave his Hummer a whopping 600 horsepower. When he *really* mashed the pedal, it got 1 mile per gallon. "It would just move," he told

CNN iReport.

### [Senators Want 'Buy American' Rule in Stimulus](#)

Four Democratic senators are calling on the Obama administration to halt spending on a renewable energy program in the economic stimulus package until rules are in place to assure that the projects use predominantly American labor and materials.

The senators said that more than three-fourths of \$2 billion spent on wind-energy projects supported by the stimulus package had gone to foreign companies. They said that effectively undercut the purpose of the stimulus program — formally known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act — which is to jump-start the American economy and create jobs here.

### [Is ARPA-E Enough to Keep the U.S. on the Cutting-Edge of a Clean Energy Revolution?](#)

Just 37 technologies qualified for government funds, with each getting an average \$4 million. They were selected from 3,700 applications and from among the 75 percent that weren't disqualified for violating the first or second law of thermodynamics, according to Arun Majumdar, ARPA-E's first director. Yet, the bulk of them are old ideas dusted off after years of storage.

### [From California, Chinese Solar Maker Looks East](#)

Yingli, the Chinese solar module maker that captured nearly a third of the California market last year, has struck a deal to supply a New Jersey developer with more than 10 megawatts of photovoltaic panels.

The agreement announced Tuesday with SunDurance Energy for the first time brings Yingli's reach to the East Coast. SunDurance, owned by a construction and engineering firm, the Conti Group, will install the Yingli solar panels on rooftops, in carports and in ground-mounted solar farms.

### [Wave, Tidal Energy May Power 1.4 Million U.K. Homes](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Wave and tidal energy may provide 2,000 megawatts of power to the U.K. by 2020, enough for about 1.4 million homes, Energy and Climate-Change Minister David Kidney said.

"We have faith in these industries proving themselves and being a big contributor to fighting climate change," the U.K. minister said today in London.

### [Report: SC depleted uranium likely unfit for Utah](#)

SALT LAKE CITY — A report commissioned by an environmental group says several thousand tons of depleted uranium from a former nuclear weapons complex in South Carolina is likely unfit for disposal in Utah.

That includes some low-level radioactive waste that may already be buried in the state.

The report released by Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah on Wednesday says the amount and type of material doesn't meet the federal requirements for disposal at EnergySolutions Inc.'s site.

### [Can Wild Bison Repopulate the Plains?](#)

After three years of meetings and study, a broad array of conservation groups, government scientists and other experts on North American wildlife policy have produced a road map for restoring some large free-roaming populations of bison in the North American plains.

### [The Earth has its own set of rules](#)

By far our most prevalent view of nature derives from a rudimentary human desire for more. This is the basis of the economic model that currently directs our relationships with one another and with our environment. It has produced stupendous human population growth and dramatic, deleterious effects on nature. Recognizing these effects, efforts have been marshaled to change the self-serving economic model with notions of Earth "stewardship," eloquently advanced decades ago by then-Interior Secretary Stewart Udall, and, most recently, to infiltrate the economic model with "ecosystem services" by assigning monetary values to functions performed by the Earth that are beneficial to people.

All of these views are fundamentally and dangerously flawed, because all are anthropocentric. They begin and end with humans. This isn't the way the Earth works.

### [Earth Charter Group To Hold Saturday Summit](#) (Connecticut)

The Earth Charter Community of the Lower Valley will host its annual summit event on Saturday, March 6, at the Gelston House.

Keynote speaker for the event will be James Howard Kunstler, author of a number of books focused on ecology.

### [That Whole Internet Thing's Not Going To Work Out: How to suss out bad tech predictions](#)

In 1995, Clifford Stoll, an astronomer, author, and mad-scientist type, published a column in *Newsweek* with a doozy of a headline: "The Internet? Bah!" The piece was based on Stoll's book, *Silicon Snake Oil*, in which he argued that we were all being taken for a ride by tech pundits who offered dreamy visions of a coming "information superhighway." "Baloney," Stoll wrote. "The truth is no online database will replace your daily newspaper, no CD-ROM can take the place of a competent teacher and no computer network will change the way government works."

...Given how wrong they tend to be, it's generally a good idea to ignore all predictions. The future is unknowable — especially in the digital age, when we're constantly barraged with new technologies. Still, we'll never stop being obsessed with the future. With that in mind, it would be nice to have some idea of which predictions to trust and which to dismiss. Here are a few rules for separating the good from the bad.

### [Shifting Soil Threatens Homes' Foundations](#)

Data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association indicates that since the 1990s there has been an accelerating trend nationwide toward more extended dry periods followed by downpours. Whether due to random climate patterns or global warming, the swings between hot and dry weather and severe rain or snow have profoundly affected soil underneath buildings.

### [NAELS 2010 Staying Afloat: Adapting to Climate Change in the Gulf Coast and Beyond](#)

Beginning March 4, 2010, the Environmental Law Society at the Loyola University New Orleans College of Law will host the 2010 Annual NAELS Conference -- Staying Afloat: Adapting to Climate Change in the Gulf Coast and Beyond.

The Conference will bring together top attorneys, engineers, business leaders, environmentalists, scientists, and planners from New Orleans, Louisiana, the US, and the world to discuss how New Orleans, hundreds of low-lying coastal cities like it, and an interdependent world community will adapt to ever-increasing populations and a rapidly changing climate in the coming century.

### [France's sea walls battered by recent storm](#)

L'AIGUILLON-SUR-MER, France - The moon was full, the wind roared, the tide was high and people died by the dozens.

After a wall of ocean water engulfed picturesque towns along France's Atlantic coast, residents, officials and experts are all asking why.

Was it due to climate change? A freak storm fueled by hurricane-force winds? The result of human greed over desirable land or bungling actions by government officials?

### [Katrina victims seek to sue greenhouse gas emitters](#)

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Victims of Hurricane Katrina are seeking to sue carbon gas-emitting multinationals for helping fuel global warming and boosting the devastating 2005 storm, legal documents showed.

The class action suit brought by residents from southern Mississippi, which was ravaged by hurricane-force winds and driving rains, was first filed just weeks after the August 2005 storm hit.

### [Texas-based refiners pledge to fund fight against California's global warming law](#)

Two Texas-based refinery giants have pledged as much as \$2 million to fund signature gathering for a ballot initiative to suspend California's landmark global warming law, according to Sacramento sources.

The companies, Valero Energy Corp. and Tesoro Corp., own refineries in California that would be forced under the law to slash emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases.

### [Major change is needed if the IPCC hopes to survive](#)

Well before the recent controversies, the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was marred by an unwillingness to listen to dissenting points of view, an inadequate system for dealing with errors, conflicts of interest, and political advocacy. The latest allegations of inaccuracies should be an impetus for sweeping reform.

### [‘Missteps’ Don’t Negate Climate Science, Obama Adviser Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The disclosure of research “missteps” hasn’t shaken the consensus that manmade emissions from burning fossil fuels are contributing to climate change, President Barack Obama’s top science adviser said.

The release of scientists’ e-mails and errors in a report by a United Nations climate panel show researchers are human, John Holdren said today at an energy conference in Washington’s Maryland suburbs. The errors don’t alter the reality that carbon dioxide emissions are warming the earth, he said.

## [Darwin Foes Add Warming to Targets](#)

Critics of the teaching of evolution in the nation's classrooms are gaining ground in some states by linking the issue to global warming, arguing that dissenting views on both scientific subjects should be taught in public schools.

...The linkage of evolution and global warming is partly a legal strategy: courts have found that singling out evolution for criticism in public schools is a violation of the separation of church and state. By insisting that global warming also be debated, deniers of evolution can argue that they are simply championing academic freedom in general.

## [Rate of Glacier Melting May be Key Clue to Tracking Climate Change](#)

The vast amounts of water stored in glaciers play crucial roles in river flows, hydropower generation and agricultural production, contributing to steady run-off for Ganges, Yangtze, Mekong and Indus rivers in Asia and elsewhere.

But many are melting rapidly, with the pace picking up over the past decade, giving glaciers a central role in the debate over causes and impacts of climate change.

## [Stuart Staniford: The US in a High Emissions Scenario](#)

Given that emissions are growing faster than the IPCC has studied, that the world has been unwilling or unable to agree on any meaningful global treaty, with the largest emitters, China and the United States, in particular unwilling to make any meaningful attempt to limit emissions, I wanted to look at the question "How bad are things in a high emissions scenario?" In particular, in this post, I look at the period 2080-2100. My children were born in 2000 and 2002, so 2080-2100 represents the likely end of their lives, all being well. So this is a summary of the changes they will experience over the course of their lives.



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