



## Drumbeat: May 10, 2010

Posted by [Leanan](#) on May 10, 2010 - 9:05am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

### [Saudi, Algeria Oil Ministers See Consumption Rising](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Crude oil demand will rise this year, unimpeded by a debt crisis in Greece that may spread to other European nations and slow growth, oil ministers from Saudi Arabia and Algeria said.

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries members should abide by oil-production levels approved in 2008 even as demand increases, Abdalla Salem El-Badri, the group's secretary general, said yesterday.

"Oil demand is very good, it is going to increase this year," Saudi Arabia's Ali al-Naimi said to Bloomberg in Doha yesterday. Use of crude will rise in China, India and the Middle East, as those countries "are not affected by what's happening in Greece," Algeria's Chakib Khelil said in an interview.

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by Transocean, according to an analysis of federal data. Transocean defended its safety record but didn't dispute the Journal's analysis.

### [Oil companies fought stricter regulations](#)

The company that owns the offshore well spewing crude oil in the Gulf of Mexico and other major oil companies spearheaded a campaign to thwart a government plan to impose tighter regulations aimed at preventing similar disasters, according to government records.

### [In the Gulf of Mexico, what went wrong with the Deepwater Horizon oil drilling rig?](#)

No one is sure what exactly happened on the night of April 20 to trigger this crisis. Critical pieces of evidence, including the immolated rig itself, sit under nearly a mile of water on the mud floor of the gulf.

What's certain is that more than one thing had to go wrong. Some failure of well control permitted a bubble of gas to surge to the surface, where it ignited and turned Deepwater Horizon into a Roman candle in the night. Moreover, the fail-safe mechanism known as the blowout preventer, a massive stack of valves and pistons that is the most critical

hardware in the system, failed to choke the well.

### [BP Preps Second, Smaller Dome](#)

The containment dome that was deployed last week has been parked away from the spill area on the sea bed. Efforts to place it over the main leak point were suspended at the weekend as a build up of hydrates prevented a successful placement of the dome over the spill area.

A second, smaller containment dome is being readied to lower over the main leak point. The small dome will be connected by drill pipe and riser lines to a drill ship on the surface to collect and treat oil. It is designed to mitigate the formation of large hydrate volumes. This operation has never been done before in 5,000 feet of water.

### [Drilling for oil: The cost of needing our fix](#)

You might expect a disaster of this scale would get us thinking. But the desperation of drilling doesn't relax. Even in recession, the world's oil appetite barely flinched. Shocked as we may be when something like this happens, oil companies have our implicit permission -- thanks to our relentless consumption -- to do whatever's necessary to supply our dope, even to short the safety if that's what gets the job done.

### [Edwin Black: Oil Spills—Large and Small—Create Continuing Disaster](#)

Environmental damage caused by the petroleum industry and its consumers is earth-shattering, literally. The world focus is now on BP's massive, out-of-control underwater gusher in the Gulf of Mexico. Estimates of that oil pollution telescope across the numbers. Many sources estimate as much as 5,000 barrels per day are escaping into the Gulf. Other experts say the true number is closer to 1.1 million gallons—approximately 26,500 barrels—per day. A barrel of crude equals about 42 gallons. It is all evolving guesswork based on a cascade of satellite images and thickness estimates derived from visual descriptions of the slick. At press time, at least 4 million gallons—or as many as 21 million gallons—have thus far spilled, and the spill clock is rapidly racing forward.

### [Oil bashing may cost consumers](#)

THE Obama White House is taking a tough line on big oil. At least, that is how it appeared as pictures of the first oil-soaked birds in the Gulf of Mexico filled TV screens. Ken Salazar, the US Interior Secretary, said he would "keep the boot on the neck of BP" over the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. But he needs to be careful. If he treads too hard, his other boot will land on the neck of Joe Plumber and every American who objects to \$US3 gasoline.

### [How Long Should BP Remain in Charge?](#)

So far the oil and gas gushing from the well drilled nearly four miles into the seabed for BP has confounded all efforts by the company to put the genie back in its bottle. The list of options is expanding to “top hats” and “junk shots,” according to the Associated Press.

When does the time come for the Obama administration to exert more control over next steps? One week ago, I was getting worried that the company might be too focused on conventional means to stanch the flow. Since then, a containment structure — a device that has worked in shallow waters — in this case filled like an upside-down Slushee cup with methane hydrates. In the meantime, work continues on a relief well, but at least two to three months will be required to drill down nearly three miles.

### [MMS Completes Rig Inspections](#)

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) has completed its inspection of all 30 deepwater drilling rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, the MMS' director for the Gulf of Mexico Region reported Saturday.

### [New technology 'to boost Saudi recovery rates'](#)

Top oil exporter Saudi Arabia aims to boost recovery rates at key producing oilfields by up to 70% through new technology, Oil Minister Ali Naimi said.

### [CEO: Shah field project lifts off without Conoco](#)

Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. awarded a major slice of the \$10 billion contracts for its sour-gas project late last month. Despite Conoco's withdrawal, the chief executive officer committed to pushing ahead with the venture. Saif Ahmed Al-Ghafli, CEO of the Abu Dhabi Gas Development Company has reiterated recently that whatever rumours abound, the project will come onstream as scheduled.

“The Shah gas development is set to come on stream in the second or third quarter of 2014,” he said, speaking at an event in Abu Dhabi in late March.

### [New gas pipeline to strengthen Fujairah](#)

The new 244km pipeline that has a capacity to feed 350 million cubic feet of gas per day (cpd) into Fujairah, an emerging hub of cement manufacturing, will change the power supply equations in the emirate and strengthen its industrialisation efforts, industry

insiders told Emirates Business.

### [Beijing's bid to woo Abuja falters](#)

Talks between Nigeria and China over Beijing's bid to buy 6 billion barrels of the Opec member's oil reserves have been stalled for months due to a dispute over price, a senior Nigerian government official said today.

### [Libya Reviews Oil Law to Add Clarity, Ghanem Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Libya, holder of Africa's largest oil reserves, is reviewing a proposed national resource law to boost transparency in exploration deals and include areas like natural gas and refineries, the country's top oil official said.

"The previous law doesn't have gas, this law will encompass gas and downstream," Shokri Ghanem, chairman of Libya's National Oil Corp., said in an interview in Doha, Qatar, today. "It will also emphasize that oil and gas blocks should be awarded through a bidding process. It emphasizes transparency and competitiveness."

### [Delaware City refinery: Linger suits cloud sale](#)

A costly and unusually bitter wrongful-death lawsuit will keep some of Valero Energy's fortunes tied to the Delaware City refinery this summer, despite the impending sale of the plant to an investor group led by European refiner Petroplus.

### [Pakistan needs huge investments in energy sector](#)

LAHORE: Pakistan needs huge investments in the energy sector and foreign investors should come forward for this purpose, Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif said on Sunday.

### [Brazil's Serra says no need for new subsalt oil firm](#)

BRASILIA (Reuters) - Brazil's main opposition candidate in the October presidential elections, Jose Serra, criticized the government's reform plans for the oil sector on Monday and said new energy alternatives should be explored.

The government has sent draft legislation to Congress which would entail sweeping reforms of its oil industry to prepare for a surge in output after the discovery of potentially massive offshore reserves deep under a layer of salt rock.

## [Tokyo Electric to Buy 9.2% of Texas Nuclear Plant](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Tokyo Electric Power Co., Asia's biggest utility, agreed to pay \$125 million for a 9.2 percent stake in the South Texas nuclear project from Nuclear Innovation North America LLC.

## [Power politics](#)

So far, all signs point to the national nuclear renaissance passing by New England.

## [Iraq invites bids to install 2,500 MW turbines](#)

(Reuters) - Iraq's Electricity Ministry has invited foreign companies to bid to install 20 gas turbines that would boost the country's power capacity by 2,500 megawatts in the next few years, an Iraqi official said on Monday.

## [Harnessing the power of photosynthesis to make green fuel](#)

When people at cocktail parties used to ask Charles Schmuttenmaer what he did, he would say he was a chemistry professor who worked on transient-photo conductivity in gallium arsenide. "At that point they would generally ask me to pass the chips," the Yale chemist says with a laugh.

Now Schmuttenmaer tells them he's working on a way to harness the power of the sun to produce carbon-neutral fuel. "And then the response is, 'Oh, that's wonderful. Way to go!'" he says.

## [Biotech in Africa: 'A shortage of maize means a shortage of food'](#)

Nairobi, Kenya - In Iowa, corn is king. In eastern and southern Africa, it's more important than that.

Americans feed corn to livestock or turn it into motor fuel or a sweetener for soft drinks. Africans eat it. Every day, sometimes more than once.

## [Burning questions linger for biomass](#)

Emera Inc.'s record profits could be coming at the expense of local jobs and industry as well as the environment.

The possible connection is spelled out in a set of six reports released this week by the provincial Natural Resources Department ahead of a new natural resources strategy later this year.

### [Emissions Are Down. But Is It a Trend?](#)

The decline is welcome news for environmentalists hoping to curb effects of global warming. The drop may also indicate that the country may be on its way toward the Obama administration's goal of cutting emissions by 17 percent in the coming decade.

Energy use, however, is strongly tied to economic activity, and the recession doubtless accounted for a portion of the drop in emissions. For environmentalist/author Bill McKibben, that a drop meant that an unrestricted financial sector had unintended consequences.

"Arguably, this is George W. Bush's sole environmental accomplishment -- knocking the economy off a cliff temporarily slowed our appetite for fossil fuel. Hopefully Obama can figure out a more graceful way to do it," McKibben told AOL News.

### [Monsanto's seeds of discord](#)

"The cost to farmers and consumers if Monsanto succeeds will be in the billions of dollars," asserts David Boies, DuPont's lead outside lawyer and perhaps the most sought-after American trial lawyer of his generation. "But the worst cost," Boies says, "will be the restrictions on innovation and the restraints on yields that prevent American growers from being more competitive around the world and keep us from feeding more people with less resources."

### [Birders, boaters fret over shrinking Great Salt Lake](#)

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Some of the biggest fans of the Great Salt Lake are floating a new idea in response to concern the lake is starved for water and could shrink even more.

Giving the lake its own water share, through a dedicated water right or conservation pool, was one of the proposals discussed at the Friends of Great Salt Lake forum this week.

### [Fuel tax hike needed to rebuild Michigan roads and our economy](#)

Counties in Michigan have returned some 100 miles of paved roads back to gravel because they couldn't afford to maintain them.



That simple fact underscores what a state Transportation Funding Task Force warned us back in 2008, when it said Michigan isn't just underfunding road repairs; it is now disinvesting in its roads.

### [Economics for the Story of Stuff](#)

What a dilemma! The planet can't sustain our pattern of consumption, but people get steamrolled in the economy when consumption slows down. The solution is to figure out how to structure the economy so that people can meet their needs without trashing the planet. But restructuring the economy is no simple task. Even gathering the will to take a shot at it is difficult.

### [Baking Better Bread Or Just Making More Dough?](#)

With the growing success of organics and increasing consumer interest in buying foods grown on sustainable farms without toxic chemicals, many food companies are launching new marketing campaigns chock-full of environmental-friendly catchphrases and re-packaging products that lend the appearance of the company "going green" — even if little or no actual change to the product has occurred.

### [Kurt Cobb: Politically impossible?](#)

Last week I spoke before a very committed group of juniors and seniors taking a college class on sustainable cities. In our discussion I suggested that one approach to improving public transit would be 1) to end all subsidies for fossil fuels, cars and trucks including road building and repair subsidies and 2) to place very heavy taxes on fossil fuels and the use and ownership of roadway vehicles. This I conjectured would make private investment in and ownership of city transit and intercity passenger rail attractive (which is the way it used to be) and could lead to a relatively rapid buildout and improvement of such services. But, I concluded, the first two steps are, of course, politically impossible.

My last remark evoked a spirited rebuttal from a woman in the class. She said, "I'm tired of people in your generation saying that everything we really need to do is politically impossible. All of us here are graduating soon, and we will be moving into positions of responsibility including ones in government. When we're the generation making the decisions, the things we need to do *won't* be politically impossible." Point taken. I promised in the future to tack on the words "right now" to any declaration that some action seems politically impossible.

### [Saudi, Algeria Oil Ministers See Consumption Rising](#)

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### [Oil rebounds to \\$78 on European loan package](#)

Oil prices rebounded from last week's 14 percent sell-off, rising to \$78 a barrel Monday after Europe and the IMF pledged nearly \$1 trillion to help defend the embattled euro.

By early afternoon in Europe, benchmark crude for June delivery was up \$2.93 to \$78.04 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The June contract fell \$2 to settle at \$75.11 on Friday.

### [Oil Volatility Rebounds Amid Financial Turmoil](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Crude oil volatility surged to its highest level in almost two months as turmoil across financial markets prompts speculators to sell futures contracts.

Oil's 30-day historical volatility, a measure of how much crude fluctuates around its average price during that period, jumped 53 percent from near a three-year low in mid-April. Hedge fund managers and other speculators have pared their positions by 14 percent in the past month, data from market regulators show. Oil prices dropped to an 11-week low in New York last week.

### [Gasoline up more than 7 cents in last two weeks](#)

CAMARILLO, Calif. - The average price of regular gasoline in the United States has jumped more than 7 cents over a two-week period to \$2.92.

### [Speculators Increase Bets on Gain in Gasoline to Four-Year High](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Hedge fund managers and other large speculators increased their bullish bets on gasoline to record highs in the week ended May 4, according to the U.S.



### Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Long positions in gasoline futures and options outnumbered shorts by 70,742, up 12 percent from the previous week and the highest since at least 2006, according to the commission's Commitments of Traders Report on May 7. Speculators also added to their long bets on crude oil.

### [Bull Market Signaled by Oil Stocks at 19 Times Profit](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Investors in oil shares are more bullish on the U.S. economy than any time in the last eight years, convinced the biggest decline in equities since the bull market began will prove a buying opportunity.

### [Saudi Aramco to Supply Full June Oil Volumes to Asia](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Saudi Arabian Oil Co., the world's largest state-owned oil company, will supply full volumes of crude oil to Asia for loading in June.

Saudi Aramco, as the company is known, will provide 100 percent of cargoes sold under long-term contracts next month, according to a survey of refinery officials in Japan, Taiwan and South Korea who asked to remain unidentified citing confidentiality agreements with the Middle East producer.

### [Where oil sands products ends up: In Europe](#)

Oil sands-rich Canada is the biggest foreign supplier of oil to the US. But how much of that unconventional oil then ends up in Europe, where oil majors Shell and BP are facing campaigns against their investments in tar sands production?

A study commissioned for Greenpeace has attempted to work out how much product, specifically diesel, is sold to Europe via big refiners on the US Gulf coast. The authors (who were also behind the oil sands/peak demand report last September) are confident that some product - albeit a small amount - does. The destinations of a limited sample they identified broke down like this...

### [Centrica Adds Customers at Fastest Pace Since 2001](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Centrica Plc, the U.K.'s largest energy supplier, said its British Gas unit added household customers at the fastest pace since 2001 after the company cut prices.

### [BP Says Reliance Ruling Helps Gas Contract Security in India](#)

(Bloomberg) -- BP Plc said that a ruling by India's Supreme Court last week clarifying the government's ultimate authority over natural gas pricing and sales helped to uphold the security of exploration contracts in the country.

"We understand that the Supreme Court verdict has upheld the sanctity of the production sharing contract," London-based BP said in an e-mailed statement. "BP strongly supports the notion of the sanctity of contracts," which provide the long-term stability and regulation necessary for companies to make investment decisions.

### [Eni in talks with Turkey and Russia for Samsun-Ceyhan pipeline development](#)

Eni, Turkey's Calik Holding and Russia's Transneft and Rosneft signed a Memorandum of Understanding in October 2009 for the implementation of the project.

Eni, an Italian integrated energy company, has said that its CEO Paolo Scaroni met Turkey's energy minister Taner Yildiz and Russia's deputy prime minister Igor Sechin, to discuss the further development of the Samsun-Ceyhan oil pipeline between Turkey's Black Sea coast and its Mediterranean coast, in Ankara.

### [JX to Cut More Capacity, Spend Upstream to Boost Net](#)

(Bloomberg) -- JX Holdings Inc., the Japanese energy company created by the merger of Nippon Oil Corp. and Nippon Mining Holdings Inc., plans to speed up refinery closures and invest in upstream projects to boost profit. The shares gained.

The company will cut an additional 200,000 barrels of capacity a day by March 2014, moving forward by a year plans to reduce total capacity by 600,000 barrels a day, it said in a statement in Tokyo today. The stock was the best performer on the benchmark Nikkei 225 index, climbing 10 percent to 538 yen.

### [Russian President to Talk Arms, Energy in First Syria Visit](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Russian President Dmitry Medvedev will discuss military supplies and natural gas projects on his first visit to Syria, days after the U.S. decided to renew sanctions against the country for support of terrorist groups.

### [Oil Spill Untamed, Sandbags to Bolster Coastline](#)

(CBS/AP) Icy slush foiled plans to use a giant box to contain the uncontrolled oil gusher in the Gulf, leaving BP pondering an alternate solution at sea, while on land, helicopters were expected to drop sandbags in Louisiana to guard against thick blobs of crude that

began washing up on beaches.

### [Gulf Winds Turn on BP as Oil Containment Plan Snarls](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Weather forecasts in the Gulf of Mexico indicate shifting winds will push an oil slick toward Louisiana in the next few days after the failure of BP Plc's latest attempt to stem the gushing oil leak offshore.

"The winds may play a huge role," said Kristina Pydynowski, a senior meteorologist with AccuWeather.com in State College, Pennsylvania. "The big threat is that the potential exists for the oil slick to be pushed closer, if not onto, some of the Louisiana coastline."

### [BP says oil spill cost \\$350 million so far](#)

LONDON -- BP PLC said Monday that the Gulf of Mexico oil spill has cost the company \$350 million so far as it outlined renewed efforts to contain the leak.

### [BP Investor Sues Directors for Lapses Over Gulf of Mexico Spill](#)

(Bloomberg) -- A BP Plc investor has sued the company's board of directors on claims its pursuit of profits at the expense of safety led to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill that could cost the company billions of dollars.

### [BP's Preparedness for Major Crisis Is Questioned](#)

BP PLC engineers struggled over the weekend to overcome problems with a containment dome the company hopes might capture much of the oil spilling into the Gulf of Mexico.

Challenges with the dome come as White House officials, U.S. lawmakers and others in the industry ask whether BP failed to foresee and prepare for a disaster of this scale, as doubts deepen over the company's ability to handle the spill.

### [BP's Openness Fails to Quell Sea Drilling Backlash in Congress](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Florida Democrat Bill Nelson said the first time he received a visit from a top BP Plc executive in his decade as a U.S. senator was May 4, when Chief Executive Officer Tony Hayward came to discuss the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Nelson, an opponent of offshore drilling, said while he appreciated the gesture, he still supports legislation that would raise the cap on London-based BP's economic liability for

the spill to \$10 billion from \$75 million.

### [Minimizing the Risk of a Blowout](#)

Did the relative rarity of oil rig blowouts lead to a sense of complacency?

### [We're all responsible for BP's oil spill disaster](#)

Filled up your car recently? Bought new bike tyres? Popped any pills? Then you're in part responsible for the Gulf of Mexico oil spill...

### [BG Spends \\$950 Million Adding U.S. Shale-Gas Assets](#)

(Bloomberg) -- BG Group Plc, working with Exco Resources Inc. in a U.S. shale-gas venture, agreed to pay \$950 million for further assets in the Appalachian basin.

BG will get a 50 percent interest in companies that hold Exco's assets, giving it access to 654,000 acres, mostly in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, the company said today in a statement. The transaction will raise BG's estimated net gas resources by 2.4 trillion standard cubic feet, it said.

### [High Conviction: A Stock Play on Peak Oil That's Tapping High Margins](#)

I own Schlumberger (SLB) as a play on peak oil, a hedge against a collapse in the U.S. dollar, and a bet on emerging market growth. Aside from these macro themes, SLB's market leadership commands the highest profit margins and returns on equity in oil services.

I define "peak oil" as an irreversible decline in global oil production, and believe it will occur at about 90 million barrels per day. I think it is likely to start in 2012, though oil futures now assume prices of \$83-\$85 in 2011 and \$90 in 2012. I believe average annual prices will be about \$10 higher.

### [BP spews and BC sucks: welcome to Oil 2.0](#)

The days of drilling shallow wells on nice flat land and extracting oil for a few dollars a barrel have come and gone. What is left is dirty, dangerous and expensive. Think tar sands, oil wars and monstrosities floating deep in hurricane alley. Instead of old-school oil spills we now get mile-deep oil volcanoes. Instead of rusting oil dippers we get giant "lakes" of deadly goop. So get used to words like "unprecedented" and "unprepared"

and “devastating”. Oh yeah, and toss in a growing heap of climate shocks we are cooking up by burning it all. Let’s call that: Earth 2.0

It doesn’t have to be like this. But it is. So far.

### [The dark shadow of Peak Oil looms ominously over America](#)

Petroleum is the force that drives the world's economies; it fueled America's industrial engines and created the world's foremost economic power. It was also the primary reason that the American lifestyle became the envy of the world. Now in a startling turn of events petroleum is destined to be a major cause for a dramatic change in the lifestyles of the American people.

### [Politicians: It’s time to embrace the chaos](#)

We can’t remove this election from its national or international context. Under pressure from a number of social and environmental challenges including climate change, peak oil/energy descent, economic instability, rising population and loss of biodiversity, the world is reinventing itself everyday. There are ‘hung parliament’ scenarios – that is to say shifting paradigms of power and priorities, changes in heart and mind – running through everything that we do now.

### [China - Methane: AES says plans up to 25 VAM facilities in China by 2017](#)

BEIJING (Reuters) - United States-based power developer AES Corp plans to expand its business of capturing methane from China's coal mines, which could potentially develop into a near-\$1 billion industry if market incentives are in place, a company official said.

### [Energy Resources Says Nuclear Demand ‘Strong, Robust’](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Energy Resources of Australia Ltd., the uranium producer controlled by Rio Tinto Group, said long- term demand for nuclear fuel will remain “strong and robust,” bolstered by increased use in China and India.

### [In Backing Clean Energy Start-Ups, Fund Looks for Longer Résumés](#)

SAN FRANCISCO — Virgin Green Fund, an investment firm backed by Richard Branson, is not going after the hottest new clean energy start-ups. Instead, it wants the ones facing a midlife crisis.

[Merkel's Election Loss Hurts Chances for RWE's Nuclear Reprieve](#)

(Bloomberg) -- E.ON AG and RWE AG, Germany's largest utilities, may not get to run their nuclear plants past scheduled shutdown dates after Chancellor Angela Merkel's party lost control of parliament's upper house in a state election.

The pro-nuclear leader of the Christian Democrats, punished by voters yesterday for her reversal on aid for Greece, may lose their hold on power in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's most populous state. The party's worst result since World War II robs Merkel of a majority in the upper chamber in Berlin, limiting her ability to extend the lifespan of nuclear-power plants.

[Renewable breeders](#)

Renewable energy isn't cheap, but prices should fall as markets build and technology develops. Indeed the basis of 'learning curve' theory is that this is what happens, over time. So why are some renewables getting more expensive- off shore wind for example?

One reason is that materials, like steel and aluminium, have been getting more expensive, in part reflecting the increased costs of (conventional) energy – these are very energy intensive materials. Some of those price rises were just blips (e.g. linked to the oil crisis last year), but the long-term trend for fossil (and fissile) fuels must surely always be up, since they are finite reserves. So the old technology undermines the new. At some point in the future we will be using renewable energy to produce/process these and other materials, so the continual price escalation problem will be avoided. But that's some way off.

[A Sea Change : For PeaBiofuel, fresh water shortages, and f innovations in aquatic feedstocks](#)

As we enter a new decade in 2010, leagues of prescient scientists , businessmen, politicians, commodity traders, defense hawks, activists, NGOs and social entrepreneurs are taking on future challenges by invoking ancient wisdom. Necessity is the mother of invention. A sea change is coming to the global energy, food and water industries, bringing a new wave of opportunities for feedstock development.

[Biodiesel program takes hold](#) SALT LAKE CITY - One mile southwest of Salt Lake International Airport there is a 20-acre crop of safflower plants growing on previously unused municipal land. This fall the plot will be harvested and oil from the plants processed into biodiesel fuel to operate Salt Lake County vehicles.

It's all part of a Utah State University program that uses highway rights of way and other unused open spaces like this land in the airport's flight path to grow oil-seed crops for biodiesel fuel. Hailed by scientists, educators and transportation officials as a



promising environmental and economic step, the program is spreading to a growing number of universities across the nation.

### [Israel's Erdan Sees China Market in Clean Technology](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Israeli companies have “endless” possibilities to sell clean technology to China in areas such as water recycling, desalination and solar power, Environmental Protection Minister Gilad Erdan said.

### [Muddy Road Molds Debate on the Future of Guyana](#)

The argument over a plan to pave the road reflects a nation pulled between competing desires to delve into the global economy or pursue a more ecologically sustainable path toward development.

### [Environmental and Anti-globalisation activist awarded Sydney Peace Prize](#)

Physicist, environmentalist and anti-globalisation activist Dr Vandana Shiva has been awarded the Sydney Peace Prize for 2010 for her commitment to social justice, her advocacy of human rights, empowerment of women, and her scientific contribution to environmental sustainability.

### [How to fend for yourself](#)

No-one knows what the future holds, especially now that it's obscured by a cloud of volcanic ash. The view from here, such as it is, isn't brilliant.

Turn on the radio and TV and it's all economic collapse and climate change. Take a break and rent a DVD and you can choose between *The Road* (Viggo Mortensen wandering around a dying, post-apocalyptic world) or the *Book of Eli* (Denzel Washington, er, wandering around a dying, post-apocalyptic world).

On the bright side, some folks have never been happier. 'Survivalists' are people who firmly believe disaster, manmade or otherwise, is just around the corner and make preparations accordingly. For them, making a nuclear shelter and laying down 10 years' worth of bottled water and tinned sardines is just common sense. They're only waiting to be proven right.

### [Greenland glacier slide speeds 220 percent in summer](#)

Reuters) - A glacier in Greenland slides up to 220 percent faster toward the sea in summer than in winter and global warming could mean a wider acceleration that would

raise sea levels, according to a study published Sunday.

A group of experts led by Ian Bartholomew at Edinburgh University in Scotland said the variability was much stronger than earlier observations of glacier movement in Greenland.



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