



Drumbeat: September 8, 2010

Posted by [Leanan](#) on September 8, 2010 - 9:00am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[What peak oil? Why an oil glut is ahead](#)

FORTUNE -- In May, less than a month after the blowout of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico, a key milestone was achieved with little notice: Total U.S. supplies of petroleum and products refined from it (including the Strategic Petroleum Reserve) surpassed 1.8 billion barrels, reaching the highest level in the last 20 years. Since then the total has continued to edge upward, hitting 1.87 billion barrels in the week ended August 27, according to the Energy Information Administration.

Despite the Iraq War and the resulting production disruptions, despite the moratorium on drilling in the Gulf, despite turmoil in Nigeria and ongoing cross-border transshipment quarrels in Central Asia and the multiple, repeated declarations that "peak oil" has arrived and supplies will inevitably dwindle, the United States has more petroleum on hand today than it has had since at least the beginning of the first Gulf War.

ouses and international businesses have since stopped transactions with Iran, although it is difficult to build up a picture of the country's crude purchases because the information is not officially published.

[OPEC Pumped 29.11 Mln Bbls Of Oil a Day In August](#)

SAN FRANCISCO -- The 12-member Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) produced an average of 29.11 million barrels a day in August, 110,000 barrels less than an estimated 29.22 million barrels a day in July, according to a Platts survey released Wednesday.

[Poland Wants Flexible Russian Gas Deal, Has Eyes on Shale Gas](#)

Poland wants a flexible long-term agreement for natural gas deliveries from Russia in order to be able to reduce its gas imports from the east should it identify shale gas deposits or gain access to natural gas from other suppliers, Polish Treasury Minister Aleksander Grad said Wednesday.

[U.S. Government Loaned Mexican Government More Than \\$1 Billion to Drill Oil in Gulf of Mexico Last Year; Has \\$1 Billion More Planned For This Year](#)

(CNSNews.com) – The U.S. Export-Import Bank, an independent federal agency, loaned more than \$1 billion to the Mexican state oil company PEMEX in 2009 to support the company's oil drilling in the southern Gulf of Mexico. The bank has another \$1 billion in loans in the pipeline for 2010, unless Congress objects.

[Mexican refinery blast may help U.S. fuel exporters](#)

(Reuters) - The explosion of a hydroprocessing unit at the northern Mexican Cadereyta refinery may bring export opportunities for U.S. refiners along the Gulf Coast and boost U.S. refined products prices, requiring Mexico to import more light fuels such as gasoline or diesel after the blast.

[Mexico refinery repairs to take 2 wks- Pemex source](#)

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Mexico's state oil monopoly Pemex should be able to quickly repair the hydrotreater at its 275,000 barrels-per-day Cadereyta refinery that was damaged in an explosion on Tuesday, a company source said on Wednesday.

The repairs should be complete within 14 days, the source said, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the issue with the media.

[Europe Gasoline/Naphtha-Up on crude, Mexico refinery fire](#)

LONDON (Reuters) - European gasoline rose on Wednesday, boosted by rebounding U.S. crude and an explosion at a major refinery in Mexico the day before.

However, traders said support might be short lived as the summer driving season in the Northern Hemisphere has ended.

[Why is Canada obsessed with the Arctic?](#)

Of all the Arctic coastal countries, Canada was the first to claim the Arctic, regarding the region as its "backyard." In recent years, as the area has become more valuable for economic and military interests, Canada began to expand its presence there. In 2007, after Russia dropped a flag to the ocean bottom of the North Pole, Canada took a series of actions – building a military training base and deepwater port, purchasing new patrol boats and establishing a cutting-edge Arctic research center – to protect its interests there.

[China grants clearance to Sinopec-Kuwait refinery](#)

China has granted environmental clearance and okayed a technical review of an \$8.7bn refinery and petrochemical joint venture between Sinopec and Kuwait, paving the way for final state approval soon.

The venture, to be built in southern coastal city Zhanjiang, includes a 300,000 barrels-per-day (bpd) refinery and a 1 million tonnes-per-year ethylene complex, at a cost in line with previous estimates of around \$9bn.

[Duo set to develop Bolivia gas play](#)

France's Total and Britain's BG Group will start production in 2011 at their Itau natural gas field in Bolivia, and most of its output will be exported to Argentina, state-run energy company YPF said today.

[Gas Shortage Hits Ghana](#)

The country, especially Accra, has been hit by a devastating shortage of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), leading to many households resorting to the use of charcoal.

For automobiles which use LPG as fuel, these are terrible times as they have to wait in queues for hours at locations where gas is available.

In some instances, by the time it is their turn to be supplied, they are told that it is finished, making nonsense of the long wait.

[Panic fuel buying in Christchurch](#)

Panic buying of fuel has returned to Christchurch following rumours that stations are about to run out of petrol in the city.

Both Greenstone, which operates the Shell retail network, and BP, said sales had increased, but denied there was any problem with supply.

[FACTBOX - Key findings of BP probe](#)

(Reuters) - BP Plc's internal investigation blames a series of human and mechanical failures by BP and its contractors, Transocean Ltd and Halliburton Co, for the April 20 blowout at the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico.

As the well owner, BP was responsible for the well design. Transocean owned and operated the rig, which it leased to BP, and Halliburton was the contractor in charge of cement operations.

Here are the report's eight key findings:

[Transocean Says BP's Report on Macondo Well Oil Explosion 'Self Serving'](#)

Transocean Ltd., the owner of the rig that exploded in the Gulf of Mexico in April, said BP Plc's report released today "is a self-serving report that attempts to conceal the critical factor that set the stage for the Macondo incident: BP's fatally flawed well design."

[Transocean credit ratings cut by S&P](#)

NEW YORK -- Transocean Ltd.'s credit ratings were cut by Standard & Poor's on Wednesday due to potential liability stemming from its role in the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig the company leased to BP.

S&P cut Transocean's rating by one notch to BBB, two levels above junk ratings, and placed the company's rating on negative outlook, indicating it may cut the ratings again.

[US Govt: New Gulf Drilling Regulations May Be Ready before Oct. 30](#)

The U.S. Department of the Interior could decide before the end of October to modify the duration of a moratorium imposed on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico following the massive oil spill there, an official of the government agency overseeing offshore drilling said Tuesday.

"We are working very hard to assimilate the massive amount of information we have ... but we expect to finish that before Oct. 30," Michael Bromwich, director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement told reporters on the sidelines of a public meeting on offshore drilling. "It could be well before that," he said.

[Stiffer Penalties Needed for Offshore Drilling, U.S. Board Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The U.S. offshore-drilling regulator should consider stiffer penalties for companies that break safety rules, according to a report from a review board formed in response to the BP Plc oil spill.

[BP Floats New Standards To Help Prevent Future Oil Spills](#)

WASHINGTON -(Dow Jones)- BP PLC has developed a set of recommendations to help prevent future rig explosions and oil spills, making a case for the creation of new standards and training programs for key personnel.

[The nearly forgotten Mariner explosion is just as bad as the BP oil spill](#)

FORTUNE -- It's never a good time for an oil rig to blow up in the Gulf of Mexico, but Mariner Energy's Vermillion 380 platform couldn't have gone off at a worse time. The government and the media were already scrutinizing offshore drill production in an unprecedented way. Thirteen unlucky workers were ejected off of Vermillion into the water last week. And Mariner (ME) inadvertently became the latest part of a national political debate about the safety of offshore drilling.

But given that the explosion, according to reports, hasn't resulted oil leak, it would be surprising if the event had much of a political impact, even if it should. Oil spills are visual disasters that the public tends to forget once the crude is dispersed.

[High winds fuel fires across Detroit](#)

DETROIT, Mich. — At least two dozen buildings were ablaze across large sections of Detroit Tuesday night as winds knocked over power lines and fanned flames.

Electricity was knocked out to 113,000 Michigan homes and businesses, said DTE Energy and CMS Energy Corp.

[FACTBOX - Kenya's planned energy generation projects to 2015](#)

(Reuters) - Kenya's energy minister, Kiraitu Murungi, commissioned a 5.1 megawatt wind power project on Wednesday and expects installed capacity to more than double in the next three years.

[Lebanon goes thirsty as as municipalities fail to deliver on water supply promises](#)

BEIRUT: Already plagued by electricity problems, the Lebanese are now struggling with another, equally serious problem: water shortage.

[Cash-strapped Metro targets drivers' pay](#)

After two years of tapping reserves, boosting fares, surviving on federal grants and postponing new routes, King County Metro Transit managers now are looking behind

the wheel for savings.

Metro drivers rank third nationally in wages, with a top rate of \$28.47 an hour, and the average yearly income, including overtime, is almost \$61,000 a year, according to a Metro review that includes full- and part-time drivers.

[Firm can't fire man for 1.8 cent theft](#)

(Reuters) - A German company that fired a man for the theft of 1.8 euro cents (two U.S. cents) worth of electricity had no grounds for sacking him, a court ruled, dismissing the firm's appeal against his reinstatement.

Network administrator Oliver Beel lost his job after charging his Segway, a two-wheeled electric vehicle, at work in May 2009. After he connected the vehicle to the firm's power source for 1-1/2 hours, his boss asked him to remove it.

Twelve days later Beel found himself without a job.

[KrisCan interviews energy analyst Chris Nelder](#)

In this seven part KrisCan interview with energy analyst Chris Nelder, they cover topics ranging from the consequences of the moratorium from the Macondo well blowout in the Gulf of Mexico to the legitimacy of Cap and Trade; how U.S. offshore oil drilling will affect domestic oil supply in the coming decade and how policy in America curtails the incentivizing of an energy transition to more renewable sources.

[Germany's Peak Oil Confession](#)

Germany would have to cut a deal with Russia if it wants to secure Russian oil supplies. In short, Germany would have to kiss Moscow's back end — even if doing so means damaging relationships with other Eastern European states...

Germany would also have to “not offend” Arab oil exporters in any way, meaning it may have to alter its relationship with Israel and change its stance on Israel's right to exist, say the report's authors.

And finally, there's always the military option. If, for example, Iran took over Iraqi oil — constricting oil supply even more — would Germany and the EU attack Iran?

[Harvest Fest to tackle issues like oil spill](#)

The recent spill of an estimated one million gallons of oil right here in the Kalamazoo

River watershed is a poignant reminder of our own region's heavy dependence on fossil fuels — and its drawbacks.

Michigan as a state ranks tenth in the nation in oil consumption, according to statistics. Southwest Michigan Community Harvest Fest will address this and other sustainability issues at its 8th Annual event on Sunday, September 19 at Tillers International in Scotts. Gates open at 11 a.m., and Harvest Fest offers a variety of activities from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 per carload, and \$1 per bicycle or per person for a bus with 10 or more.

[The No Effort Path to Energy Independence](#)

Can you imagine our economy operating on less than a third of today's transportation of people and goods within eight years? It may be time for us to get serious about our energy use.

As we have seen, our most pressing need is in the transportation sector. Let's see how our actions can help.

[Who Turned Out The Lights? Review](#)

Who Turned Out The Lights?: Your Guided Tour To The Energy Crisis is super easy book to read, very well written and researched, and full of interesting facts. Perhaps most engaging are the explanations of the politics and economics behind many of the major energy resources being consumed in America, including oil, coal, gas, nuclear, solar, wind, hydro-electric and bio-fuels.

[A road trip to the White House to reinstall Jimmy Carter's dream](#)

It's been almost a generation since solar panels President Carter installed on the White House roof were removed during renovations. Now, a group of climate activists armed with one of the original panels are on a road trip to the White House to get President Obama to put them back up.

Today, 350.org found Bill McKibben, City Year founder Alan Khazei and Boston energy chief Jim Hunt joined Unity College students from Maine who are driving the panel to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in a bio-diesel van as part of a "Put Solar On It" campaign. The group met at the solar-powered Park Street School on Beacon Hill to show off the panel and launch the road trip.

[U.S. Carbon Dioxide Output to Climb 3.6% This Year, 0.4% in 2011, EIA Says](#)

U.S. carbon dioxide emissions from energy use will climb 3.6 percent this year, according to a forecast by the Energy Information Administration.

Carbon dioxide produced from burning coal, oil and natural gas will rise 0.4 percent in 2011 from 2010 levels, the EIA said in its September Short-Term Energy Outlook.

[Steve LeVine - Foreign Policy: Algae Fuel Sparks Excitement](#)

It's good to be J. Craig Venter right now. In May, Venter — who you may recall from his entrepreneurial work in genomics research — created a stir in scientific circles by creating the first cell with synthetic DNA; Exxon, meanwhile, has gone on the hook for up to \$600 million in funding for Venter's ambitious synthetic algae fuel project. In a piece over the weekend, The New York Times' Andrew Pollack has added some James Dean brushstrokes to the portrait of this "scientific rebel." Shall we cut to the chase and start carving busts of the guy?

[Solar power eyed as solution to Mindanao energy crisis](#)

MANILA, Philippines - The Congressional Commission on Science, Technology and Engineering (COMSTE), chaired by Senator Edgardo J. Angara, believes solar energy can be the solution to the Mindanao power crisis.

In a statement, Angara said harnessing solar power in Mindanao can complement existing coal-fired plants and is applicable even in off-grid areas. "Mindanao has the highest percentage of un-electrified barangays in the country. If we are able to apply solar energy effectively, the potential for sustainable, clean energy is enormous," he said.

[What peak oil? Why an oil glut is ahead](#)

FORTUNE -- In May, less than a month after the blowout of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico, a key milestone was achieved with little notice: Total U.S. supplies of petroleum and products refined from it (including the Strategic Petroleum Reserve) surpassed 1.8 billion barrels, reaching the highest level in the last 20 years. Since then the total has continued to edge upward, hitting 1.87 billion barrels in the week ended August 27, according to the Energy Information Administration.

Despite the Iraq War and the resulting production disruptions, despite the moratorium on drilling in the Gulf, despite turmoil in Nigeria and ongoing cross-border transshipment quarrels in Central Asia and the multiple, repeated declarations that "peak oil" has arrived and supplies will inevitably dwindle, the United States has more petroleum on hand today than it has had since at least the beginning of the first Gulf War.

[Oil Falls a Third Day on Speculation European Debt May Curb Global Growth](#)

Oil declined for a third day as equity markets fell and traders bet a government report will show fuel inventories are rising as the peak driving season comes to an end.

[Oil Contango Doubles in 2011 Recovery Betting With Frontline Ship Demand](#)

Oil traders are showing increasing confidence that U.S. economic growth will rebound next year as they take advantage of the widening gap between current prices of crude and contracts for delivery six months from now.

[Crude Oil Caught in a 'Stalemate' Between \\$70 and \\$75](#)

Oil in New York will trade in a \$5 range in the short term as prices are locked in a "stalemate," according to broker Newedge.

Crude for October delivery is stuck between \$70.76 and \$75.59 a barrel as price movements illustrated by candlestick charts show a narrow gap between the daily opening level and closing for trading on Sept. 3 and Sept. 7, said Veronique Lashinski, a Chicago-based analyst at the brokerage. That means neither buyers with expectations of rising oil nor sellers expecting a decline are able to influence direction, she said.

[China Third-Quarter Oil-Refining Margins to Widen, Standard Chartered Says](#)

Chinese refiners led by China Petroleum & Chemical Corp. may boost profits from processing crude oil into fuels in the third quarter while margins in Singapore may decline, Standard Chartered Plc said.

"We have been highlighting the potentially high gross refining margins in China in the third quarter due to relatively lower in-tank costs and stable product prices," Singapore-based analyst Han Pin Hsi said in a report today. "At the same time, we had projected Singapore margins to fall in line with seasonal trends and to continue to weaken through December."

[China blacks out towns to meet energy goal](#)

Chinese steel mills and mobile phone factories are being idled and thousands of homes in one area are doing without electricity as local governments order power cuts to meet energy-saving targets set by Beijing.

Rolling blackouts and enforced power cuts are affecting key industrial areas. The

prosperous eastern city of Taizhou turned off street lights and ordered hotels and shopping malls to cut power use. In Anping County southwest of Beijing, an area known as China's wire-manufacturing capital, thousands of factories and homes have endured daylong blackouts over the past two weeks.

“We can't meet deadlines for some orders and will have to pay penalties,” said Han Hongmai, general manager of Anping's Jintai Metal Wire Co. “At home we can't use the toilet” on blackout days due to lack of power for water pumps, he said.

[State revenue at stake if south Sudan secedes](#)

Khartoum is preparing to lose most of its state revenue if Sudan's restive south votes to secede in an independence referendum early next year, taking with it most of the country's oil resources.

“Frankly ... we don't know if Sudan is going to be split or united,” Abdel al Jailani, the Sudanese minerals minister, told Reuters. “If the south does secede – you know 60 per cent of our budget comes from [oil] – we have to sit and think of another alternative.”

[Kuwait Plans Partial Shutdowns at Two Crude Oil Refineries in November](#)

Kuwait is planning a partial shutdown at the Mina al Ahmadi refinery, its largest oil processing plant, for about one month starting in November to conduct work on a crude distillation unit, an official said.

[Iraqi-Kurdish relations take a new hit](#)

A new flashpoint in relations between Iraq's minority Kurds and the country's central government has emerged as US troops pull out.

Baghdad's decision this week to halve supplies of Iraqi diesel and kerosene to the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region over alleged fuel smuggling has revived the festering resentment that Iraqi Kurds harbour over their treatment at the hands of Saddam Hussein.

[South Korea to Ban New Oil, Gas Investments in Iran on Nuclear Program](#)

South Korea said it will ban any new investments for Iranian oil, gas and construction projects, joining nations including the U.S. in imposing sanctions for the Middle Eastern country's nuclear program.

[Pemex 235,000-Barrel Mexican Refinery Hit by Explosion](#)

Mexico imported 432,000 barrels a day of petroleum products from the U.S. in June, according to the U.S. Energy Department and is the second-largest supplier of oil to the U.S. Cadereyta processed 104,063 barrels a day in July, a 56 percent drop from December 2006 when the facility peaked at 239,388 barrels daily, according to the website of Mexico's Energy Ministry.

[34 rescued from China oil platform accident](#)

BEIJING – Emergency teams with helicopters rescued 34 workers Wednesday from an oil drilling platform that was leaning dangerously in the East China Sea after a storm, and searched for two others still missing, officials said.

The No. 3 drilling platform in the Shengli oil field, operated by Sinopec, Asia's largest refiner by capacity, started tilting over Tuesday, causing four workers to fall into the water and trapping 32 of them on the platform, the Transport Ministry said in a statement on its website.

[BP says Transocean missed danger signs on rig](#)

LONDON (Reuters) – BP deflected much of the blame for a rig blast that led to the United States' worst-ever oil spill, releasing an internal report on Wednesday which said that drilling contractor Transocean had missed danger signs.

BP defended its much-criticized well design and said failures on the rig, operated by Transocean, led to gas swamping the platform and creating the conditions for the explosion.

"Over a 40-minute period, the Transocean rig crew failed to recognize and act on the influx of hydrocarbons into the well," BP said in a statement.

[Oil sands to dominate agenda on Nancy Pelosi's visit to Canada](#)

One of the top officials in the U.S. government, Nancy Pelosi, will get a crash course this week on Canada's oil sands in a series of private meetings quietly orchestrated by President Barack Obama's point man in Ottawa.

The meetings will focus on climate change, the oil sands and the Canadian energy industry. They come at a crucial time in relations between the United States and Canada, its top energy supplier, and as Washington considers approval of a landmark cross-border pipeline project.

[Obama Offers a Transit Plan to Create Jobs](#)

The White House is proposing to offset the \$50 billion by eliminating tax breaks and subsidies for the oil and gas industry.

[China Supplants U.S. at Top of Ernst & Young Ranking for Renewable Energy](#)

China overtook of the U.S. to lead a quarterly index of the most attractive countries for renewable energy projects for the first time, according to the global accounting firm Ernst & Young, which compiles the list.

China, which shared the lead with the U.S. in the first quarter, moved ahead of the world's largest economy and ranked the most attractive for investment in wind and solar projects. The move followed the failure of a proposed energy bill in the U.S. to include a clean energy standard, the company said today.

[Enbridge invests in geothermal project](#)

Calgary-based energy transportation giant Enbridge Inc. has invested US\$23.8-million in a geothermal project in eastern Oregon, U.S. Geothermal Inc. said Wednesday.

[Fresh Capital in the Uranium Fuel Race](#)

For decades, the business of enriching uranium for use in nuclear reactors was simple: companies bought the uranium and sent it to one of the plants built by the federal government as part of its nuclear weapons program. The government increased the proportion of uranium 235, the kind that splits easily in reactors.

But in the 1990s, the government sold the plants to the United States Enrichment Company, now called USEC. Meanwhile, other companies started looking at the American market.

[South Africa: Car Industry Seeks Biofuels as Alternative to Oil](#)

Johannesburg — WITH the introduction of the carbon tax for passenger cars this month, car makers are developing ways to lessen carbon dioxide emissions.

The government plans to extend the carbon emissions tax to light commercial vehicles as well as old vehicles next year in a bid to "green" SA's vehicles. This is in line with the Copenhagen Accord, in terms of which SA declared it intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 34% by 2020 and 42% by 2025.

Apart from hybrid vehicles, which have been in the South African market for years, car manufacturers are also assisting the research and development of biofuels for car engines.

[Fueling Speculation](#)

Leave aside, for the moment, the fact that the "Peak Oil" concept is highly controversial and riddled with uncertainties. To the western members of the global power elite-- whose existence is fueled by oil and militarism--the very idea of peak oil is terrifying.

[Russians Debunk Peak Oil Theory - as Bogus as Greenhouse Gas Scam](#)

Russians prove 'fossil' fuel is junk science theory linked to global warming hype. Oil is shown to be mineral in origin-not from fossilized organisms. No more fears over shrinking reserves as experts say petroleum is naturally 'renewable.'

[A society in crude health](#)

Each day in Bristol there are around 750 car trips made by community nurses to visit people in their homes, and a similar number of trips by the non-urgent patient transport service to get people to their appointments at hospital. Travel by staff, patients and visitors is taken for granted but the fact is nearly all of these journeys rely on oil.

Modern healthcare also uses a huge quantity of supplies, drugs and equipment, many of them manufactured using oil.

[Sowing sustainability](#)

Packets of local heirloom seeds from Sow True Seed are now being planted, and Hillcrest residents anticipate harvesting lots of greens and fall vegetables before the plot is cover-cropped in preparation for a vibrant spring garden. Several cold frames now in the works will trap heat from the sun's rays, enabling residents to grow several types of food through the coldest winter months.

[Rearing carp: Dinner's in the pond](#)

First it was fruit and veg. Then we turned our hands to keeping chickens and bees. Could the next thing be using the garden pond to grow our own edible carp? Is it time for Gordon the Goldfish to move over?

[Green Living Festival Saturday at Lampe Park](#)

A graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stein has appeared on numerous radio and television programs, Bates said. At noon, he will speak on "peak oil prep and making the shift to sustainability." At 2 p.m., he will give a presentation on remodeling and retrofitting homes to create fire- and earthquake-resistant buildings.

"Peak oil prep is about when we run out of that easy-to-get oil, when what's left is hard to get and more damaging, more expensive, with a lot more competition," Bates said. "People have been saying it since the 70s: we need to get off oil and start making the shift to sustainability."

[Australia's New Government a Brighter Shade of Green](#)

Addressing the National Farmers' Federation Congress today, Australian Greens Deputy Leader Senator Christine Milne urged farmers to seize this "tremendous opportunity to shape their own future."

"What a great opportunity that our parliament is getting a renewed focus on rural and regional Australia just as the vital issues of climate change, peak oil and food security are triggering a global rethink," Senator Milne said.

But opposition National Party Leader MP Warren Truss said the formal alliance between Gillard Labor and the Brown Greens "will send a shiver down the spine of regional Australia."

[Street Cred vs. Green Cred](#)

Arizona's Green Party is not amused by a Republican operative's effort to recruit people from the streets to run as Green candidates on the November ballot.

[Phasing out the incandescent light bulb](#)

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 legislated a reduction of energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions. The law provides for phasing out today's general service incandescent light bulbs in favor of lower-wattage, energy saving bulbs. Lighting accounts for about 15% of the electrical use in homes.

[eBay to give away 100K green reusable shipping boxes](#)

Online retailer eBay will soon be giving away 100,000 eco-friendly shipping boxes, each designed to be used repeatedly as it journeys from sellers to buyers and back.

The durable boxes, made with 100% recycled material and water-based inks, will start circulating next month. Sellers can place orders for the free boxes, available in three sizes, until supplies run out.

[Jeff Rubin - Water: Canada's most valuable resource](#)

Canadians will never go thirsty. With over one million lakes, including part ownership of the Great Lakes, and massive ice fields, Canada is home to nearly nine per cent of the world's supply of fresh water. But with a population of less than one per cent of the world's total, Canada has a lot of room for water exports. In time, those exports might be more valuable than the 170 billion barrels of oil that are trapped in the country's oil sands.

The notion of exporting water is still a taboo subject in Canadian policy circles; the country took great pains to keep water out of the North American Free Trade Agreement. But, like most things, acceptance may be a matter of price. And the price of water is rising steadily, making Canada's freshwater bounty more valuable every day.

[Kyoto Protocol to continue past 2012: UN climate chief](#)

NEW DELHI: As hopes for any deal on global warming dims at the Cancun meet later this year, UN climate chief Christiana Figueres today made it clear that the Kyoto Protocol will continue post 2012 as a second protocol since it does not have a "sunset" clause.

[CO2 Target Debate Is Irrelevant, Former UN Climate Chief Says](#)

The greenhouse-gas targets pledged by nations after the United Nations climate talks in Copenhagen in December won't change much before 2020 so there's little point debating them, the man who stewarded the summit said.

International negotiations that are "painstakingly slow" are continuing, and non-binding cuts pledged by the U.S., Japan, China and European nations are "basically what we've got to work with for 2020," said former UN climate chief Yvo de Boer, now an adviser for the accounting firm KPMG International.

[President Obama is right to back lawsuit of carbon emissions](#)

Setting aside the legal technicalities, these sorts of cases are not the best way to reduce America's carbon emissions. Pursuing separate torts against different emitters will result in a patchwork of judicial mandates in lieu of comprehensive regulation, the nature, scale and expense of which will no doubt depend on which judge hears each case.

EPA regulation, too, has deficiencies, including the possibility that different presidents will apply it inconsistently. But it's more predictable, and it's universal.

[Global warming may eliminate plague](#)

While many climate experts and environmentalists explore the negative effects of global warming, a new study reveals a positive outcome of the warming of the planet: the potential elimination of the plague. Global warming affects temperatures and precipitation regimes that play a pivotal role in the lives of rodents and fleas; rodents and fleas are responsible for maintenance and spread of plague to human populations. Plague can be fatal if the symptoms are not recognized and treated within 24 hours.

[Why Canada is looking hot](#)

How often do you hear anyone make the obvious point global warming will be good for Canada?

Arctic scientist Laurence C. Smith makes this logical argument in his new book, *The World in 2050: Four Forces Shaping Civilization's Northern Future*.

[Climate Change May Add to Natural Disaster Death Tolls](#)

Natural disasters are tending to kill fewer people but climate change may add to the toll by unleashing more extreme weather and causing after-effects such as disease and malnutrition, experts say.

[Bees stung by 'climate change-linked' early pollination](#)

Climate change may be causing flowers to open before bees emerge from hibernation leading to declines in pollination, new research suggests.

[A deadly drought](#)

The world's first armed conflicts due to climate change may be just beginning. In a remote and arid part of northern Kenya, the Turkana nomadic community today brandish Kalashnikovs, ready to kill in defence of their depleting water sources. The district in which they live, herding goats, cattle and camels, borders Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia. It is a landscape strewn with the carcasses of livestock following a prolonged and severe drought. With rains persistently failing to materialize, the traditional life of the Turkana stands threatened. While droughts are not a recent phenomenon, those that used to happen – and were anticipated – every decade or so have now started ravaging the land every two or three years, throwing the community's migratory

patterns into disarray.

[Food Crisis Worsens in Central Africa](#)

Torrential rains and flash floods that swept through cities and villages in Central Africa in late August have intensified a food crisis in the region, leaving upwards of 10 million people suffering from severe food shortages, the United Nations and relief organizations warned last week.

The floods, which destroyed crops and livestock, struck an area already on the brink of famine after successive years of drought and failed harvests.

Rising world grain prices, resulting partly from the heat wave and drought that destroyed wheat crops across Russia this summer, are compounding the crisis, relief organizations said.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 United States License](#).