



Drumbeat: June 28, 2010

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Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Swings in Oil Prices May Worsen as Spare Capacity Shrinks](#)

Swings in oil prices may widen over the next five years as OPEC's shrinking spare production capacity increases traders' concern about supply shortages.

Oil's 50-day historical volatility, a measure of how much crude fluctuates around its average price, was at 34 percent on June 25. The measure rose to a record 108 percent in January 2009 after OPEC's spare production capacity fell to its lowest in almost four years. The group's idled capacity may drop to 3.9 percent of world demand by 2015 from 6.8 percent this year, according to International Energy Agency estimates.

e extension projects. Its newest large-scale program is Karan, Aramco's first-ever non-associated gas increment, due to be completed in 2013.

[Saudi faces gas cost dilemma](#)

The government of Saudi Arabia will lose millions of dollars a day tapping into much-needed new gasfields because of rigidly low domestic prices, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Rapidly increasing electricity consumption and industrial development has led Saudi Aramco, the state oil company, to scramble to develop new natural gas reserves – with many significant successes.

But the cost of developing those fields overshadows the revenue the company will receive from selling the gas to power producers and petrochemical outfits at fixed prices, according to new estimates by the IEA, a Paris-based organisation representing a group of energy importing countries.

[Saudi firm focuses on power needs](#)

JEDDAH: Saudi Arabia's rapid march toward industrialization is propelling the demand for power systems and generators. With the right standby power system in place, the question often asked by manufacturers and industrialists is whether the system will

work when they need them the most.

[Saudi Aramco invites bids for Wasit gas plant](#)

ALKHOBAR: State oil giant Saudi Aramco has invited companies to bid for the construction of the biggest gas plant in the kingdom, industry sources said on Sunday.

After completing a crude oil capacity expansion plan last year, the world's top oil exporter has focused on developing gas production to meet rapidly rising domestic demand.

[Gulf source says oil market in good shape](#)

Dubai (Platts)- The current oil market is "in good shape" and no significant price movements are expected in a stable market if there are no unexpected developments such as a hurricane in the US Gulf or other events that could impact oil prices, a Gulf source said Sunday. "Prices are not expected to go up sharply or down, unless you have an unexpected event such as a hurricane," the source said, adding that given the state of the market, there was no need for a change in OPEC's output targets despite an expected weakening in demand during the third quarter.

[Total, Saudi Aramco find cash for Jubail](#)

COURBEVOIE, France, June 28 (UPI) -- Saudi Aramco and French petroleum company Total announced they secured \$8.5 billion in financing for the Jubail refinery in Saudi Arabia.

Total, in a statement, said the refinery will be one of the most advanced in the world, processing heavy Arabian crude products to meet demands for environmentally friendly fuel supplies.

[Mexico oil output flat in May vs April](#)

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Mexican oil output was unchanged in May from April and down only fractionally from May 2009, underscoring state oil company Pemex's recent success in slowing its output slump.

Pemex said crude output last month was 2.593 million barrels per day, down from 2.609 million bpd a year earlier. Total liquids production, which includes condensate and natural gas liquids, was 2.977 million bpd, up from 2.976 million bpd in April.

Mexican oil production fell by nearly a quarter from its 2004 peak as output at the aging Cantarell field tumbled, but Pemex has succeeded in slowing the rate of decline in recent

months with new drilling and production techniques.

[Consumer spending rose slightly in May](#)

Incomes rose for the sixth time in seven months, boosting household finances and potentially providing fuel for greater future spending.

But money spent on goods declined. The increase came from spending on services — much of that likely the result of Americans using more electricity as the weather warmed up.

[Kazakhstan eyes 2010 oil tax](#)

Kazakhstan plans to reintroduce an export duty on oil this year but will wait until 2011 before applying a tax on exports of metal, Prime Minister Karim Masimov said today.

[FACTBOX: Gulf of Mexico oil operators prepare for Alex](#)

(Reuters) - Oil and gas companies operating in the Gulf of Mexico have taken the following actions in preparation for Tropical Storm Alex.

[Alex Expected to Reach Hurricane Strength in Gulf](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Tropical Storm Alex may become a major hurricane as it churns toward the Texas-Mexico border forcing the evacuation of some rigs and sending swells at the oil slick created by the U.S.'s worst spill.

The storm may grow into at least a Category 3 system, with minimum winds of 111 mph (178 kph), before making landfall early July 1, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center.

[Chevron sets force majeure on shallow water rig](#)

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Chevron Corp declared force majeure on a Hercules Offshore jack-up rig because of new rules in the Gulf of Mexico, the second notice in less than a week that producers were seeking to curtail oil and gas drilling in shallow water.

The U.S. government has effectively halted drilling for oil and gas in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico because of the continuing leak from the BP Plc (BP.L) well.

[70 days later, seeking answers to Gulf oil crisis](#)

Washington (CNN) -- It is Day 70 of the Gulf oil crisis. Millions of words and thousands of hours of video have been devoted to the explosion at BP's Deepwater Horizon rig and the gushing of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

And yet the organizers of a conference in Washington on Monday think that there's actually a shortage of information about the disaster. The two technology entrepreneurs behind the conference, TEDx OilSpill, said they are hoping the event will start to fix that problem.

[A floating city springs up to contain gulf oil spill](#)

Dead ahead through the helicopter windshield, it appears like a mirage at the hazy horizon: a city in the middle of the Gulf of Mexico.

A city on fire.

[Boycott BP? That's easier said than done](#)

Consumers who want to show their outrage over the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico will find that the company is deeply rooted in the U.S. economy.

[Nuke deal with China in tandem with IAEA rules: Pak](#)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reiterated that its civil nuclear deal with China is in accordance with the norms set out by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Foreign Office spokesperson Abdul Basit said that Islamabad and Beijing have a history of nuclear cooperation, and demands of a clarification in this regard were unjustified.

[Solar power done cheap](#)

Under the company's model, customers agree to a monthly lease and sign the rights to claim subsidies over to SolarCity.

In return, homeowners get a solar array installed on their roof, maintained for the life of the lease. They're hooked up to the electric grid, so when they need more power than the panels provide, there's no disruption. And SolarCity guarantees the panels will produce a set amount of power, which the company says should offset the electric bill and more than compensate for the monthly fee.

[Maine firm eyes N.B. tidal power options](#)

Irving Oil Ltd.'s sudden decision to abandon its tidal power initial has sparked interest by a Maine company that is conducting its own research in the area.

Irving Oil had exclusive access to test tidal power possibilities on 11 Crown land sites in the Bay of Fundy, which it walked away from recently. Energy Minister Jack Keir said last week he didn't know why the company halted its efforts but said tidal power technology is not yet commercial viable.

[Tesla hopes investors are charged about IPO](#)

NEW YORK — Tesla Motors Inc. begins selling stock to the public on Tuesday. The sale's success depends on how much investors are willing to bet on a car company that has never made a profit, sells a single vehicle and expects to lose money until at least 2012.

As for the car, it's electric — a kind of vehicle Americans have shown almost no appetite for — and it's very pricey.

But the Palo Alto, Calif., startup believes Americans' taste in cars is changing. Most analysts agree with Tesla that the internal combustion engine will soon make room for greener forms of powering cars, such as electricity, as gas prices rise and environmental worries mount.

[Former F1 engineer unveils new city car](#)

London, England (CNN) -- His most famous car has a top speed of 240 miles per hour.

With a top speed of 80 mph, Gordon Murray's latest design isn't likely to trouble too many speed cameras, but it shouldn't worry environmentalists either.

The former Formula One engineer who created the iconic McLaren F1 supercar has officially unveiled the T.25 -- his idea for a new class of city car.

[Car Sharing and the ZipCar IPO](#)

Like many companies going public these days, ZipCar has posted losses every year since it started.

And those losses are expected to continue this year and into 2011.

That being said, ZipCar's got a nice little operation going – with limited competition right now.

[States look for new ways to promote Route 66 attractions](#)

Conkle and the alliance's other co-director Rick Freeland at the summit also highlighted another marketing effort for the historic road, as an environmentally friendly highway.

Freeland said Route 66 enthusiasts are encouraging people to travel the highway in alternative-fuel vehicles, including those powered by electricity, hydrogen and natural gas.

"Alternative-fuel vehicles is the future," Conkle said. "Forget fossil fuel. We're going to marry Route 66 with this new technology."

[Brave new local world](#)

Rapid advancement in technology during the twentieth century led to a drastic reduction in cost of transportation, fundamentally changing the way businesses plan their production lines. Today a transnational company's decision to choose location for its manufacturing facility is likely to be influenced by the availability of cheap labour rather than proximity of market. The reason is simple: transport cost is no longer a crucial factor in corporate marketing strategy. Economists call it globalisation, that is, unhindered flow of humans and goods across borders. What propels and sustains globalisation is availability of cheaper oil that makes transportation affordable. But oil might not remain cheap for long given the alarming pace of depletion in world's oil reserves. If that happens, our lifestyles might see a drastic scaling back. This is what Jeff Rubin stresses in *Why Your World is about to Get a Whole Lot Smaller*.

[Swings in Oil Prices May Worsen as Spare Capacity Shrinks](#)

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[Oil Falls From Seven-Week High as Storm Skirts North Gulf Production Area](#)

Crude oil fell from a seven-week high on speculation that crude-oil production in the Gulf of Mexico will be unaffected by a tropical storm in region.

Prices also declined before reports this week that are expected to show U.S. consumer confidence waned and manufacturing growth slowed this month. Futures are heading for a quarterly decline of 6.1 percent. Oil rose earlier today on forecasts that Tropical Storm Alex in the southwestern Gulf of Mexico will become a hurricane in the next 48 hours.

[Price of gas up nearly 5 cents in last two weeks](#)

CAMARILLO, Calif. — The average price of regular gasoline in the United States has climbed nearly five cents over a two-week period to \$2.76.

[G20 urges phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies](#)

TORONTO (Reuters) – Leaders of the world's biggest economies will pledge on Sunday to phase out subsidies for "inefficient" fossil fuels, in a statement toughened at the last minute at the urging of the United States, Group of 20 sources said.

The G20 communique in Toronto calls for the "phase out over the medium term of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, taking into account vulnerable groups and their development needs," said the sources, who provided the language to Reuters.

[India's Scrapping of Fuel Price Regulation to Boost Inflation, Refiners](#)

India's scrapping of price controls on gasoline and diesel after more than seven years, a move aimed at cutting a 6.9 percent budget deficit, will boost inflation and increase profits at refiners including Indian Oil Corp. and Reliance Industries Ltd. Their shares rose for the second day.

[India - Q+A: What would be the impact of fuel price hikes?](#)

The government has moved to ease price controls on gasoline and raise other fuel rates. Here are some questions and answers about the implications.

[Shell, Reliance May Revive Plans for Fuel Outlets as India Cuts Subsidies](#)

Reliance Industries Ltd., Royal Dutch Shell Plc and Essar Energy Plc may revive plans to add retail fuel outlets in India after Asia's third-biggest energy consumer scrapped subsidizing gasoline and diesel.

[India May refinery output up 7.7 pct y/y - govt](#)

(Reuters) - Indian refiners, excluding Reliance Industries' export-focused plant, processed 3.252 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil in May, up 7.7 percent from a year ago, government data showed on Monday.

[Russian Diesel Exports From Primorsk Port Will Increase by 24% Next Month](#)

Russian exports of low-sulfur diesel from the port of Primorsk on the Baltic Sea will rise 24 percent in July, the highest in at least four months.

Exports will increase by 121,000 metric tons to 635,000 tons in July from 514,000 tons this month and 520,000 tons in May, according to two people with knowledge of the loading schedules.

[Should the US lean more on natural gas in its energy mix?](#)

The US could get a running start at curbing its greenhouse-gas emissions by shifting its energy mix more rapidly toward natural gas in the next few years, allowing renewable energy sources like wind and solar time to gain ground, a study released Friday found.

[Oil and gas are the bridge to clean energy](#)

The U.S. uses 25 percent of the world's oil, yet it only produces 3 percent of the global total. Whether the world has reached peak oil production is an open question and subject to debate by geologists and petroleum engineers. But even if we opened every square inch of the Outer Continental Shelf to drilling, we would still need to rely on imports to fulfill our oil needs.

Regardless of whether more oil will be discovered in the world, there is no debate that we have entered an era where all new oil is difficult and expensive to discover and produce. Shell has already invested more than \$3 billion in exploration off Alaska's shores, and that's without a single well ever being built. The days of cheap energy from oil very well may be over. Oil is simply too scarce for it to be "cheap" energy ever again.

[OPEC hopes US reconsiders offshore drilling ban](#)

BRUSSELS (AP) -- The head of OPEC is saying he hopes the United States will reconsider a temporary ban on new deep-water oil rigs.

Abdalla Salem El Badri, secretary-general of the 14-member Organization of Petroleum

Exporting Countries, says offshore drilling is an important source of oil and "we should not really ban it."

[Shell cuts some output, BP evacuates some due to Alex](#)

HOUSTON (Reuters) – Shell Oil shut subsea production at two platforms and BP evacuated some personnel from three Gulf of Mexico platforms due to the threat of tropical depression Alex, the companies said on Sunday.

Subsea production at Shell's Auger and Brutus platforms was shut, a website posting said. Personnel not essential to operations were evacuated from BP's Atlantis, Mad Dog and Holstein platforms in the Gulf of Mexico, a recorded telephone message said.

[Thick oil soils Mississippi shore as storm looms](#)

OCEAN SPRINGS, Miss./TORONTO (Reuters) – Gluey gobs of thick oil from BP Plc's Gulf of Mexico spill washed ashore in Mississippi for the first time on Sunday as Russia called for a special levy on oil companies to finance a fund to help clean up environmental disasters like this one.

[How BP wants to start over in bid to contain Gulf oil spill](#)

Tropical storm Alex comes just as the Coast Guard and BP are preparing to make the oil-collection system at the leaking well on the sea floor more hurricane-ready.

For now, it appears as if Alex will pass far west of the Gulf oil spill. But even before Alex developed, the end of June and the beginning of July was shaping up to be a crucial moment in BP's bid to collect all the oil gushing into the Gulf of Mexico.

[A region's new fear: An oily hurricane](#)

The threat of Tropical Storm Alex—the first significant storm of the hurricane season—has inflamed anxiety on the Gulf of Mexico's barrier islands and coastal towns. The 1,680-mile shoreline from Texas to Florida faces a volatile hurricane season with the unprecedented complication of a massive oil spill off the coast. Although the National Hurricane Center now projects Alex will hit Mexico's Gulf coast and steer south and west of the oil spill, it is predicting an unusually heavy hurricane season, with as many as 23 serious storms.

[BP's First Relief Well in Gulf May Be Completed Within 18 Days, Times Says](#)

BP Plc may complete within two and a half weeks the first of two relief wells aimed at ending the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, the London-based Times reported.

The relief well is within 200 horizontal feet of the ruptured one and is being guided toward it by means of electromagnetic and sonar ranging devices, the newspaper said.

[BP station owners say that they're victims also](#)

Tension is mounting between BP and the neighborhood retailers that sell its gasoline.

As more Americans shun BP gasoline as a form of protest over the Gulf oil spill, station owners are insisting BP do more to help them convince motorists that such boycotts mostly hurt independently owned businesses, not the British oil giant.

To win back customers, they'd like the company's help in reducing the price at the pump.

[Oil spill costs hit \\$2.65-billion: BP](#)

BP PLC says the cost of the company's response to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill has reached about \$2.65-billion.

The company announced the updated total in a news release Monday. The costs include spill response, containment, relief well drilling, grants to Gulf states, claims paid, and federal costs.

[BP Loses \\$22 Billion in Legacy of Share Buybacks](#)

Add \$22 billion and counting to the loss for BP Plc from the Gulf of Mexico disaster.

The sum represents the hole after the 52 percent plunge in BP shares since the Deepwater Horizon exploded and sank, resulting in the worst oil spill in U.S. history. BP bought back more than \$37 billion of its stock in a bid to return money to investors between 2005 and 2008. Those shares are now worth \$15 billion, excluding dividends.

[BP's Tony Hayward to Meet Putin Deputy in Moscow as Gulf Leak Costs Mount](#)

BP Plc Chief Executive Officer Tony Hayward will meet with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Igor Sechin to discuss the British company's operations in the country as it struggles to contain the largest oil spill in U.S. history.

[Russia's Sechin says Hayward to resign as BP's CEO](#)

(Reuters) - Russia's top energy official Igor Sechin said on Monday he expects BP's chief executive Tony Hayward will soon resign.

"We know that Tony Hayward is leaving his position and he will introduce his successor," Sechin told reporters ahead of a meeting with Hayward on Monday.

[BP denies Russian report that Hayward leaving](#)

MOSCOW, Russia -- Russia's state RIA Novosti news agency is quoting a senior Russian Cabinet official as saying that BP Chief Executive Tony Hayward is expected to resign, a report BP denied.

[Ex-FEMA director could help BP out of its disaster](#)

WASHINGTON -- James Lee Witt, America's go-to guy for disaster response, knows how to take an unpopular organization and turn it around. If BP hires the former Federal Emergency Management Agency director to help with community relations, it could further a makeover of the oil giant's Gulf Coast image.

[For Gulf victims, claims calamity may be improving](#)

More than two months after the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico, many area residents say the claims process is getting somewhat better, but bureaucracy still reigns supreme.

[Reporter Answers Questions About the Spill](#)

The Macondo reservoir holds at least 50 million barrels of oil, or about 2.1 billion gallons, according to recent congressional testimony by BP's chief executive, Tony Hayward. This would be enough to allow the well to continue to gush at a rate of 60,000 barrels per day – the government's upper range of the well's current flow – for another two years.

Yet how precise Mr. Hayward's estimate might be is another question entirely. This month Tony Odone, a top BP spokesman, told The Guardian newspaper that the company had not made an assessment of the reserves before the well blew out.

[Russia ready to enact law against sea oil pollution: Medvedev](#)

Russia is all set to enact a law against sea oil pollution which will lay a new legal basis for preventing aftermaths of man-made catastrophes such as the recent oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico.

"In this respect, Russia is ready to pass to the State Duma a bill on sea protection against oil pollution," Medvedev noted.

[The Oil Spill Catastrophe: Biggest Ever? Not Close.](#)

But while we demand that BP pay to clean up the oil spill, are we demanding that the agricultural industry pay for the dead zones their fertilizer use creates? Are we demanding that food companies put billions in escrow accounts to pay for the damage that unsustainable fishing practices cause? Are we demanding that fossil fuel burning be taxed to pay for the environmental damage it does? Are we demanding the government do more about any of these things? A little, maybe, but not nearly like we're jumping all over BP and the government for the Deepwater Horizon mess. We call them externalities, not catastrophes, and these far greater harms persist, in large measure because they just don't upset us as much as catastrophes do.

[Turkey plans bypass and spill fund](#)

Turkey's Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said he planned on meeting major international oil companies on 1 July to discuss measures to bypass the busy Istanbul Strait and a fund to be created in the case of an oil spill.

[France's Total halts Iran gasoline sales: report](#)

French energy group Total SA (TOT, FP.FR) has halted gasoline sales to Iran, the Financial Times reported on its website Sunday.

According to the report, Total made the move just days before U.S. President Barack Obama signs into law new sanctions against Iran.

[Repsol pulls out of Iran deal](#)

Spanish giant Repsol has pulled out of a contract it won with Shell to develop part of the South Pars gas field in Iran, according to reports.

[German, Russian energy giants decline answer on sale of Gazprom stakes](#)

Russia's gas monopoly Gazprom and Germany's energy group E.On Ruhrgas declined on Monday to comment on Russian media reports about a possible sale of E.On's 3.5% stake in the Russian energy giant.

"We would not like to comment on that. We do not comment on market rumors," a E.On official told RIA Novosti.

[Regal Petroleum Falls Most in Four Years on Ukraine Operations Suspension](#)

Regal Petroleum Plc, a British energy company focusing on natural-gas projects in Ukraine, fell the most in four years after the nation ordered it to suspend operations at its fields.

[Va utility, state settle pipeline safety claims](#)

NORFOLK, VA. — Virginia Natural Gas has agreed to change practices and pay up to \$1.8 million in penalties to settle more than 40 violations alleged by state regulators.

The Norfolk-based company also agreed to spend \$15 million on pipeline replacement projects.

[Toyota starts production of hybrid car in UK](#)

LONDON (AFP) — Japanese carmaker Toyota began producing Europe's first full hybrid vehicle on Monday at the company's car factory in Burnaston, in a boost to Britain's battered auto industry.

The first European-made hybrid version of Toyota's Auris hatchback rolled off the production line under the watchful eye of the government's business minister Vince Cable.

[Musk Bets on \\$178 Million Tesla IPO to Fund Battery-Car Gambit](#)

Tesla Motors Inc., the electric sports-car company that's attempting the first initial public offering by a U.S. automaker in a half-century, increased the number of shares that it will sell in its IPO by 20 percent.

[GovEnergy to Feature Over 100 Training Sessions on Federal Energy Management](#)

GovEnergy, the nation's premier energy training workshop and trade show for federal

energy professionals, will take place August 15-18, 2010, at the Dallas Convention Center in Dallas, Texas. Promoting the theme, *Blazin' Trails to Energy Solutions*, the 2010 event will feature over 100 training sessions, within 15 tracks. This year, GovEnergy offers two new tracks, *Greenhouse Gases* and *Human Behavior*. GovEnergy provides federal energy professionals with access to the tools, techniques and best practices needed for meeting both day-to-day and long-term energy management goals.

[Joe Bageant: Live from Planet Norte Totalitarian democracy and the politics of plunder](#)

On Planet Norte nothing is finite. Not even money, which, under the flag of the consumer society, you can keep borrowing forever. Equally limitless is oil, infinite quantities of which are being hidden from us by a consortium of energy companies. Several people here in the States have told me that the size of the Gulf oil spill is proof that there is plenty of oil in still in the ground, and that this "peak oil stuff" is a scare tactic, an excuse to keep the price up. They were dead serious.

Considering the inexhaustibility of Planet Norte, it's no surprise its inhabitants have never doubted the "American Dream," the promise that every generation of Americans can be fatter, richer and burn up more resources than the previous one, ad infinitum.

[Our economic future is not what it used to be](#)

It's not just a matter of bank failures, spiraling foreclosures, high unemployment and the rest of this mess. Many of us sense that we're on the cusp of a fundamental shift in our economy and culture. Though most may be in denial, the evidence strongly suggests that the American economy has been propelled and sustained by criminally inflated credit and rampant speculation, and we are on the precipice of a change that will result in a dramatically altered American landscape.

[UK: Meal made with produce from within 30-mile radius](#)

Several people were eager to start growing their own vegetables and were interested in having lessons from gardeners, while more experienced growers wanted ways of sharing surplus produce or to organise pickling parties to store it. There was also a proposal for "guerilla gardening" where fruit trees or food is planted on spare, unmaintained corners. Another suggestion was to have "garden angels," volunteers who look after other people's gardens when the owners fall ill.

[New Zealand: Dunedin to be consulted about future](#)

The first meeting for the new programme, called Your City, Our Future, will be a "futures forum" of about 200 people, to be held on July 20, with those invited ranging from the Salvation Army to the Otago Rugby Football Union.

The forum will include a presentation on issues the city is facing, such as the state of the economy, climate change and peak oil, with questions to be discussed including where the city is now, and what sort of city is wanted in 30 years' time.

[Panera to open more pay-what-you-wish restaurants](#)

CLAYTON, Mo. — As the first crowd of customers filed into Panera's nonprofit restaurant here, only the honor system kept them from taking all the food they wanted for free.

Ronald Shaich, Panera's chairman, admitted as he watched them line up that he had no idea if his experiment would work. The idea for Panera's first nonprofit restaurant was to open an eatery where people paid what they could. The richer could pay full price — or extra. The poorer could get a cheap or even free meal.

A month later, the verdict is in: It turns out people are basically good.

[Green My Ballard: Sailing the seas for local food](#)

The recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico makes an even more compelling argument for reducing our food miles and using alternative propulsion for transporting our food.

The new Salish Sea Trading Cooperative (SSTC) moves garden-fresh, farmer-grown, nonpetrol-powered food to Ballard's Shilshole Bay from the peninsula by way of sail transport.

[Glacier melt in NZ may have ended southern ice age](#)

Scientists are beginning to suspect that a change in global wind patterns helped end the last major ice age, and that the effects showed up first on New Zealand glaciers.

[Ice shelf was kept intact by underwater ridge](#)

The discovery of an underwater mountain ridge could help solve the mystery of why Antarctica's Pine Island glacier is vanishing so rapidly.

A robot submarine sent beneath the glacier's floating ice sheet has shown that there is a ridge rising 400 metres from the sea floor. Until recently, the glacier would have rested on this ridge, preventing warm seawater from reaching the ice and melting it from underneath. But the submarine has shown that the glacier no longer rests on the ridge - it has thinned and now floats above it.

[Sea Ice in the Arctic Not Recovering: Another Critical Minimum Forecast](#)

ScienceDaily — A critical minimum for Arctic sea ice can again be expected for late summer 2010, according to researchers.



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