



Drumbeat: September 16, 2010

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Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[The Peak Oil Crisis: Is \\$50 Oil in the Offing?](#)

An interesting question is what motivates the publications that are pumping out stories denying peak oil? If the publishers, editors and writers believe that the possibility of an imminent decline in global oil production is as nutty an idea as flying saucers or the world ending next Friday, why do they not simply ignore the whole topic instead of denouncing peak oil as an unproved theory and concocting silly arguments as to why it can't possibly be true. The answer to what motivates these stories lies right in our daily financial press.

lowing the price spike of the early 1980s. Sluggish investment in the 1990s and 2000s has only begun to be ameliorated by an uptick in exploration triggered by the boom period of 2003 to 2008.

Much more is needed, Gould said. He cited as a warning the International Energy Agency's forecast for global energy demand to grow 40% by 2030, with coal, oil and gas expected to supply 80% of energy needs.

[Record Breaking Contango Suggests Higher Oil Prices for 2011](#)

ConocoPhillips is paying \$41,000 a day to keep a storage tanker capable of holding 3 million barrels of oil floating in the Gulf of Mexico, according to international ship- and offshore broking firm RS Platou. And the TI Europe is just one of hundreds of oil tankers sitting idle in waters around the world, as energy companies and investment banks await higher prices for crude.

[No damage reported to Mexico oil facilities - Pemex](#)

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - None of Mexico's dozens of offshore oil platforms have been reported damaged due to the passage of Tropical Storm Karl, state oil firm Pemex said on Thursday.

[Peak oil and climate must be tackled in tandem](#)

Acting on the looming oil crisis could give politicians the political cover they need to move on global warming.

[Scarcity: The Fountain of Innovation](#)

Monday morning Tianjin, China and it's the first session of the World Economic Forum's "Summer Davos 2010" event. Ironically, after a filling breakfast in opulent surroundings, my panel colleagues and I are discussing scarcity. With concerns about peak oil, peak water, peak real estate, peak financial markets - and just about peak everything else - scarcity is on the minds of business and political leaders alike.

[Brazil's huge new port highlights China's drive into South America](#)

Reputedly the largest industrial port complex of its type in the world, Açú is also one of the most visible symbols of China's rapidly accelerating drive into Brazil and South America as it looks to guarantee access to much-needed natural resources and bolster its support base in the developing world.

When Açú opens for business in 2012, its 10-berth pier will play host to a globetrotting armada of cargo ships, among them the 380-metre wide ChinaMax – the largest vessel of its type, capable of ferrying 400,000 tonnes of cargo.

Millions of tonnes of iron ore, grain, soy and millions of barrels of oil are expected to pass along the "Highway" each year on their way east, where they will alleviate China's seemingly unquenchable thirst for natural resources.

[Following the Money in U.S.-Saudi Arms Deals](#)

While the relationship between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia is long and complicated it essentially goes like this. The U.S. built up Saudi Arabia's oil industry in the 1930's and remains its biggest customer. In exchange for Saudi Arabia keeping the supply of oil steady the U.S. government agrees to provide the Kingdom's rulers, the Al-Saud family, with complete protection from both internal and external threats. The one caveat on this relationship has always been that whenever the U.S. defense industry is suffering and a key election is approaching the Al-Saud's pitch in to buy just enough weapons to ensure that workers in key electoral areas like Washington and California are not laid off. The Clinton administration did the same thing in 1992 when Saudi Arabia agreed to buy 72 F-15's for \$9 billion dollars just in time for the mid term elections.

[A gathering of 'champions'](#)

WHAT is a champion? Who is a champion? Generally the word "champion" reflects excellence in sports. Almost instantly comes the name of Spain – as the latest FIFA World Cup soccer champion. Yet now the term is being used and applied in the realm of

energy too — at least as far as the ongoing World Energy Congress in Montreal is concerned. For the last three days, I have been hearing the word “champion” at the beginning of each day.

[China struggles to meet energy efficiency target](#)

BEIJING: China may not meet an energy efficiency target set for this year because its efforts to revive its economy in the wake of a global slump have set back several years of progress on reducing its energy usage, a senior Chinese official said Thursday.

[Islamists claim responsibility for Russian bombing](#)

MOSCOW — A Chechen Islamist rebel group has claimed responsibility for last week's suicide car bombing in Russia's volatile North Caucasus that left 18 dead and 140 wounded.

The Riyadus Salikhin Martyrs' Brigade says the attack was part of a "jihad" against Russia in the North Caucasus, where most of the republics are predominantly Muslim.

[President Zardari favors small dams](#)

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari said on Thursday that construction of controversial dams could damage the unity of the country, adding that the energy crisis could be overcome by building small dams.

[Kuwait's nuclear energy project to face challenges](#)

KUWAIT: According to recent news reports on the official statement issued concerning national nuclear energy policy, Kuwait now plans to build four nuclear reactors over the next twelve years. Perceived to be a major step following on the heels of neighbouring countries Saudi Arabia and UAE in the GCC region Ahmed Bishara, Secretary General of Kuwait's National Nuclear Committee, was quoted as saying that Kuwait will be able to develop nuclear energy as long as the price of oil remains relatively stable. The move however, raises questions about the country's capacity to execute a strategic project and the plausible benefits involved.

[Bill McKibben: Is Obama Afraid of Solar Power?](#)

I got to see the now-famous enthusiasm gap up close and personal last week, and it wasn't a pretty sight.

[3 Ultra-Efficient Cars Win \\$10M Innovation Award](#)

(AP) An ultralight, gas-powered car that can get 102 miles per gallon is among the winners of the \$10 million Automotive X Prize, a contest to develop highly efficient, production-ready vehicles.

[Want to thwart climate change? Paint roof white 'Cool roofs' promoted as a way to save energy, help the environment](#)

NEW YORK — Herb Van Gent points his infrared gun at a square of still unpainted gray shingle and clicks the trigger. He gets an immediate temperature reading: 143 degrees and rising. Then he aims it 5 feet away to a square of roof I have just painted: 98 degrees and decreasing.

He smiles.

"A 45-degree difference and we're only on the first coat," he says. That means it also will be cooler inside the building, he says, saving energy.

[The Peak Oil Crisis: Is \\$50 Oil in the Offing?](#)

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[Oil falls to near \\$75 amid high US crude supplies](#)

SINGAPORE – Oil prices fell to near \$75 a barrel Thursday in Asia amid stubbornly high U.S. crude inventory surpluses even after a drawdown of the stockpile last week.

..."The increases in those surpluses cannot just be dismissed, regardless of the week-on-week improvements," Cameron Hanover said in a report. "There is still more oil than there has been for nearly three decades."

[DOE Update: Surplus Drops for First Time in Nine Weeks](#)

Demand decreased 1% week-over-week. YOY demand growth has been slowing. Over the last four-weeks, total petroleum demand has averaged 0.7% higher than the year ago period. Gasoline demand is up 0.5% YOY and distillate demand is up 11.5% YOY.

[Oil's Advance Stalls at \\$84 on Point and Figure Chart: Technical Analysis](#)

Crude oil prices may not rise above \$84 a barrel because increases lose momentum around that level, according to technical charts used by traders.

[Natural Gas Erodes Coal's Share of U.S. Power Production](#)

Natural gas's unprecedented share of U.S. power generation is likely to keep growing as the biggest price slide in a year and the prospect of stricter pollution rules erode the market for coal.

Gas-fired electricity will climb 31 percent in 2010 from five years ago, while coal use will fall 6.5 percent, Energy Department estimates show. The lowest low gas prices in 11 months and the regulatory outlook may prompt companies to defer coal projects and build plants that burn the cleaner fuel, said James Rogers, chief executive officer of Duke Energy Corp., a Charlotte, North-Carolina-based utility owner.

[Japan buys less Mideast light crude than planned](#)

The state-run Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp said it bought 100,000 kilolitres (629,000 barrels) of Middle East light crude for the national reserves, only one-fifth of the amount it was aiming to buy in two tenders that closed on Wednesday.

[Emarat denies closure of any of its fuel stations](#)

Dubai (WAM)--Emirates General Petroleum Corporation has denied reports by some local media on closure of some of its service stations in Dubai and the Northern emirates for running out of fuel.

[Tropical Storm Karl Strengthens Over Gulf of Mexico, May Become Hurricane](#)

Tropical Storm Karl strengthened as it moved over the Gulf of Mexico and may become a hurricane by late tomorrow, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said in an advisory issued before 4 a.m. local time.

[Abu Dhabi Paymasters Fund Fujairah Oil Hub to Bypass Hormuz](#)

The emirate of Abu Dhabi, having spent billions last year bailing out glitzy neighbor Dubai, is turning to more distant Fujairah to ensure safe, quick passage for its oil exports

and improve the nation's food security.

The capital of the United Arab Emirates, the fourth-largest crude producer in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, is bankrolling infrastructure projects in the easternmost emirate, Fujairah, to gain direct access to the Indian Ocean. Abu Dhabi is investing in an oil-storage terminal and a \$3.3 billion pipeline and is building the country's biggest power and water treatment plants as well as a facility to store imported grain.

[Alternative gas lights up Gulf](#)

Saudi Aramco's announcement this week it has discovered alternative sources of natural gas that will be expensive to extract underscores a broader shift in the industry that will significantly increase costs for regional governments.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE are weighing the development of costly "unconventional" sources of gas tightly trapped in bedrock or contaminated with toxic substances that make extraction more problematic. Oman and Jordan, which have almost no oil and gas reserves, have already enlisted international help in harvesting difficult "tight" gas.

[Liquefied natural gas terminal south of Dauphin Island approved](#)

Gov. Bob Riley on Wednesday approved the creation of a liquefied natural gas terminal 63 miles south of Dauphin Island, after years of rejecting other LNG projects.

Central to Riley's approval of the TORP Technology proposal was its "closed-loop" system of warming the super-cold gas, which environmentalists say poses a much smaller risk to marine life and habitats than other designs.

[Cnooc May Pay BP \\$10.2 Billion for Argentine Asset, Citi Says](#)

Cnooc Ltd., China's biggest offshore oil explorer, may bid \$10.2 billion for BP Plc's 60 percent stake in Argentina's Pan American Energy LLC and will probably seek a partner in the acquisition, Citigroup Inc. said.

[Taqa buys field to lift European profile](#)

Abu Dhabi National Energy Company, known as Taqa, has bought a North Sea oilfield as it seeks to increase its European presence.

The field is linked to the company's existing pipeline infrastructure but has seen output

steadily decline in the past three years.

[Angola Plans to Ship at Least 52 Crude Oil Cargoes in November. Plan Shows](#)

Angola's daily crude oil exports are scheduled to drop in November, according to the preliminary loading plan which excludes shipments of the Palanca grade.

Angola plans to ship at least 52 crude cargoes in November, compared with 55 shipments in October, the plan shows. That is a total of 49.8 million barrels, or 1.66 million barrels a day, compared with 52.3 million barrels, or 1.69 million barrels a day in the longer month of October.

['Efforts on war footing needed to save planet'](#)

MONTREAL: With the theme of the ongoing 21st World Energy Congress moving on to "acceptability," energy leaders have been warned that the world needs to mobilize itself on war footing to reduce carbon emission to acceptable levels.

"Whatever we do today should not only be acceptable to us, but also to mother nature," emphasized Lester R. Brown, the guru of the environmental movement and the president of the Washington-based Earth Policy Institute, while delivering his "champion" address before the Congress on Wednesday. "We need to cut greenhouse emission by 80 percent — not by 2050 — but by 2020, if we need to grow, sustain and prosper," he underlined.

[3 Bears Threatening the New Goldilocks Economy](#)

A third area where the US lacks the leverage to reassert herself is in the area of energy. With peak oil on the immediate horizon, we are doing precious little other than burning a lot of corn to prepare for yet another paradigm shift. As long as we're dependent on foreigners for one of the most important staples of economic growth, we will not be able to effect meaningful changes.

[Michael J. Economides: OPEC at 50](#)

OPEC today does not have the excess capacity that it had. From a demonstrable excess capacity of over 10 million barrels per day in 1995, outside of Saudi Arabia, it has been reduced to near zero today. This is not what OPEC's potential production capacity could be but what it is now "behind the valve", i.e., oil they can turn off and on at will.

The reason is that it takes huge re-investment to maintain production capacity: massive exploration and production budgets. Nigeria, Venezuela and Libya are suffering from

gross and chronic mismanagement and Iran is gasping under the sanctions, no matter what the bravado of the leaders of these countries. In Iraq, it is hard to produce oil when people are shooting at you and, when the US military gets out, I am not at all optimistic for the country's petroleum future. All of the above countries are producing close to one third of their geological potential.

[Raymond J. Learsy: OPEC Turning 50 Showing The Way To Rebuild America's Economy "As High As An Elephant's Eye"](#)

So here we have a commodity costing some \$1.50 per barrel to produce in Saudi Arabia, and probably not much more elsewhere in the production universe of OPEC, as well as in much of the installed capacity in other parts of the world where oil is also being pumped and sold into the market place some fifty times its cost.

But don't despair as we can learn from OPEC's success. You see we have a commodity easily as critical to the world's economy as oil. We have corn, we have wheat, we have soybeans- all grain crops critical to the world's food supply. We are the world's most efficient and in total, the largest grower of these food grains. The United States is the world's leading exporter of wheat, together with Brazil the largest exporter of soybeans and by far the leading exporter of corn supplying more than fifty percent of the world's rapidly increasing import needs , with its growing population and the world's changing dietary habits consuming increasing amounts of meat, milk, and eggs from animals that eat corn and wheat as feed.

[Japan Declares War on Canada](#)

Cornwall ON – The attack at Pearl Harbor, in December 1941, was Japan's Declaration of War. For them it was a resource war, as they needed oil to continue their war against China. Oil shortages were crippling the Japanese economy and war machine, just as they would Germany's a few short years later.

On Monday, September 13, 2010, the Japanese launched an attack on North America's Green Harbor, Ontario's Green Energy Act. This time, instead of unleashing their forces against a naval base they launched a suit against Canada and Ontario through the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The reason for the attack? To ensure Japanese industry doesn't get competition from Ontario.

[As Europe Kicks Coal, Hungarian Town Feels Pangs](#)

OROSZLANY, Hungary — When the directors of Hungary's last remaining coal-fired power plant announced that they would close the coal mine and begin dismantling the plant at the end of this year, the news sent shock waves through this weathered industrial city, where a statue of three miners stands in the square.

It was well known that the legendary Vertesi plant and its mine were kept afloat only by more than \$30 million in annual state subsidies. But more than 3,000 of Oroszlany's 20,000 residents work in industries related to coal. The government-owned plant is one of the town's biggest taxpayers. And the area's 5,000 homes, its stores and its factories all get their heat from the Vertesi plant.

"We know that coal is an old technique that is not sustainable here, but we have not found an alternative," said Gabor Rajnai, Oroszlany's mayor. "Everyone is thinking about how are we going to keep warm in winter."

['Rosneft could save billions on tax break'](#)

Russian oil producer Rosneft may save several billion dollars from a proposed extension of tax breaks for its East Siberia greenfield, Vankor, according to reporters.

[Putin looks sour loser on Nabucco](#)

Russia seems to have lost its lobbying battle in Europe for its South Stream pipeline carrying gas and against rival Nabucco, which is planned to run from Azerbaijan via Turkey to the European markets. At present, Moscow seeks as a last resort to negate the availability of gas supplies to the Nabucco project in the Caspian basin.

[Russia to stand by South Stream under any circumstance - Shmatko](#)

MOSCOW (Itar-Tass) -- Russia does not intend to abandon the implementation of the South Stream gas pipeline project whatever proposals for participation in the Ukrainian gas transportation system may be made to it, Russian Energy Minister Sergei Shmatko said on Thursday.

"At this point there is no such question on the agenda at all, we have no bargaining. If someone has thought (and hopes) that some better conditions can be offered to persuade us to abandon South Stream, that person got it all wrong. We do not discuss this topic at all," he said.

[Norway says 41 oil firms applying for licenses](#)

(Reuters) - Forty-one oil and gas firms have applied to explore for petroleum in mature areas off Norway, the country's oil and energy ministry said on Thursday.

The applications are for licenses in mature areas, where the expectation is mostly for smaller discoveries that do not justify an independent development, the ministry said.

[Enbridge Prepares to Start Illinois Crude Oil Pipeline After Leak Repaired](#)

Enbridge Energy Partners LP said it's preparing to start early tomorrow its largest oil pipeline linking Canada and refineries in the U.S. Midwest, after repairing a leak in Romeoville, Illinois.

[PG&E had OK to fix pipe near blast; work not done](#)

SAN BRUNO, Calif. — Pacific Gas and Electric Co. got state permission in 2007 to spend \$5 million of ratepayer money to replace a 62-year-old section of the pipeline that exploded last week in San Bruno but the work, scheduled for 2009, wasn't done, a utility watchdog said Wednesday.

The utility repeated its request in 2009, asking for \$5 million more to do the job by 2013, even though ratepayers had already started paying for the project, according to TURN, The Utility Reform Network, citing documents that PG&E submitted to the California Public Utility Commission.

[Enbridge, U.S. Regulators, Lack a 'Culture of Safety,' Rep. Oberstar Says](#)

Enbridge Inc. Chief Executive Patrick Daniel and pipeline industry regulators came under fire today from U.S. lawmakers following oil spills in the Midwest and a fatal natural gas explosion in Northern California.

Enbridge, whose lines have caused oil spills in Michigan and Illinois, lacks "a culture of safety" and the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is "a disaster of its own," James Oberstar, chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said at a hearing.

[BP insists deepwater drilling in North Sea will go ahead](#)

BP is determined to press ahead with plans to drill deepwater wells west of the Shetlands despite criticism of its "outrageous" attitude to the risks of drilling in the US and worries about its North Sea safety record.

[Drilling-Ban Job Losses Smaller Than Estimated, Obama Administration Says](#)

President Barack Obama's moratorium on deep-water drilling is costing no more than 8,000 to 12,000 jobs because offshore rig operators have retained skilled workers during the suspension, according to an administration report.

During the moratorium, which began May 28, the average number of rig workers fell by

about 2,000 and spending by drillers is declining by \$1.8 billion, according to the report to be released today. The additional job losses were from companies that service drilling rigs and other businesses along the Gulf Coast.

[Louisiana sues drilling companies over Gulf spill](#)

ATLANTA (Reuters) – The state of Louisiana sued Transocean and Triton Asset Leasing in federal court for discharging oil into the Gulf of Mexico during the BP oil spill, according to court documents.

[BP, Spill Victims Clash at First New Orleans Hearing on Combined Cases](#)

BP Plc should face test-case trials over Gulf oil-spill claims within a year, lawyers for victims seeking billions of dollars in damages said in court filings.

BP and other companies being sued over the April explosion of the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig should begin pretrial information exchanges next month, the lawyers told U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier in New Orleans.

[Transition Barrie's unleashing at harvest fest](#)

That feeling of powerlessness in the face of big change brought a group of Barrie residents together in the spring of 2009 to explore local Transition opportunities. Through awareness-raising events such as Eco-fest, presentations to local groups, open space forums, informal meet-ups and film screenings, Transition Barrie is moving toward the next stage of community engagement, developing hands-on projects. Focus groups are working on diverse topics such as urban food production, seed saving, food preservation and root cellars, local and alternative energy sources, electric cars, car-sharing, and housing alternatives -- all of these to culminate in the grand vision of an Energy Descent Action Plan for Barrie.

[From the Roof, to a Battery, to the Grid](#)

In the garage of Peter Rive's San Francisco home is a Tesla Motors lithium-ion battery pack. It is not connected to Mr. Rive's electric Tesla Roadster sports car, but to the power grid.

The California Public Utilities Commission has awarded \$1.8 million to Mr. Rive's company, SolarCity, a residential photovoltaic panel installer, to research the feasibility of storing electricity generated by rooftop solar arrays in batteries.

[Busting Myths About Photovoltaics](#)

The European Union Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference I just attended stressed the need for public education about photovoltaics — the silicon-based solar cells that turn sunlight into usable electricity — to increase acceptance of the solar-power technology.

Myths abound about photovoltaics that hinder their growth, and I'd like to burst some of those misconceptions right here:

[Hydrothermal Biofuels Research Pilot Plant opens in Sydney](#)

The NCRIS Biofuels Research Pilot Plant is the first semi-automated, continuous-flow kilo-scale research facility of its kind in Australia. The pilot plant will look at how biomass — particularly woody plant matter — can be used to produce biofuels and other chemicals more efficiently.

As Peak Oil approaches, demand for renewable liquid transport fuels is increasing but a cost-effective means to produce non-food based biofuels on a large scale is yet to be found. The pilot plant allows experimentation with the variables of production, with the aim of finding a viable processing method.

[Salvos Fly as Ethanol Ruling Nears](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency has said it will rule by the end of this month on whether to allow gasoline retailers to sell a mixture that is 15 percent ethanol and 85 percent unleaded regular, a change from the current maximum of 10 percent ethanol. Coalitions have lined up — on one side, the corn farmers and ethanol producers, and on the other, the oil refiners, auto companies, manufacturers of gasoline-powered equipment and companies that use corn to raise livestock.

[York sewage-treatment plant cuts waste, creates a resource](#)

YORK, Pa. - The latest substance from the York sewage treatment plant isn't stinky sludge or bubbly wastewater.

It's little white pellets, about the size of small seeds. And they promise not only environmental benefit but real money.

The pellets are fertilizer, and a formulation that incorporates them, produced by an Allentown company, is being tested at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square.

[Credit Suisse selected as adviser to UAE nuclear programme](#)

The Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) has appointed Credit Suisse as the financial adviser to the country's groundbreaking civilian nuclear programme.

[By 2025 one in two people will not have fresh water -- Swiss experts](#)

GENEVA (KUNA) -- A Public forum hosted by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) said on Thursday that by 2025, one in two people will suffer from a lack of fresh water. "Population growth, uncontrolled urbanisation, migration, and climate change will place greater demands on the planet's water resources, making water security one of the most pressing challenges of the 21st century" said the SDC experts.

"Today, one billion people have no access to drinking water, 2.6 billion are deprived of basic sanitation. Every day 5,000 children die as a direct result of a lack of clean water and adequate hygiene facilities," According to the available Data from the UN organisations and NGO's concerned with this problem.

[Floodwaters Give New Life to Pakistani Class Dispute](#)

The damage done to the Indus delta by nearly 100 years of extensive irrigation upstream — perhaps the largest in the world — is well documented. It has made Pakistan a food and cotton exporter and helped enrich landowners the length of the river. But so much water is used up that the Indus, one of Asia's greatest rivers, runs virtually dry before reaching the delta, where the river empties into the Arabian Sea.

The lack of river water has allowed sea water to inundate some two million acres of the delta, destroying once fertile paddy fields and killing off coastal mangroves, which are the natural breeding ground for fish, say leaders of the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum, a nongovernmental organization that works to support the rights of the fishermen communities.

[How science will shape climate adaptation plans](#)

Some would argue that the demand for information on how climate change will affect our future outstrips the current capability of the science and climate models. My view is that as scientists, we can provide useful information, but we need to be clear about its limitations and strive to improve information for the future. We need to be clear about the uncertainties in our projections while still extracting useful information for practical decision-making.

[Shell, BP May Reap 'Serious Profit' by Using CO2 in Oil Fields](#)

Royal Dutch Shell Plc and BP Plc stand to make “serious profit” by pumping carbon dioxide from European power plants into North Sea oil fields, according to Petroleum and Renewable Energy Co.

Putting carbon dioxide into old wells may yield profits of as much as \$40 a metric ton of oil in the next decade, Stewart Whiteley, managing director at the consultant known as Petrenel, said yesterday at a seminar at London’s Geological Society.

[Islanders plead to Australia for help](#)

The people of the Cartaret Islands in Papua New Guinea, who are facing inundation from rising sea levels, have appealed to the Australian government for help.

[Who Killed the Energy and Climate Bill?](#)

Several months after it died, it’s still a messy process to piece together just who killed the prospect of climate-change and energy legislation that was up for debate in the Senate this summer. Democrats reflexively say it was Republicans and their Big Oil friends, whose businesses would take serious hits with substantial cuts of greenhouse gases or the federal mandate of a renewable-energy standard. Republicans, meanwhile, point to a series of different factors, including Dems being too ambitious and going too far from what the country could handle.

[Arctic storms to decrease with global warming: study](#)

PARIS (AFP) - Brief but vicious Arctic storms known as polar lows are likely to become much less frequent as global warming intensifies, scientists in Britain determined on Wednesday.

Polar lows brew in ice-free high latitudes in the North Atlantic in winter and can swiftly become a hazard for shipping and oil rigs.

[Ozone recovering but will take longer over poles-UN](#)

GENEVA (Reuters) - The ozone layer that shields life from the sun's harmful rays is projected to largely recover from harmful chemicals by mid-century, but it will take longer over the polar regions, a United Nations study said on Thursday.

Ozone depletion will continue for many more decades because several key damaging substances endure in the atmosphere for a long time after emissions end, it said.

[Arctic sea ice melts to third lowest area on record](#)

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Arctic sea ice melted over the summer to cover the third smallest area on record, US researchers said on Wednesday, warning global warming could leave the region ice free in the month of September 2030.



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