



Drumbeat: July 12, 2010

Posted by [Leanan](#) on July 12, 2010 - 9:09am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Iran saves power with a holiday](#)

Iran's government has shut down for two days, with all civil servants and public sector workers going home for an unexpected holiday, in a move apparently designed to save electricity.

The state is the biggest employer in the country, with about 2.2m full-time staff. Officially, the reason given for the closure was an "unprecedented" level of midsummer heat.

However, Iran's Weather Forecast Organisation said recent temperatures of 40°C to 43°C in Tehran had been experienced before, although temperatures had stayed above 40° for longer than in previous years.

Ordinary Iranians and analysts believe the government's real motive was to cope with a severe shortage of electricity. "People should help [the government] by consuming electricity more considerately," said Majid Namjoo, energy minister, on state television.

vered later, included a welding job so shoddy that it left underwater pipelines brittle and full of cracks.

"It could have been catastrophic," said Gordon A. Aaker Jr., a senior engineering consultant on the project. "You would have lost a lot of oil a mile down before you would have even known. It could have been a helluva spill — much like the Deepwater Horizon."

[BP May Stop Flow From Leaking Well After Test Today](#)

BP Plc may stop the flow of crude from its leaking Gulf of Mexico well, source of the biggest oil spill in U.S. history, beginning with a pressure test today.

[BP oil spill creates low-stress jobs, but some fishermen face emotional crisis](#)

For these crews -- usually seen only in long-range TV shots, faceless participants in the gulf's drama -- working for BP can bring good pay and the pride of fighting the spill hand-to-hand.

But for some it comes at a psychological cost: They have given up control of their lives in exchange for hot days, bewildering bureaucracy and a nagging sense that the oil is still winning. The toll for a few individuals has been extreme, as illustrated last month, when a charter-boat captain working for BP committed suicide in Alabama.

[Natural Gas: The New King Of Electric Power](#)

Over the last three years, natural gas production has grown nearly 14%, which is in sharp contrast to the flat performance of production in the decade before that. Notably, much of that growth has been on the back of pre-Haynesville Shale plays, including the Barnett and Fayetteville shales, among others. Subsequent discoveries, including the Haynesville, Marcellus, and Eagleford shales, are merely adding to the already-rapid pace of growth.

[The Real Reason More Women Are Childless](#)

I was genuinely surprised to read the recent Pew Research Center study showing that the share of American women who are skipping out on motherhood has nearly doubled since 1976, rising from 10 percent of the population to 18 percent.

Personally, I was happy to see that more women feel free to forgo childbearing. But not everyone shares my enthusiasm. According to Pew, 38 percent of Americans now denounce childlessness as bad for society. That's up from 29 percent just two years ago. So what's behind the increase in women choosing the non-mom route? According to social conservatives, legal abortions are to blame for declining birth rates. Mike Huckabee told reporter Max Blumenthal that if it weren't for abortion, there would be no need for immigrants to come work in the United States. Some anti-choicers are issuing dire warnings about a "demographic winter" bringing an end to Western civilization.

[Empire State Building goes green, one window at a time](#)

Never has a structure so old and so tall gone so green. "It's the most recognizable building energy retrofit in the world," says Arah Schuur, director of a conservation program at former president Bill Clinton's foundation

If you can retrofit the Empire State Building, you can retrofit anything, says Kevin Surace, president of Serious Materials.

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[Officials: U.S. to issue new oil moratorium](#)

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration will issue a revised moratorium on offshore drilling Monday.

Two administration officials have told the Associated Press of the plans. Both requested anonymity so as not to pre-empt the official announcement.

[Chevron accusations a sign Kazakhstan wants more money](#)

Kazakhstan oil ministry accusations that a Chevron-led venture is pumping too much oil are the latest signs the government wants more money from production sharing agreements it considers unfair.

[Shah contracts cheaper than expected](#)

Contracts for the United Arab Emirates’ \$10 billion Shah gas project were 40-50% cheaper than expected, the chief executive of the Abu Dhabi Gas Development Company said, after economic crisis made firms cut prices.

[Working to bring 'Hippos,' and water, to Haiti](#)

Hippo rollers have proved to be life-changing in Africa. By using them, poor villagers cut down on the number of trips to their water sources. Going for water is women's work, most African men think, so many young girls miss school to help their mothers make multiple trips to rivers or lakes, Gibbs said.

[Historic oil spill fails to produce gains for U.S. environmentalists](#)

"This is probably our last best chance to pass a comprehensive clean energy and climate bill," said Dan Lashof, director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's climate center. "This is the moment to choose."

It's hard to tell how many people are listening.

[Energy Warning: Britain 'At Risk' Of Crisis](#)

Britain faces soaring bills and the risk of power cuts unless major changes are made to the country's energy infrastructure, a manufacturing organisation has claimed.

The EEF warned the Government that unless it takes the lead on energy policy to ensure competitiveness and security, the UK could face problems as soon as 2015.

The sector faces an unprecedented combination of energy challenges over the next decade.

Billions of pounds need to be invested in infrastructure, the risks of a growing reliance on imported gas need to be managed and the industry must meet an ambitious and costly renewable energy target all at the same time.

[Optimism, harsh realism, and blind spots — 10 years later](#)

Ten years ago, energy analyst Steve Andrews challenged widely respected energy guru Amory Lovins via email for what Andrews thought was an overly optimistic vision — about coal consumption trends, evolution in the auto industry, future world oil production, etc.—articulated in the Rocky Mountain Institute's Spring 2000 newsletter. RMI published the subsequent email exchange at http://www.rmi.org/Content/Files/RMI_SolutionsJournal_FallWinoo.pdf in the fall of 2000; most of it is reprinted below, with a few updated facts. Ten years later, read it for the blind spots everyone had.

[Russia steps up efforts to undermine Nabucco](#)

Russia's Gazprom has discussed its South Stream pipeline project with German utility RWE, sources said as Russia stepped up efforts to undermine the rival Nabucco project.

[Troubles in Turkey's Backyard](#)

Forget Gaza or Iran, Prime Minister Erdogan needs to focus on the reignited war with Kurdish separatists -- before a full-fledged war breaks out in Turkey's restive

southeast.

[Should you buy energy stocks?](#)

FORTUNE -- At 82, T. Boone Pickens has worn multiple (10-gallon) hats: billionaire investor, corporate raider, hedge fund manager, and proselytizer for natural gas and wind -- not to mention fervent Oklahoma State football fan. Through it all, though, he's been an oil and gas man. He spoke with *Fortune's* Katie Benner about the perils and possibilities of investing in energy during a time of tumult for the industry.

[Britain Won't Help BP Avoid Takeover](#)

As rivals weigh asset sales by the reeling oil giant, the British government has sent clear signals that it won't intervene to save a national icon.

[BP settlements: A gamble for Gulf Coast victims](#)

FORTUNE -- "We're interested in total peace," says Ken Feinberg, the administrator of the \$20 billion Gulf Coast Escrow Fund that is being set up to provide a fast, fair claims processing facility for most oil spill victims. "We're not interested in any halfway measures," Feinberg adds.

What he means is that the fund he'll be administering won't be dispensing any relief for losses already incurred unless the victim also consents to accept an estimate of his future damages, too, and then releases BP from future claims. "My goal is to settle then and there," Feinberg says. "Why bother coming back? Let's resolve it right now."

Both the victim and BP (BP) will, therefore, be making a gamble about the future since neither can yet foresee how bad future damages might become. As of the moment, of course, the gushing Macondo deep-sea oil well hasn't even been plugged yet.

[New Thinking on BP Spill: Declare a Holiday!](#)

The BP spill demands a far more significant response than ongoing cleanups, unsuccessful attempts to plug the gushing oil, and desperate efforts to mitigate the multitude of impacts from the biggest oil catastrophe in U.S. history. The BP spill demands a paradigm shift in how we run our economy and carry out our governance. Historians will one day look back on this spill as the nadir of governmental regulatory performance, in which oil companies commandeered and corrupted the Interior Department oil leasing program. So what's the response we need to get the paradigm shift going? How about declaring a new holiday?

[Kuwait To Decide On Restarting Suspended \\$15Bn Refinery Project](#)

Kuwait's Supreme Petroleum Council (SPC) will decide by October whether to restart the mothballed plan to build a \$15bn, 615,000b/d refinery at al-Zour, an official of state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation tells MEES. The frequently delayed project was originally scheduled for completion in 2010 at a cost of \$6.3bn, but was suspended in early 2009 (MEES , 23 March 2009) following accusations in parliament of "irregular" contract awards and a rise in estimated costs close to \$20bn.

[Fuel crisis: Still waiting for private refineries](#)

Nigeria's energy crisis, particularly the inability to operate functional crude oil refineries to meet the needs of consumers of petroleum products in the domestic market, continues to be a source of worry to government, citizens and other stakeholders in the industry.

[Analysing the feasibilities of going nuclear](#)

Bangladesh government has recently signed a deal with Russia to set up a nuclear power plant in Bangladesh with a view to boosting up electricity generation in the country. In view of depleting fossil fuel reserve and huge carbon emission from fossil fuel based power plants, many developing countries in the world are opting for nuclear power generation. Bangladesh is facing shortage of natural gas which was so far considered as the main source of fuel in the country. Environmental consciousness has also grown tremendously. There is a huge demand supply gap of electricity impeding the process of development. Under this situation it seems that Bangladesh government has taken a very logical decision to feed the needs of the power starving nation. However, the question remains if the decision taken is based on adequate rationale and analyses.

[Enel to start major plant conversion to coal 2011](#)

FUSINA, Italy (Reuters) - Italy's largest utility Enel SpA aims to start converting a major oil-fuelled power plant to use clean coal technology next year as part of its drive to cut carbon emissions, its CEO said on Monday.

[With a Boost from Innovation, Small Wind Is Powering Ahead](#)

New technologies, feed-in tariffs, and tax credits are helping propel the small wind industry, especially in the United States. Once found mostly in rural areas, small wind installations are now starting to pop up on urban rooftops.

[Has Electric Deregulation Helped or Hurt Texans?](#)

So has deregulation caused the cost of electricity to go up or down for ordinary Texans? That answer is complicated by the fact that no one knows how rates might have increased without it. "Most Texans can easily buy electricity today below 2001 regulated prices," asserts the conservative Texas Public Policy Foundation, in a recent paper. With inflation adjustments, the group says, "the average competitive price today is 9.46 percent lower than regulated prices in Texas in 2001."

[Rule on switching power providers prompts clash](#)

Consumer advocates are clashing with a group of retail electric companies over a proposed rule that would keep some customers with unpaid bills from switching to new electricity providers before losing their service.

[George Lakoff: Disaster Messaging](#)

Almost every day, I get a request from somewhere in the US — or various other countries — to help some group do disaster messaging. It's sad. Reframing rarely works with disaster messaging.

To work long-term, progressive messaging must be sincere and direct, must reflect progressive moral values, and must be repeated. Progressive framing is about saying what you believe, telling the truth, and activating the progressive worldview already present in the minds of those who are partly conservative and partly progressive.

[Kurt Cobb: Whither the weak in the post-peak oil world?](#)

In the fossil fuel era we have congratulated ourselves on our enlightened treatment of the weak, not realizing that our vast and increasing energy surplus made it possible to expand their possibilities without risking the viability of society as a whole. No doubt technology helped, too. How many books would Stephen Hawking have written without the special technologies available to the handicapped, especially those linked to the computer? How many children might have been left to wither and die in institutions were it not for new methods of instruction practiced by trained specialists who have made possible the vastly increased range of activities and even a degree of independence for some of the most profoundly handicapped among us?

But that infrastructure of people and machines implies a certain energy input from society. Even though we know that the current infrastructure can make those who are weakest among us vastly more capable of participating in society, will we be able to resist the calls from those who will say that the weak are too much of a burden on society--that it is best for society to let them wither and die and to nourish the strong instead?

[Sustainability: From Excess to Aesthetics](#)

Sustainability is defined as the operation of a steady-state economy in which natural resource inputs and waste-product outputs are held constant. Key issues in attaining a sustainability are addressing the problems of overconsumption of resource-intensive reinforcers, underconsumption of resource-light reinforcers, and lack of consumption skills that yield an enduring source of intrinsically reinforcing challenges and pleasures. Behavioral impediments to a sustainable society are described together with opportunities to achieve it. Opportunities emphasize sustainable futures people will find appealing rather than austere. These opportunities include a replacement of consumer culture with alternative value systems, embodied in John Stuart Mill's art of living, Tibor Scitovsky's cultural reawakening, B. F. Skinner's arts-based utopia, voluntary simplifiers, and the aesthetically-based values of Bohemian communities.

[Rust in the bread basket](#)

IT IS sometimes called the "polio of agriculture": a terrifying but almost forgotten disease. Wheat rust is not just back after a 50-year absence, but spreading in new and scary forms. In some ways it is worse than child-crippling polio, still lingering in parts of Nigeria. Wheat rust has spread silently and speedily by 5,000 miles in a decade. It is now camped at the gates of one of the world's breadbaskets, Punjab. In June scientists announced the discovery of two new strains in South Africa, the most important food producer yet infected.

[Chili peppers stored in Arctic doomsday vault](#)

Seeds from some of North America's hottest chili peppers were recently delivered to the cool Arctic and stored in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, where they'll be safe for centuries in case some terrestrial catastrophe renders them otherwise extinct.

The so-called " doomsday seed vault" now contains seeds of more than 525,000 crop varieties from around the world, making it the most diverse assemblage of crops anywhere. The seed vault was constructed deep in a mountain on a remote Norwegian archipelago near the North Pole as a fail-safe back-up to existing crop collections around the world.

[Six lessons from the BP oil spill](#)

For years to come, the United States and the oil industry will be absorbing the lessons of the BP spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Regulators will toughen inspections. Oil companies will adopt more rigorous safeguards. New cleanup technologies will emerge from university and corporate laboratories. And spill drills could become a regular part of coastal communities' emergency planning.

What the BP oil spill does not signal, however, is a change in direction. Even as brown

goo gushes from the Gulf floor 5,000 feet below the surface, and cleanup crews struggle to halt the slick from befouling beaches and shorebirds, companies are already developing the technologies to drill twice as deep off South America, Africa, and in the Gulf itself.

Oil plays too big a role in the world economy to turn off the spigot – or to stop exploring for new sources of crude to replace declining oil fields already in production.

[Oil Declines From One-Week High as Traders Sell Futures to Lock in Gains](#)

Oil declined in New York for the first time in four days as traders viewed last week's climb above \$76 as an opportunity to sell contracts, given signs that U.S. economic growth may falter.

Crude slid as much as 1.1 percent, paring last week's gains. Retail sales in the U.S., the biggest energy user, probably fell in June for a second month and industrial production cooled, economists said before reports this week. Oil rose earlier as China, the world's second-largest energy consumer, reported record oil imports in June.

[Saudi Aramco to Provide Full August Contractual Crude Oil Volumes to Asia](#)

Saudi Arabian Oil Co., the world's largest state-owned oil company, will supply full contractual volumes of crude to Asia for loading in August, according to refinery officials.

Saudi Aramco, as the company is known, will provide 100 percent of cargoes sold under long-term contracts for a ninth month, according to a survey of three refinery officials in Japan, all of whom asked to remain unidentified, citing confidentiality agreements with the Middle East producer.

The decision to provide full exports comes after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed in March to leave output quotas unchanged for the fifth time since 2008. The group is exceeding targets by the equivalent of a little more than a supertanker a day.

[Kuwait Petroleum Sets August Crude Oil Prices to Asia Unchanged From July](#)

Kuwait Petroleum Corp., the state-owned producer, kept its official oil exports to Asia for August unchanged from July.

[Price of gas falls nearly 4 cents in last two weeks](#)

CAMARILLO, Calif. — The average price of regular gasoline in the United States has

dropped 3.88 cents over a two-week period to \$2.73.

[Hedge Funds Bull Oil Bets Fall to 15-Month Low Amid Rally](#)

Hedge funds slashed bets that oil would rise last week to the lowest level in more than a year just before crude began its biggest advance since May.

[Oil May Reach \\$84 After Climbing Above Ichimoku Cloud: Technical Analysis](#)

Oil may push toward \$84 a barrel based on signals from on a Japanese charting method called Ichimoku Kinko Hyo, or “one-glance cloud chart,” according to Astmax Ltd.

[Chinese producer, BP take over Iraqi oil field](#)

BEIJING (AP) -- State-owned China National Petroleum Corp. said Monday it and BP have taken over operating Iraq's Rumaila oilfield, the country's biggest.

Iraq's government has signed a string of deals with foreign energy companies to restore its dilapidated oil industry and boost output.

[Templeton-Backed Shiv-Vani Oil & Gas May Acquire U.S., European Companies](#)

Shiv-Vani Oil & Gas Exploration Services Ltd., an Indian oil driller backed by Templeton Asset Management Ltd., plans to spend \$50 million to acquire a U.S. or European company to get access to technology.

“We have the basic facilities when it comes to drilling,” Vice President P.K. Gupta said in a phone interview from New Delhi today. “We are trying to develop capabilities in specialized services, which companies like Schlumberger Ltd. have.”

[Cap Connector Is Installed on BP Well](#)

NEW ORLEANS — BP said Sunday that it had made progress toward installing a new cap that could contain all of the oil spewing from its out-of-control well in the Gulf of Mexico, and that a flotilla of skimmers was helping to collect the additional oil leaking while the procedure was under way.

[EU considers deepwater oil restrictions: report](#)

MILAN (Reuters) – The European Union could consider limiting the depth of deepwater

oil drilling as part of new rules following BP's spill in the Gulf of Mexico, Europe's energy chief said in an interview on Saturday.

[Oil companies reeling from drilling moratorium uncertainty](#)

NEW YORK (AFP) – Fed up with the uncertainty surrounding offshore drilling following the Gulf of Mexico disaster, oil companies are considering increasing their inland exploration activities or venturing abroad.

[Exxon Declines to Comment on Report It Has Government Approval for BP Bid](#)

Exxon Mobil Corp. declined to comment on reports the company has received government approval to explore a bid for BP Plc.

Exxon's Alan Jeffers had no comment on the report today in the London-based Times newspaper. Max McGahan, a spokesman for London-based BP, also said he wouldn't comment.

[BP puts oil leak bill at £2.3 billion](#)

LONDON (AFP) – The continuing oil leak caused by the April explosion of a Gulf of Mexico oil rig has cost BP 3.5 billion dollars (2.3 billion pounds), the oil giant said Monday.

[BP ready to pay six months in claims: fund administrator](#)

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The man charged with doling out BP's compensation to victims of the Gulf oil spill said Sunday he is prepared to pay up to six months of expenses in advance, but getting people to file claims is a struggle.

Kenneth Feinberg told CNN he wanted to provide "some degree of financial certainty," to people who have found their livelihoods hurt by the massive oil spill. "If they are eligible, we will give them up to six months emergency (compensation)."

[How we got stuck with BP](#)

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- BP is the largest oil producer in the United States, pumping almost as much crude as Exxon Mobil, Chevron and ConocoPhillips combined.

Yet the company arguably has one of the worst safety records of the bunch. So how did America - home to top-notch oil firms - get stuck with BP?

[Babies of the oil spill face an uncertain future](#)

FORT JACKSON, La.—The smallest victims are the biggest challenge for crews rescuing birds fouled with oil from the Gulf of Mexico spill.

There's no way to know how many chicks have been killed by the oil, or starved because their parents were rescued or died struggling in a slick.

[Big Oil's Good Deal](#)

No industry enjoys the array of tax breaks and subsidies that the oil and gas industry does. No industry needs them less. For all the damage it has caused, the disastrous oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico may provide the political momentum to end this special treatment.

[64 die in bomb attacks in Uganda during World Cup](#)

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Explosions tore through crowds watching the World Cup final at a rugby club and an Ethiopian restaurant, killing at least 64 people. Police feared an al-Qaeda-linked Somali militant group was behind the attacks, as Uganda's president declared Monday "we shall get them wherever they are."

[Peak oil vs supply crunch — or, both](#)

But it would be superficial to look only at the paper's peak oil warnings; it is more wide-ranging than that, looking at how existing energy use will need to change dramatically in the face of several impending developments: climate change, geo-political issues, the resurgence of coal, and natural gas substitution, to name a few.

The paper argues that these factors, collectively, mean a shift away fossil fuels is required. The problem is, that it is difficult when the big, long-term investments required are hampered by both uncertainty over the future supply and demand, and a lack of clarity about important energy policies such as carbon pricing.

[Looking ahead to When the tank runs dry](#)

Credible energy analysts such as Dave Hughes and Jeff Rubin (Why Your World Is About To Get A Whole Lot Smaller) believe the day when global oil demand exceeds supply is not very far away. It's called Peak Oil theory, and it has some troubling implications. The first will be higher prices, for just about everything. The next will be

shortages, ditto.

When the supply of the substance that underpins your society starts to run tight, you're wise to be concerned. Cuba experienced turmoil when its oil supply dried up in 1989 after the collapse of the Soviet Union. It survived - but Cuba has no cold winter and can grow food year round. Canadians, far more addicted to fossil fuels than most, should be especially uneasy.

[A shift in meaning for 'luxury' as shopping habits change](#)

Steve Hundley dumped his Jaguar convertible. He stopped taking Baltic cruises. And he stopped buying his wife pricey jewelry.

But last year, just as the recession raised its head, the San Diego resident paid \$6,500 for an outdoor artisan pizza oven.

"We don't need the Jaguar or cruises to the Baltic," says Hundley, who at 56, is semiretired following a heart attack two years ago. "But cooking healthy food is a big priority."

[Prices of cars sold are up to an average of \\$29,217](#)

While sales of cars and trucks in the U.S. continue to be more sluggish than expected, automakers — especially the Detroit Three — are enjoying the largest increase in average transaction prices in more than five years.

[Uranium Bottoming as China Boosts Stockpiles](#)

China is buying unprecedented amounts of uranium, signaling that prices are poised to rebound after three years of declines.

The nation may purchase about 5,000 metric tons this year, more than twice as much as it consumes, building stockpiles for new reactors, according to Thomas Neff, a physicist and uranium- industry analyst at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge. Prices will jump by about 32 percent next year, the most since 2006, RBC Capital Markets said.

[The day of the oil diatom](#)

The Ramachandra-Gordon plan uses solar panels to mass-cultivate genetically modified diatoms - one of the smallest and oldest type of algae - that secrete a gasoline type of oil. The diatoms can be "milked" regularly, as cows for milk, for their oil to use as fuel.

The diatom milking process promises billions of gallons of fuel annually, according to Gordon. "It's a distributed production of gasoline (worldwide), and I have estimated that 10 square meters per person of diatom solar panels may suffice," he said in an e-mail to Asia Times Online. "Diatoms can generate oil independence, is sustainable, and have no net atmospheric carbon dioxide production."

[Dead air](#)

Remember last Wednesday, that brutally hot day? Around lunchtime, the wind turbines that on paper can deliver near 1,100 MW were actually producing only 14 MW. That still sounds like quite a lot, until we compare it to the day's peak demand of 24,660 MW. Wind was supplying less than one-tenth of one per cent of the province's demand, which is pretty feeble. Coal and gas supplied 600 times more.

[Heat strikes farms, consumers](#)

Record heat that has been baking much of the nation for weeks is likely to have lasting effects on farm crops and consumers in the Northeast.

"It's been devastating," says Carl Shaffer, president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. "The lack of rain combined with close to 100-degree temperatures just takes a toll on crops."

[The Future Scientist as Young Idealist](#)

The Union of Concerned Scientists has opened an advertising campaign that aims to soften the image of climate scientists by portraying future researchers as children and teenagers with an insatiable curiosity about the natural world.

[Rising sea drives Panama islanders to mainland](#)

Rising seas from global warming, coming after years of coral reef destruction, are forcing thousands of indigenous Panamanians to leave their ancestral homes on low-lying Caribbean islands.

Seasonal winds, storms and high tides combine to submerge the tiny islands, crowded with huts of yellow cane and faded palm fronds, leaving them ankle-deep in emerald water for days on end.

[Law of hurricane power discovered](#)

The intensity of hurricanes follows a simple mathematical law – a finding that could help us predict how they will respond to climate change.

[S.Korea to invest \\$2 bln in carbon capture to 2019](#)

(Reuters) - The South Korean government said in a statement on Monday that the country's total public and private investment in carbon capture and sequestration would reach an estimated 2.3 trillion won (\$1.92 billion) to 2019.

[Climate Finance Deal Needed to Break Treaty Deadlock, U.K.'s Huhne Says](#)

Developed countries must devise a way to channel \$100 billion a year in climate aid to poorer nations to secure an international deal to fight global warming, U.K. Energy Secretary Chris Huhne said.

“Helping developing countries tackle climate change is crucial if we are to secure a comprehensive and ambitious deal,” Huhne said in an e-mailed statement released today by his office in London.

[An alternative route to achieving energy efficiency and greener shipping](#)

Current estimates indicate that shipping's share of global carbon emissions could increase to 20-30% by 2050. With 90% of global trade carried by sea, this is an issue that cannot be sidestepped. However, commercial realities must be recognised and “green” solutions with tangible commercial benefits may provide significantly more leverage to establish the win-win situation that will reduce costs and limit damage to the environment.

[Climate change charges 'hitting fuel poor'](#)

Charges included in energy bills to pay for investment in infrastructure and initiatives to tackle carbon emissions are having a "disproportionate" impact on households classed as being in fuel poverty, according to a new report.



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