



## Drumbeat: March 19, 2010

Posted by [Leanan](#) on March 19, 2010 - 9:35am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

### [Shortcomings Exposed in Oil Data](#)

The U.S. government faces shortcomings in producing its oil-inventory data, according to internal Department of Energy documents, casting doubt on figures that affect the production and prices of the world's most important industrial commodity.

The documents, obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request, expose several errors in the Energy Information Agency's weekly oil report, including one in September that was large enough to cause a jump in oil prices, and a litany of problems with its data collection, including the use of ancient technology and out-of-date methodology, that make it nearly impossible for staff to detect errors. A weak security system also leaves the data open to being hacked or leaked, the documents show.

Moreover, problems with EIA data underscore the hazards of depending on companies or other firms to self-report data.

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-certified-workers-could-stall-home-remodeling/1">Most home remodeling will soon require EPA-certified workers

Planning to remodel? Unless your home is fairly new, only renovators specially certified to handle lead will soon be legally allowed to do the work. The problem: there aren't many of them yet.

### [Bring On the Bees](#)

New York City's board of health voted Tuesday to lift a ban against beekeeping, legalizing the hives of hundreds of residents who have tended bees in defiance of the law.

The unanimous vote amends the health code to allow residents to keep hives of *Apis mellifera*, the common, nonaggressive honeybee. Beekeepers will be required to register with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and to adhere to appropriate practices. That means they must be able to control bee swarms and ensure that the hives do not interfere with pedestrians or neighbors.

## [A Dangerous Mix of Water and Oil](#)

Peak oil prophet Matt Simmons recently put out a paper called “Twin Threats to Resource Scarcity: Oil & Water.” In it, he makes the case that “without water, we cannot create modern energy.”

That’s bad news, because the battles over water are just starting to heat up, particularly in the oil-rich Middle East. Do you think the Middle East is just an empty desert? Think again. The combined population of Middle Eastern countries grew three-fold from 1970 to 2010. There are now more people in the Middle East than in the U.S. and Canada combined. If the population keeps along current trends, the Middle East will have 500 million thirsty inhabitants by 2020.

## [The True Cost of Corn Ethanol](#)

There have been a number of recent articles and reports that have come out attempting to quantify whether the various subsidies for first-generation biofuels, such as corn ethanol and soybean-derived biodiesel, make economic sense.

And while they are interesting, most are missing the bigger picture.

## [EU understates emissions from oil: biodiesel lobby](#)

(Reuters) - The European Union is not taking full account of the environmental impact of oil-based road transport fuels, which could undermine the bloc's renewable energy goals, European biodiesel producers said on Thursday.

The EU uses greenhouse gas emissions from fossil-based road fuels as a basis for calculating the climate benefits of crop-based biofuels.

But biodiesel producers argue the EU's reference values for emissions from diesel and petrol are set too low. That's because they fail to take account of the rising use of unconventional fossil fuels such as Canadian tar sands and extra heavy oil.

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### [Breaking the Growth Habit: An Q&A with Bill McKibben](#)

#### **Is zero growth necessary, or would "very slight" growth be sustainable?**

A specific number is not part of the analysis. I'm more interested in trajectories: What happens if we move away from growth as the answer to everything and head in a different direction? We've tried very little else. We can measure society by other means, and when we do, the world can become much more robust and secure. You start having a food supply you can count on, and an energy supply you can count on, and know they aren't undermining the rest of the world. You start building communities that are strong enough to count on, so individual accumulation of wealth becomes less important.

#### **If "growth" should no longer be our mantra, then what should it be?**

We need stability. We need systems that don't rip apart. Durability needs to be our mantra. The term "sustainability" means essentially nothing to most people. "Maintenance" is not very flashy. "Maturity" would be the word we really want, but it's been stolen by the AARP. So durability is good; durability is a virtue.

### [Perils of the Stationary State](#)

When economic growth finally levels off, what kind of world comes after? Shall we be unchained from the mad rush for money of the last century? Or will other but equally chafing chains weigh us down instead?

### [Erik Assadourian: our society needs some serious cultural engineering](#)

Culture defines what gives one status. In our consumer culture, status is equated with stuff. In some cultures, it is not a status symbol to keep buying new stuff, but to take care of the stuff we already have. Changing status symbols will not happen without serious cultural engineering. This may be uncomfortable for some, but cultural engineering has been happening for consumer interests for the last century or more.

For example, in order to spread the car the automobile industry had to 'normalise' the idea that roads are for cars and not people. It did this not only through advertising and marketing, but also by working with schools to get children to sign petitions not to play in the streets. In some cities, they bought up trolley systems and dismantled them to destroy the competition.

The environmental community, if it really expects to create a sustainable society, needs

to start using these same tactics more effectively, rather than just fighting at a political advocacy level.

### [Pemex to Stabilize Output This Year, Calderon Says](#)

Bloomberg) -- Petroleos Mexicanos, the state- owned oil company, aims to stabilize its crude production at 2.5 million to 2.6 million barrels a day this year, said Mexican President Felipe Calderon.

Declining output at the Cantarell field has been controlled, Pemex's Chief Executive Officer Juan Jose Suarez Coppel said today. Suarez Coppel and Calderon spoke at a ceremony in Tula, Hidalgo, to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of Mexico's expropriation of foreign oil assets.

### [API: Hydraulic Fracturing Is Safe and Effective](#)

The American Petroleum Institute released the following statement today on EPA's announcement that it will conduct a comprehensive research study to investigate the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and water quality:

"We expect the study to confirm what 60 years of experience and investigation have already demonstrated: that hydraulic fracturing is a safe and well understood technology for producing oil and natural gas. We hope the agency will provide ample opportunity for stakeholder comment and participation during the course of its study. Our members are experts on well construction and development and on safe and effective hydraulic fracturing operations."

### [Shell probes reported Nigeria pipeline attack](#)

PORT HARCOURT, Nigeria (Reuters) - The Nigerian military said on Friday oil thieves had sabotaged an oil pipeline at Buguma in the Niger Delta and Royal Dutch Shell said it was investigating.

### [EU won't block Poland-Russia gas deal-commissioner](#)

WARSAW (Reuters) - The European Union does not see any reason to block a long-delayed gas delivery deal between Poland and Russia, the block's new energy commissioner Guenther Oettinger said on Friday.

### [Enbridge doubles capacity of North Dakota pipeline](#)

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Calgary-based pipeline giant Enbridge Inc (ENB.TO) has more than doubled the capacity of a U.S. regional North Dakota oil pipeline to handle up to 161,000 barrels per day, as crude production in the region increases, state officials said Friday.

Enbridge has expanded capacity of the North Dakota system pipeline, which originates in eastern Montana and bisects North Dakota before reaching Clearbrook, Minnesota, where it ties into the 1.4 million-bpd southbound Lakehead pipeline system, also controlled by Enbridge.

### [Emergency Gas Plans for EU Clear First Hurdle 19 March 2010](#)

BRUSSELS — European Union proposals to force countries to build new emergency gas infrastructure were approved Thursday by a parliament panel, but a requirement to prepare for 60 days of supply cuts was reduced to 45 days.

The European Parliament's influential industry committee approved the European Commission's proposal, which aims to prepare countries to withstand lengthy cuts in supplies of gas in winter.

### [Pakistan to ask for more understanding at US talks](#)

ISLAMABAD -- Claiming that it has bowed far enough to U.S. interests, Pakistan will use next week's high-level talks with the Obama administration to seek more recognition for its part in the fight against terrorism and get Washington to acknowledge its concerns about rival India.

### [Tony Blair's secret oil links to Middle East](#)

Tony Blair's secret links to Gulf oil giants were revealed today as fresh details emerged of his "carte blanche" support for George Bush's Iraq war.

The former prime minister has been in the pay of the Kuwaiti government and a South Korean oil firm for up to 18 months, a parliamentary watchdog has revealed.

### [Consumers Buy More Efficient Refrigerators, But Keep the Old Ones Humming](#)

Each year millions of Americans with old, inefficient refrigerators in their kitchens buy new, energy saving ones. That may sound like an efficiency boon, but what's vexing efficiency advocates is that an increasing number of consumers don't actually get rid of the old fridge.

Instead, they move it to another area of the house and keep using it — increasing their energy usage overall.

### [Industrial sector: Energy crisis hampers production in Venezuela](#)

More than 90 percent of the companies surveyed by the Venezuelan Confederation of Industries (Conindustria) claim that power cuts hamper production.

According to a press release, "for the first time in the history of the Industrial Situational Survey, conducted by the Venezuelan Confederation of Industries (Conindustria), electricity rationing is considered a barrier, actually the worst, to production growth. This suggests how serious the energy problem in Venezuela is; it involves unscheduled blackouts and scheduled cuts in electricity supply seriously affecting productivity in the manufacturing sector."

### [We lose when the grid keeps us using more](#)

HUGE increases in electricity prices might be more palatable if we were getting, for our money, a cleaner and more efficient grid that helped us respond effectively to climate change.

We're not. In fact, we're busily expanding a grid that entrenches electricity generation from fossil fuels and will only accelerate climate change.

### [Charter 284 - Energy: The future](#)

At 10.15pm on Tuesday 10 November 2009, without warning, 60 million people in Brazil were suddenly in darkness. In 800 cities, including São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, every light went out that wasn't connected to a battery or back-up generator. Metros came to a halt. The bus system collapsed. Police rushed onto the streets to deter looting, and there were widespread reports of road accidents.

In short, 40% of people in the fifth most populous country in the world spent five hours in a very scary place they used to call home. Over in Paraguay it was worse: the whole of the country went black.

### [KenGen Plan To Boost Geo-thermal Plants](#)

NAIROBI (Xinhua) -- The Kenyan government said Monday it has plans to construct more geothermal power plants to generate 280 megawatts of electricity.



### [We'll open a nuclear power station every 18 MONTHS, say Tories](#)

One new nuclear power station would be opened every 18 months under a Conservative blueprint to avoid the first widespread electricity blackouts since the 1970s.

Shadow energy spokesman Greg Clark told the Daily Mail there would be 'no limit' on the expansion of nuclear power under a Tory government.

### [Cap-and-trade's last hurrah](#)

IN THE 1990s cap-and-trade—the idea of reducing carbon-dioxide emissions by auctioning off a set number of pollution permits, which could then be traded in a market—was the darling of the green policy circuit. A similar approach to sulphur dioxide emissions, introduced under the 1990 Clean Air Act, was credited with having helped solve acid-rain problems quickly and cheaply. And its great advantage was that it hardly looked like a tax at all, though it would bring in a lot of money.

The cap-and-trade provision expected in the climate legislation that Senators John Kerry, Joe Lieberman and Lindsey Graham have been working on, which may be unveiled shortly, will be a poor shadow of that once alluring idea. Cap-and-trade will not be the centrepiece of the legislation (as it was of last year's House climate bill, Waxman-Markey), but is instead likely to apply only to electrical utilities, at least for the time being. Transport fuels will probably be approached with some sort of tax or fee; industrial emissions will be tackled with regulation and possibly, later on, carbon trading. The hope will be to cobble together cuts in emissions similar in scope to those foreseen under the House bill, in which the vast majority of domestic cuts in emissions came from utilities.

### [Climate scientists are getting a little too angry for their own good.](#)

Urgent calls to escalate the war against climate skeptics may lead scientists and their organizations into a dangerous trap, fueling further political disagreement while risking public trust in science. A major transformation is needed in how scientists and their organizations engage the public and policymakers. The new direction is not to become more political and confrontational on the national stage, but to seek opportunities for greater public interaction, dialogue, and partnerships in communities across the country.

### [Richard Heinberg: It's time to deal with Peak Oil](#)

The "Peak Oil" concept -- that the world's petroleum-production rate will soon reach its maximum and commence an inevitable decline, with negative economic consequences -- has been around in scientifically articulated form at least since 1998; long enough to see it confirmed in significant ways.

The rate of discovery of new oilfields has been falling since 1964. The biggest find in recent years is Tupi, in Brazilian waters, which is claimed to hold five-to-eight billion barrels of oil; but that's only enough to slake the world's thirst for 60 to 90 days. Most producing nations are past their domestic peaks and are experiencing slowing output, despite every effort to maintain flow rates.

Skeptics point out that total world oil reserves continue to grow. But this may not be a reliable indication of where we stand: Often, in nations that have seen a peak and subsequent decline in production, domestic reserves continued to rise right up to, or even past, the date of peak production. Why? Oil companies replace reserves of high-quality, cheaply-produced oil with reserves of low-quality, slow-, or expensive-to-produce oil or tar sands.

[A moment no one can predict](#): *At some point, oil will start to run out. But trying to divine when is futile*

I'm about to say something I probably shouldn't: Frankly, I don't know or care much about Peak Oil.

A wise man wouldn't admit that, not because it isn't a perfectly defensible position. It is - I can't know in what year the world's production of oil will reach its maximum and begin to decline. And neither can anyone else. So it seems pointless to spend a lot of time debating whether or not we have passed that point, are about to pass it or will not reach it for decades to come.

### [Oil drifts below \\$82 as month-long rally stalls](#)

Oil prices drifted below \$82 a barrel Friday as a stronger dollar helped pause a monthlong rally fueled by mostly positive news about the U.S. economy.

By early afternoon in Europe, benchmark crude for April delivery was down 49 cents to \$81.71 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 73 cents to settle at \$82.20 on Thursday.

Crude jumped to \$83 a barrel earlier this week from \$69 early last month on expectations sluggish consumer demand will eventually catch up with a steadily improving U.S. economy.

### [Gas prices highest level since 2008](#)

Motorists are paying the highest prices for gas since October 2008. Retail gasoline prices rose on Thursday on an expected increase in demand and as more expensive spring and summer blends of gasoline make their way to the pumps.



## [The central oil bank of Saudi Arabia](#)

Comparing Opec to a central bank might not strike everyone as a sensationally illuminating comment, but bear with us.

Schenker's point is actually pretty intuitive. What's more we would suggest what he's really suggesting is that it's Saudi Arabia, not the collective force of Opec, who is operating as a central bank.

## [The U.S. No Longer Controls the Price of Oil](#)

Back in the days when US oil demand controlled the price of oil, a massive recession in the United States would have sent oil to 12.00 dollars a barrel. That era, which ended last decade, was defined by ongoing spare capacity in OPEC, low-cost oil in Non-OPEC, and nascent demand for oil in the developing world. That was then, and this is now. And so it's rather quaint that the energy analysts from that previous era still gather each week on American financial TV, to discuss the inventories at Cushing, Oklahoma. Inventories at Cushing, Oklahoma? The US has been removing discretionary demand for oil for years, starting back in 2004. And current unemployment in California is at 13.2%—another new post-war high. Yet oil is at 82.00 dollars? Get these analysts off TV. Please. We need analysis of diesel demand in Guangdong, and Uttar Pradesh.

## [Mexico posts modest rise in oil replacement rate](#)

TULA, Mexico (Reuters) - Mexico added slightly more crude oil and natural gas to its proven reserves last year than in 2008 and posted a higher production replacement rate as output declined, according to data released on Thursday.

President Felipe Calderon said state oil monopoly Pemex [PEMX.UL] replaced 77 percent of the oil and gas it extracted last year with proven new discoveries, up from a 71.8 replacement rate for 2008.

The new proven reserves include the development of previously unproven finds and revisions to older data.

## [Mexico oil finds could yield 2 billion barrels](#)

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's state-owned oil company says it has found deposits of up to 2 billion barrels of super-light and super-heavy oil in shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

## [Ivory Coast-Ghana Mixed Commission To End Oil Dispute](#)

ABIDJAN -(Dow Jones)- The Ivorian minister for mines and energy said a joint-commission will be setup by Ivory Coast and Ghana "in the next few weeks" to find a solution to a dispute over their maritime border after an oil discovery.

Speaking in Abidjan Wednesday following a meeting yesterday in Accra with the Ghanaian president he said "neither side is going to go to war over this. There are mechanisms to resolve this without any friction."

### [Shell makes deep oil strike in Gulf of Mexico](#)

AMSTERDAM (AP) -- Royal Dutch Shell PLC says it has made a significant discovery of oil 25,000 feet below the surface in the Gulf of Mexico.

The company says the deposits were found at the Appotmattox prospect in the Mississippi Canyon of the gulf, an area where other rich deposits were discovered last year.

### [Shell Earnings on Alberta Oil Sands Outstrip Projects Elsewhere](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Royal Dutch Shell Plc, which plans to produce oil from Canada's tar sands for 40 years, earned 67 percent more from operations in Alberta than from projects elsewhere between 2005 and 2009.

The company earned \$20 a barrel from oil-sand mining on average, more than the \$12 a barrel it gained from extraction projects excluding tar sands, The Hague-based Shell said a report posted this week on its Web site. Oil sands contributed \$3.1 billion to Shell's earnings in the period.

### [U.S. mustn't discriminate against Canadian oil sands](#)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States should not discriminate against the Canadian oil sands industry, Canada's ambassador in Washington said on Thursday, warning that trade restrictions could cause the top energy supplier to U.S. markets to seek out other customers.

Canada's abundant oil sands resources have been threatened in the U.S. market with proposed climate change policies that would place additional costs on fuels that emit higher levels of carbon dioxide.

### [Major Enbridge Canada-U.S. oil line empty Wednesday](#)

HOUSTON (Reuters) - Enbridge Inc's 190,000 barrel per day crude Line 65 from Canada to the United States carried no oil Wednesday, a company hotline said Thursday.

### [EDF Climbs on Prospects for French Power Market Law](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Electricite de France SA, Europe's biggest power generator, rose to a one-month high in Paris trading after a deputy said a long-planned electricity law would go before parliament earlier than expected.

### [Ed Marshall: Let's support Sen. Graham's position on energy](#)

For several years I've been involved in the development of alternative energy and related projects. My efforts and interest are in response to the fact that nearly 60 percent of our petroleum is imported from the people and places that are hostile to our national interest. The debate about energy is inextricably linked to our national security.

Knowing the stakes, I write this column in support of Sen. Graham's legislative efforts and his desire to address our energy dependence and the threat to our economy. As the economy hemorrhages, he understands the negative impact on our national security and active military, which is stretched thin and clearly stressed out.

### [Smart Energy's Lang Is Betting Against Hedge Funds](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The top-ranked investor in renewable energy last year is betting hedge funds are wrong.

Thiemo Lang, manager of the 500 million euro (\$681 million) SAM Smart Energy Fund, is buying stocks that most investors are selling, such as Chinese solar-panel manufacturers. He's aiming to repeat the 83 percent gain in 2009 that placed him first on Bloomberg New Energy Finance's ranking of clean-energy funds released today.

### [Loans for energy efficiency: Desjardins](#)

Desjardins Group, Canada's largest credit union co-operative, said it will offer a new type of loan that gives payback holidays of up to six months to businesses that want to do energy-efficiency projects.

### [Sindicatum Carbon Capital Looks to Raise \\$100 Million](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Sindicatum Carbon Capital Ltd., the developer of clean-energy projects

that's partly owned by Citigroup Inc. and Cargill Inc., may raise about \$100 million in equity to boost investments, the chief executive officer said.

The money is needed because the London-based firm has about \$100 million left after investing about \$200 million in Asia and the U.S., Assaad Razzouk said in an interview from Singapore. Asia may account for 75 percent of new spending, largely in energy efficiency and waste-to-gas projects, the CEO said.

### [Financial Woes Crimp Celebrated Middle East 'Green City'](#)

A money crunch has forced the scaling back of a futuristic, sustainable research park being built in the United Arab Emirates, , according to project officials.

### [RBS Cuts Loans to Clean Energy, Snubbing Brown's Goal](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc, historically the biggest commercial lender for renewable energy projects, has scaled back loans to the industry since the U.K. government bailed out the company in 2008.

The Edinburgh-based institution that received the world's most expensive bank bailout was lead arranger on six loans worth \$499 million in 2009, tumbling out of the top 10 lenders. In each of the three previous years, it extended at least \$2 billion, according to a Bloomberg New Energy Finance study.

### [Wind farm plans stir up storm over military radar](#)

WASHINGTON – The U.S. military is growing increasingly concerned that proposed wind farms can disrupt or block radar designed to detect threats and protect America's skies, a problem that is stalling the alternative energy projects around the country.

A top U.S. general told Congress on Thursday that federal agencies need to work better together on a formal vetting process for the wind projects to prevent them from being built where they will interfere with radar defenses.

### [Wind, Solar Energy IPOs May Rise This Year, Morgan Stanley Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Renewable energy companies may tap financial markets for more funds this year instead of looking to mergers with utilities as a way of funding expansion, said Morgan Stanley, manager of the most initial public offerings for the industry in 2009.

"The big utilities have significant capital spending plans so it's unlikely they'll be big contributors to M&A activity," Chris Thiele, head of European power and utilities

investment banking at Morgan Stanley, said in an interview. "Equity and debt capital markets could be busier areas."

### [Hydrogen ferry trial considered for Bristol Harbour](#)

A plan to use a hydrogen-powered ferry in Bristol Harbour is being considered by the city council.

The authority is inviting companies to design and develop a hydrogen-fuelled boat, in partnership with a local ferry operator.

It wants to "kick-start a hydrogen economy in Bristol" and attract new environmentally-friendly innovators.

### [Concentrating Photovoltaic Project Under Way at California College](#)

The nation's first big concentrating photovoltaic power plant is under construction in the California desert.

SolFocus, a Silicon Valley startup, is building the one-megawatt solar farm for Victor Valley College in Victorville, a desert community northeast of Los Angeles.

The company builds large solar panels that contain small mirrors that concentrate sunlight onto tiny, high-efficiency solar cells. Though more expensive than conventional solar cells, they use a fraction of the silicon and produce more electricity. That means less land is needed for a SolFocus power plant than one deploying conventional photovoltaic panels.

### [Aluminum Maker Eyes Solar Industry](#)

Alcoa, the aluminum giant, is testing a new type of solar technology that the company said it believed will lower the cost of renewable energy.

The company has replaced the glass in parabolic troughs with reflective aluminum and integrated the mirror into a single structure.

### [Safety Issues Linger as Nuclear Reactors Shrink in Size](#)

MOSCOW — When the Soviet Union introduced its Alfa class submarine — at the time, the world's fastest — the subs were the bane of American sailors. Now, the reactors that powered those submarines are being marketed as the next innovation in green power.

Environmentalists say the technology is outdated and potentially dangerous, and marketing it as green energy is an abuse of nuclear power's good green name.

### [Uranium Price May Gain on China Demand, Energy Resources Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Energy Resources of Australia Ltd., the uranium producer controlled by Rio Tinto Group, said the global financial crisis created a slump in new mine development that may lead to improved prices for the nuclear fuel.

"The supply-demand fundamentals point to the likelihood of stronger prices in the longer term," Energy Resources said today in a statement. "Despite the challenging economic climate, global demand for uranium is still expected to grow significantly in the next decade."

### [Kansai to shut reactor manually later on Friday](#)

TOKYO (Reuters) - Kansai Electric Power Co, Japan's second-largest utility, said on Friday it would manually shut down the 500-megawatt No.2 reactor at its Mihama nuclear plant in western Japan later in the day due to a water leak.

### [ClimateWorks skids on the bad oil](#)

Despite ClimateWorks' admission that Australia's road transport sector produces four times more carbon emissions per person than the world per capita average, the measures it suggests for reducing fossil fuel dependence are lame beyond belief.

In the same breath ClimateWorks recommends mandatory fuel efficiency standards of 140g of CO<sub>2</sub> per km by 2020, it reveals this standard was introduced in Europe in 2008 and will continue to be adjusted downwards there over the next two years.

### [Peak Oil In Four Years? Mobility And Economic Vulnerabilities](#)

Cities, households and the economy will be impacted, as will industries. Some industries will be hurt (agriculture, retail, petrochemicals) and some sectors could be positively impacted (smart growth planners, alternative transportation providers, "smart city" technology providers, alternative fuel producers, mixed-use and infill developers)

Whether it's bonafide peaking of global oil supplies, or a short- to medium-term "oil crunch," the initial result will be the same. Rapidly rising gas prices and price instability should become evident by 2013, or even earlier if there are any supply shocks because of natural disasters (hurricanes in Gulf), political events, war and terrorists acts.



### [Britain's energy future – political and technical considerations](#)

A huge advantage of the proposed solution is that it is the most affordable and sustainable one for addressing peak oil and energy security. The near elimination of fossil fuel emissions is a bonus. Therefore, it should appeal in equal measure to those who are convinced of anthropogenic global warming and those who remain sceptical.

### [Through a mirror, greyly: A new report on Kootenay/Boundary punctures a few myths](#)

Penfold adds to the mix the imminent arrival of Peak Oil and how it, coupled with trends in global warming, will play out in a remote region like ours. "An ageing population, climate change and peak oil are all happening at once, and all could have a significant and interconnected affect on our economic future as a region, as a province and as a country. In broader terms, the challenge is how do we adapt to all three?"

First, the report claims, we need more bodies. "If we are to be successful, we will have to attract immigrants. Although we have attracted immigrants in the past, current rates of immigration mobility to the WKB are far below retiree replacement levels, and all other regions of Canada will be facing the same challenge. We will have to address the reality that the appeal of our rural, small urban centre "outdoor" lifestyle has not been a significant attractor for immigrants, especially those from Asia, Africa and the Middle East."

### [Metro Vancouver must lead on peak oil, Port Moody mayor Joe Trasolini says](#)

Port Moody's outspoken mayor believes the Metro Vancouver committee he chairs should be leading the way in preparing the region for peak oil.

"When it comes to Metro Vancouver's environment and energy committee, I don't want us to be a follower; I would like us to be a leader," Joe Trasolini told the *Straight* by phone.

### [Bryan Cranston, other celebs struggle to build green homes](#)

More Hollywood celebrities are embracing green homes. The latest is AMC's *Breaking Bad* star Bryan Cranston who's building a beach house in Ventura County, Calif.

"It's going to receive a platinum level green certification," Emmy award-winning Cranston, who played the dad in the TV comedy *Malcolm in the Middle*, tells *Mother Nature Network*. "The cooling is from Mother Nature and the heat is from radiant heating on the floor."

### [Montana oil leases suspended](#)

BILLINGS – A federal judge has approved a first-of-its-kind settlement requiring the government to suspend 38,000 acres of oil and gas leases in Montana so it can gauge how oil field activities contribute to climate change.

At issue are the greenhouse gases emitted by drilling machinery and industry practices such as venting natural gas directly into the atmosphere.

### [Drive started to suspend state's greenhouse gas law](#)

A backlash against efforts in California and Congress to rein in greenhouse gas emissions is brewing in hard economic times.

A coalition of businesses, including two Bay Area oil refiners and an anti-tax group, has begun a signature drive for a November ballot initiative that would suspend California's pioneering law to combat global warming until the jobless rate drops back to 2006 levels.

### [Whitman contradicts eBay on global warming law](#)

When it comes to California's landmark global warming law, gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman is now at odds with the environmentally conscious company she helped run for nearly a decade.

eBay has been a prominent business supporter of the carbon-reduction law signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger as well as international efforts to curb greenhouse gases. The online auction house says California should "seize this precious opportunity" to enact the 2006 state law, while Whitman, the company's former CEO, wants the "dangerous job-killer" regulations suspended for a year.

### [CSUS dean, professor take heat for global warming study](#)

Sacramento State's business school dean came under attack again Thursday over the validity of his research on two politically charged issues: California's global warming law and the regulatory burdens imposed on the state's businesses.

### [Hungary Says Big Trader Bought Used Credits, Rattles CO2 Market](#)

(Bloomberg) -- One of "the biggest trading houses" in Europe bought used UN credits from Hungary before they re-entered the bloc's emissions market, Hungarian Energy

Power Kft said, raising new concerns about carbon trading.

### ['Revolution' required to tackle climate change, IEA says](#)

The International Energy Agency (IEA) and a host of global companies called this month for a 'revolution' to create a low carbon-economy.

The Paris-based intergovernmental body and the chief technology officers of 30 major companies issued a joint statement urging greater action to limit global temperature increases.

### [Urban CO2 Domes Increase Deaths, Poke Hole in Cap-and-Trade Proposal](#)

ScienceDaily — Everyone knows that carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas driving climate change, is a global problem. Now a Stanford study has shown it is also a local problem, hurting city dwellers' health much more than rural residents', because of the carbon dioxide "domes" that develop over urban areas.

That finding, said researcher Mark Z. Jacobson, exposes a serious oversight in current cap-and-trade proposals for reducing emissions of heat-trapping gases, which make no distinction based on a pollutant's point of origin. The finding also provides the first scientific basis for controlling local carbon dioxide emissions based on their local health impacts.

### [New NOAA Web site tracks Arctic sea ice loss](#)

A new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Web site provides satellite measurements of Arctic sea ice loss and examines Arctic science and policy issues, according to NOAA.

The Arctic Future site, launched March 16, is designed to inform businesses, communities and governments about how changes in the Arctic region can also influence weather in the mid-latitudes where a large part of the global human population lives, according to NOAA.



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