



Drumbeat: November 19, 2010

Posted by [Leanan](#) on November 18, 2010 - 4:39pm

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[How Much Energy Does It Take to Get Our Energy?](#) - *When you look closely, not all energy sources are created equal in terms of the amount of net energy they produce*

The future of our finite supply of fossil fuels is uncertain at best, and development of new energy options continues to gain speed. It's likely we'll use a combination of renewable energies and fossil fuels for the foreseeable future. If you listen to some representatives of the alternative energy industry, you'd think every renewable fuel source out there is the No. 1 candidate to meet the world's future energy needs — the most qualified to replace oil, coal and natural gas. So, which type of renewable energy will provide us with the highest net gain in energy?

Energy return on energy invested is more commonly stated as energy return on investment (EROI). The term was coined by Charles Hall, professor of environmental science and forestry at the State University of New York (SUNY), and is presented as a ratio of energy produced to the energy consumed during production. An energy source that yields positive net energy has an EROI ratio of more than 1:1. Anything less than that constitutes an energy sink, or net loss.

[Oil creeps above \\$82 as traders eye Ireland, China](#)

SINGAPORE – Oil prices crept above \$82 a barrel Friday in Asia as investors weighed signs of resolution for Ireland's debt crisis against possible Chinese measures to contain inflation that could slow economic growth and hurt demand for crude.

[Chesapeake hedges with call options](#)

US gas giant Chesapeake Energy has been incrementally stepping up its sale of call options in the past year, doing over-the-counter deals in a bid to raise money.

Some analysts see it as a way to navigate low gas prices in exchange for giving up some profit should prices rise.

[UAE keen to help develop energy sector of Turkmenistan: Hamli](#)

ASGHABAT — UAE Energy Minister Mohammed bin Dhaen Al Hamli has held meetings with senior Turkmen officials to discuss venues of cooperation between the two countries on energy.

[Weatherford executive killed in Mexico](#)

Gunmen have killed a manager at a Swiss-based oil services company in Mexico, the latest sign of mounting lawlessness in remote parts of the country that is hurting a major industry.

[Achieving energy security for America](#)

In the end, if energy independence is presented as self-sufficiency, then the prospects of achieving the goal of energy independence is very small. Such a goal will bring disappointment that will undermine the longer-term commitments that are required for a sound energy future.

However, if the goal of energy independence is understood differently, then it is much more useful. We should define energy independence to be energy security i.e., more energy resiliency, robustness and reduced vulnerability.

[Toyota to offer plug-in hybrid in 2012](#)

TOKYO — Toyota is planning to sell a plug-in hybrid car in the U.S., Japan and Europe in 2012, targeting sales of 50,000 vehicles a year at \$36,000 each without subsidies, as the automaker strengthens its green lineup to keep pace with growing competition.

[NRG invests \\$10 mln in Texas car-charging network](#)

HOUSTON (Reuters) - NRG Energy plans to invest \$10 million to build a comprehensive charging system in Houston for electric vehicles next year, NRG Chief Executive David Crane said on Thursday.

Crane said the debut of new electric vehicle models in the next year made the time right to launch NRG's branded "eVgo" network to help "close the decision gap" for buyers debating the purchase of an electric vehicle (EV) versus a conventional gasoline-fueled car.

[Nalcor, Emera Agree on C\\$6.2 Billion Power Project](#)

The agreement with Emera “is free of the geographic stranglehold that Quebec has had for far too long on us,” Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams said today at a televised press conference in the provincial capital of St. John’s. “Today we are saying that Quebec will no longer determine the fate of Newfoundland and Labrador and one of the most attractive clean-energy projects in North America.”

[U.S. Proposes Electric-Transmission Rule to Help Boost Wind, Solar Power](#)

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is proposing to lower costs for delivering renewable energy by permitting more frequent transmission scheduling. The agency is considering a rule that would allow power- transmission providers to set schedules in 15-minute intervals instead of hourly, FERC Chairman Jon Wellinghoff said today at a commission meeting in Washington.

[Republican asks to expand power of energy panel](#)

(Reuters) - A key Republican on Thursday asked lawmakers to consolidate energy oversight in the House of Representatives into one powerful energy committee.

Doc Hastings, the expected incoming head of the House Natural Resources Committee, called for expanding his panel's jurisdiction to cover all energy policy. This expanded panel would be renamed the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

[Cleveland Restoration Society luncheon speaker has new ideas for preservation](#)

American cities -- whether fast-growing metropolises in the sun belt or shrinking cities in the industrial Midwest -- need to think about moving to what Jackson called "a conservation ethic."

He believes the pressure for change will rise over the next century as oil and gas prices rise and as the global economy reaches "peak oil," the point at which the supply of oil hits natural limits.

[Welcome to Farm School](#)

Romantic notions aside, some research suggests that with the evolution of the global food system beyond peak oil a good number of us day-dreamers will need to snap out of it and actually get our hands dirty.

[A Socially Conscious Way to Invest in Farmland: An Interview with Dr. Jason Bradford about Farmland LP](#)

Kalpa: Please start by giving us a small background on Farmland LP. What is it, what are its goals, and who might be interested in investing in it?

Jason: We are an investment fund that buys conventional farmland and converts it to certified organic, sustainably managed farmland. Historically, farmland has been an excellent, inflation-hedged investment. Our firm, Farmland LP, adds value to farmland by converting it to organic farmland and managing it ongoing. Our goal is to play a role in the transformation of the food system while benefiting the environment, people, and our investors.

[America's Dirtiest Cities](#)

The biggest problem spot in the country is California's San Joaquin Valley, where farming, industry, car culture and topography collide to trap smog. Wildfires contribute to the problem. Severe particle pollution in valley burghs like Bakersfield (the center of California's oil industry and the metropolitan area with the worst air in the nation), Fresno (third place), Visalia (fourth) and Modesto (eighth) can damage the lungs in the same way cigarettes do. Sacramento (ninth) incentivizes residents to trade in gasoline lawn mowers for electric ones, diesel-powered trucks for hybrid ones and old wood stoves for new ones. The only non-California cities in the top 10: Pittsburgh, Pa; Birmingham, Ala.; and metropolitan Phoenix, Ariz.



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