



## Drumbeat: April 17, 2010

Posted by [Leanan](#) on April 17, 2010 - 9:23am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Bjorn Lomborg: Obama Gets Reasonable on the Environment](#) - *Yes to oil drilling, and to a World Bank loan for a coal plant*

President Obama shocked many supporters last month by proposing to expand offshore oil and gas exploration along the U.S. East Coast. The obvious explanation among outraged environmentalists was that the White House was playing politics with ecologically fragile coastlines. But this particular initiative had more to do with technological and economic realism than partisan maneuvering.

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by more than 8 percent and is expected to grow to more than 60,000 megawatt (MW) by 2020.

[Russia to start Shtokman gas field development 2011-Putin](#)

MURMANSK, Russia (Reuters) - Russia plans to start development of the giant Arctic Shtokman gas field in spring 2011, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said on Saturday.

[Flight ban could leave UK short of fruit and veg](#)

Britain's supermarkets could soon run short of perishable goods including exotic fruits and Kenyan roses as the ongoing ban on UK air travel brought Britain's largest perishable air freight handling centre to a standstill today.

[Bjorn Lomborg: Obama Gets Reasonable on the Environment](#) - *Yes to oil drilling, and to a World Bank loan for a coal plant*

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### [Ahmadinejad Opens Iranian Nuclear Summit](#)

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has called for the U.S. to be removed from the International Atomic Energy Agency, in his opening speech at a nuclear disarmament conference in Tehran.

### [ExxonMobil Goes for the Gold at California Unit](#)

ExxonMobil has completed the world's longest extended-reach well drilled from an existing offshore fixed platform drilling rig, increasing the company's ability to produce more domestic oil supplies from existing facilities at the Santa Ynez unit, offshore southern California. The well drilled from the Heritage platform using ExxonMobil's Fast Drill technology extends more than six miles horizontally and more than 7,000 feet below sea level.

### [Utah Oil Lease Sales Continue to Plunge](#)

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management will offer six Utah parcels totaling just under 5,000 acres during a quarterly oil and gas lease auction May 25 -- two more parcels than the last sale, but far fewer than any other auction since 1998.

At the top of the list of reasons for the decline: economics. Natural gas prices are relatively low, experts say, and fields in Texas, Wyoming and the East Coast have proven richer and easier to get at than in Utah.

### [Lessons From the Green Gold Rush](#)

In the fall of 1978, with the pain of the energy crisis still fresh, mechanical engineer John Marran sat in gnarled traffic on New York's Long Island Expressway and experienced what his family calls "the epiphany." His brother Bill, who ran the family's heating-oil business, had been tracking how homes of similar size, construction and number of inhabitants consumed vastly different quantities of fuel. The difference: the heating equipment.

### [Time to face the music](#)

We're moving quickly from a world where we push nature around to a world where nature pushes back - and with far more power. So we better start figuring out how to live in that world, Bill McKibben writes in his new book, *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*. Here is an excerpt.

### ["Eaarth": Earth is over](#)

According to Bill McKibben, the respected environmentalist and author of the pioneering "End of Nature," the planet Earth, as we know it, is already dead. Over a million square miles of the Arctic ice cap have melted, the oceans have risen and warmed, and the tropics have expanded 2 degrees north and south. Global warming has caused such pervasive and irreversible changes, he argues, that we now live on a new planet with a new set of environmental and climatic realities — and, as such, it deserves a new name: Goodbye, Earth. Hello, "Eaarth."

#### [Climate pink slip / 4 New Eaarth not like the old Earth](#)

*Eaarth* provides mountains of indisputable evidence that not only is climate change our future, it is our present. We have failed to keep atmospheric carbon dioxide below 350 ppm. It is now at 390 ppm, and climbing. Notwithstanding the distracting oil-industry sponsored pseudo-debate, we have indeed warmed the planet, and all hell is breaking loose right now.

#### [Which U.S. cities are least and most wasteful?](#)

San Francisco wins the title of America's "least wasteful" city, followed by Seattle, New York, Portland, Ore., and Boston, according to a survey of the 25 largest cities.

#### ['Green' economy wants Baby Boomers](#)

Want a new career? Were you born between 1946 and 1964? Green jobs are a 'natural fit' for baby boomers, says a recent report from the Council for Adult and Experimental Learning.

#### [Philadelphia-area food pantries short of produce](#)

Food pantries in the area are running low on fruits and vegetables because of bad weather in the South earlier this year and the Chilean earthquake.

The amount of produce at pantries supplied by Philabundance, the region's largest hunger-relief agency, is down 45 percent compared with last year, said Bill Clark, the agency's executive director.

At the Food Bank of South Jersey, there has been a 70 percent drop in fresh produce because of bad weather in the South, said Joe Njoroge, the agency's chief operating officer.

Things won't improve for at least three months, until local farmers are able to harvest produce, Clark said.

## [Governments Worried about Peak Oil](#)

You'd think the American media would have been all over the story, as it signaled a major about-face in the official U.S. position on peak oil. As recently as 2008, the EIA's base case scenario was for oil supply to rise through 2030, and not decline until 2090!

Yet five days later when I Googled it, there was *not one* story from a major domestic publication. Only blogs and the usual peak oil sites had picked it up.

In my seasoned judgment, the American media blackout is deliberate.

## [Gasoline Declines Most in Seven Weeks After U.S. Sues Goldman](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Gasoline fell more than 2 percent after Goldman Sachs Group Inc. was sued by U.S. regulators for fraud, sending stocks lower and adding to concern that the economic recovery will slow.

## [Ghana's Tema refinery shuts due oil shortage](#)

ACCRA (Reuters) - Ghana's 45,000 barrel-per-day Tema refinery shut down 10 days ago for an undetermined amount of time due to a lack of crude oil supplies, the managing director of the plant said on Tuesday.

"We ran out of crude and had to shut down," said Tema Oil Refinery (TOR) Managing Director Kwame Ampofo. "This happened because a supplier we relied on very much disappointed us and could not deliver as expected."

## [Stability in Niger Delta is Key to Nigerian Oil and Gas Wealth](#)

The key to Nigeria's economic progress is stability in the Niger River Delta, where the bulk of the country's oil and natural gas is produced and where a smoldering militancy and sabotage of production facilities threaten progress for the region's 30 million residents, energy experts say.

## [Tesoro Shuts Down Mandan Refinery for Maintenance](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Tesoro Corp. has begun shutting down most units in the Mandan, North Dakota, refinery for a maintenance turnaround, according to Lynn Westfall, a company spokesman. The work is expected to last about a month.

### [For Oil Sands Project, a Step Forward](#)

A pipeline that would carry crude oil extracted from Canadian tar sand fields to refineries in Texas has edged a bit closer to approval with the State Department's release of a draft environmental impact statement this month. It concluded that the project's construction and operation would have "limited adverse environmental impacts."

### [Schlumberger to Invest \\$100 Million in Rumaila Camp, Drilling](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Schlumberger Ltd. will invest an initial \$100 million in a base camp at Iraq's Rumaila oilfield and a drilling joint venture in the country as improving security boosts expectations of a revival in oil output.

### [Russia mulls Ukraine gas price cut for role in energy sector](#)

MURMANSK, Russia (Reuters) - Russia is considering a price discount in gas sales to Ukraine in exchange for participation in the country's energy sector, Deputy Prime Minister Igor Sechin told reporters on Saturday.

### [Peabody, Consol Coal Mines Lead U.S. in Violations](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Peabody Energy Corp. and Consol Energy Corp. operate the two coal mines that lead the U.S. in violations, with more than double the total of Massey Energy Co.'s operation where 29 people were killed this month.

### [Hedge Funds Face Higher Capital Requirements Under Senate Bill](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Hedge funds would have to clear swaps and face higher capital requirements under rules proposed today by U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln that would reshape the \$605 trillion over-the-counter derivatives market that helped trigger the financial crisis in 2008.

### [High time for us to gamble on wave energy](#)

Weaning ourselves off fossil fuels now is essential, if we want security in the future.

### [At Upstate Campus, Saving Energy Is Part of Dorm Life](#)

ITHACA, N.Y. — The Energy Star label, the federal government's nod of approval for energy-efficient products, usually calls to mind household appliances like refrigerators

and air-conditioners. But at Ithaca College, a campus known for its embrace of all things sustainable, two dormitories proudly wear the Energy Star label, too.

### [Bomb blasts rock China JV hydropower site in Myanmar](#)

YANGON (Reuters) - A series of bombs exploded at a controversial hydropower project site being jointly built by a Chinese company in northern Myanmar on Saturday, just two days after bombs killed eight in the former capital of Yangon.

### [Amazon Dam Project Pits Economic Benefit Against Protection of Indigenous Lands](#)

RIO DE JANEIRO — The indigenous leaders had a plan. They would unite for a last, desperate stand against the mammoth dam threatening their lands in the Amazon, vowing to give their lives, if necessary, to prevent it from being built.

“This will be our last cry for help,” said the chief of the Arara tribe, José Carlos Arara, after a meeting of leaders from 13 tribes last month. “We are not here to kill. We are here to defend our rights.”

### [Next Up: A Smarter Streetlight](#)

The light-emitting diodes that are now common in traffic lights seem poised to move into more streetlights — and to get smarter.

Light-emitting diodes, known as LEDs, produce three or four times more light per watt of electricity than standard incandescent lamps do. They do not “burn out,” although they may lose brightness over time. Since traffic signals are always on, and maintaining them requires getting up many feet over the pavement of an intersection, they have been excellent candidates for new technology.

### [No American Left Inside](#)

President Obama — about the most urban president I can recall — today urged Americans to reconnect with “the great outdoors.”

### [Couple makes it their mission to be 'stewards of God's creation'](#)

"Hope for Creation: A Live Simulcast Event" is being billed as the largest-ever faith-based event involving Earth Day.

It also is part of a growing trend of Christians, especially evangelicals, taking up a "live

lightly on the earth" philosophy that they long eschewed.

### [Ice cap thaw may awaken Icelandic volcanoes](#)

OSLO (Reuters) – A thaw of Iceland's ice caps in coming decades caused by climate change may trigger more volcanic eruptions by removing a vast weight and freeing magma from deep below ground, scientists said on Friday.

### [Climate change a global security threat, says strategic study](#)

LONDON, April 16 (UPI) -- Climate change is a global security threat that affluent nations as well as poor states need to confront at whatever cost to head off a catastrophic chain of events, the London International Institute for Strategic Studies said in a new study.

...The IISS said, "Climate change has been a key factor in the rise and fall of societies and states from prehistory to the recent fighting in the Sudanese state of Darfur."

The institute said climate change "drives instability, conflict and collapse but also expansion and reorganization.



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