



Drumbeat: December 10, 2010

Posted by [Leanan](#) on December 10, 2010 - 10:23am

[Oil demand to hit highest level ever](#)

NEW YORK (CNMoney.com) -- Worldwide oil demand hit its highest level ever on the back of explosive growth in the developing world, according to preliminary figures in a recent report.

But the world's thirst for the hot commodity is unlikely to lead to the price spike witnessed in 2008 -- largely due to oil field investments made during the last bubble, analysts say.

Globally, oil demand hit 88.3 million barrels a day in the third quarter of 2010, according to preliminary numbers released earlier this week from energy consultants Wood Mackenzie. That tops the previous quarterly record of 88 million barrels a day, reached in the fourth quarter of 2007.

[EIA outlook pegs US natgas output at record high](#)

(Reuters) - A recent natural gas outlook by the U.S. Energy Information Administration pegged domestic gas production this year at a record high.

In its December Short-Term Energy Outlook released on Tuesday, EIA said it expected marketed natural gas production in 2010 to be up 2.11 billion cubic feet per day to 62.09 bcf daily.

[U.S. natgas rig count falls 13 to 948-Baker Hughes](#)

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The number of rigs drilling for natural gas in the United States slid by 13 this week to 948, oil services firm Baker Hughes said on Friday.

The gas-directed rig count, which had gained in the previous two weeks, hit 992 in mid-August, its highest since February 2009, when there were 1,018 rigs drilling for gas.

[Deutsche Bank Raises Coal Forecasts on Market Shortage](#)

Deutsche Bank AG raised price forecasts for thermal coal by as much as 17 percent on expectations that a shortage of the fuel will widen over the next two years.

Export power-coal prices at Richards Bay, South Africa, a market benchmark, will average \$118 a metric ton next year and \$140 in 2012, Daniel Brebner, a London-based Deutsche Bank analyst, said in a report dated today. That's up from previous estimates of \$110 and \$120 respectively, he said.

[Why China's oil producers love Latin America](#)

Adam Waterous, head of Scotia Waterous, says that there are three main characteristics of the region that are attractive to Chinese acquirors.

The assets tend to be heavy on oil, relative to gas, and Chinese buyers are seeking oil.

Second, the oil plays in the region tend to have been "underexploited" relative to other areas of the developed world, leaving plenty of potential upside.

[Saudi Aramco to Supply Asian Refiners Full January Oil Volumes](#)

Saudi Arabian Oil Co., the world's largest state-owned oil company, will supply full contractual volumes of crude to Japan and South Korea for loading in January, according to refinery officials in the region.

[Mexican oil may not be worth it](#)

But is this new regime enough to lure the major oil companies to come down to Mexico? While it does make it more amenable to them, it is certainly not ideal. After all, they still won't own the oil. That means that they won't be able to book the oil to their reserve base -- a major drawback since oil companies are judged by the public markets in large part by their ability to replace their reserves. Not owning the oil also means that they won't be able to control where it goes. This is important for logistics and trading purposes, which is a major profit center for some oil companies, especially BP.

[Does Oil Flow Both Ways in Mexico?](#)

Mexico isn't part of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. But by starving its oil industry of funding, and curbing supply that could moderate prices, it sure helps out. Can it now work the other way?

[Latin America Fuel Theft Serious Problem](#)

RoseAnne Franco, Latin America upstream research analyst at Wood

Mackenzie: Crude and oil product theft is a serious problem that robs Latin America's major hydrocarbon producers of millions in lost revenues. Foremost, the level of oil and fuel product theft tends to correlate with the level of state capacity and the reach of organized crime.

[Riyadh 'preparing for Naimi's exit'](#)

Saudi Arabia is weighing up candidates to succeed long-standing Oil Minister Ali Naimi in a Cabinet reshuffle that could happen in late February or early March next year, two Saudi officials familiar with the situation have claimed.

[Ecuador 'bids to lure Opec players'](#)

Ecuador may try to tempt fellow Opec producers into its play this weekend after seizing licences held by Petrobras, Noble Energy and a number of other companies that refused to alter the terms of their contracts.

[US to Accept Comments on Shell's Alaska Plans through Dec. 23](#)

The U.S offshore-drilling agency said on Friday that it would accept comment through Dec. 23 on Royal Dutch Shell PLC's (RDSA) plans to drill in the Beaufort sea off the coast of Alaska, giving the public a chance to comment on the controversial plan.

[Shell slams Nigeria claims](#)

Anglo-Dutch supermajor Shell today angrily denied media reports that it had infiltrated key Nigerian government ministries, giving it access to politicians' every move in the oil-rich west African nation.

[Who needs domestic oil production? We can just get more from OPEC](#)

One of the sad truths about the Obama administration is the indifference they have for producing energy domestically.

The administration has given us another piece of evidence of their hostility toward energy production. On page 69 of a new proposed drilling rule, the administration argues that we don't need to worry that their permissiveness will reduce oil production in the Gulf (and destroy good paying jobs) because we can always get more oil from the oil dictators at OPEC:

[Report: Some Oil and Gas Commission Appointees are Energy Execs, Lobbyists](#)

At least nine members of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission are oil and gas industry lobbyists or executives, according to an investigation by ProPublica.

The Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission is a 38-state agency charged with conserving domestic oil and natural gas "while protecting health, safety and the environment," according to the commission's website. Members of the commission include governors of the oil and gas producing states, as well as representatives and associate representatives appointed by the governors.

[The search for oil](#)

Demand for oil is driving exploration in ever more unlikely frontiers. Are the benefits worth the risks?

[Peak planning](#)

A variety of analyses pinpoint "peak oil" as either having just been reached or predict its imminent arrival. Regardless, a 50% reduction in oil production is expected by 2050, so the society inherited by our grandchildren and great-grandchildren is likely to be markedly different from our own.

Exactly how continues to be a matter of some debate, with those portraying a world shackled to petroleum-related technologies predicting gloomy scenarios lived out in energy-impooverished, "self-sufficient" communities.

Others have greater faith in the creative capacity of humankind to overcome such limits in ways as yet unknown.

[Security of Supply](#)

This is our reality - we're living on a relatively small planet with a finite amount of reserves and a growing human population.

Broad spectrum peak commodities is a cause for concern over the longer term.

In the shorter to medium term there are several concerns in regards to global resource extraction we need to consider.

[John Michael Greer: The future's further shores](#)

Last week's post on the future of the peak oil movement seems to have been timely. In and around the unraveling of global economic and political structures that accounts for a growing share of the evening news – Eliot's "cracks and reforms and bursts in the violet air" have plenty of equivalents just now – quite a few figures in the peak oil scene have

begun reorienting themselves to a world in which the coming of peak oil has stopped being a preoccupation of the fringe and become one of the simple and inescapable realities of our time.

This is not to say that all these reorientations are well advised. Sharon Astyk, for example, has proposed aligning the peak oil movement with climate activism; in the abstract, this is a logical idea, but in the real world it's an invitation to disaster. The climate change movement has science solidly on its side, to be sure, but it's proven hopelessly inept in dealing with the decidedly unscientific worlds of public relations and politics; climate activists have time and again allowed their opponents to define the terms of the debate, and relied on the prestige of science to make their case at a time when that prestige, already at a low ebb, is continuing to wane. Their opponents have not exactly been slow to take advantage of these missteps.

[Contest for Specially Signed Copy of The Witch of Hebron](#)

When I met up with author Jim Kunstler a few months ago, I had him sign a copy of his latest novel, *The Witch of Hebron*, for a reader of this blog. As many of you know, this is the follow-on book to Jim's "post-oil/debt-bubble/Savior State" novel *World Made by Hand*.

Jim inscribed the book "To the lucky reader of the splendid blog *Of Two Minds*." Why lucky? Because there is a contest. The winner gets the specially inscribed book, and the runners-up will have to make do with a signed copy of one of my books.

[Real economies and the illusions of abstraction](#)

Charging interest for lending money was frowned on by our ancestors and considered a sin in Christian, Judaic as well as Islamic and other religious traditions. This view survives today in Sharia finance where lending at interest is shunned in favor of requiring the investor or creditor to share risks of any enterprise with the entrepreneur.

Generations of scholars since Aristotle's treatises on "just prices" have examined the myths and human experiments in creating money and systems of exchange, from mutual fund manager Stephen Zarlenga's *The Lost Science of Money* (2002) and Prof. Margrit Kennedy's *Interest and Inflation Free Money* (1995) to lawyer Ellen Brown's *Web of Debt* (2007). In my *Creating Alternative Futures* (1978), I posed the question: Is there any such thing as profit without some equal, unrecorded debt entry in some social or environmental ledger or passed on to future generations? My answer was "yes," provided all costs of production were internalized and thermodynamic, not economic, measures of efficiency were calculated.

[NRG Energy to break ground on New Mexico plant](#)

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) -- NRG Energy Inc. said Friday it will expand into New Mexico by year-end, breaking ground on a new solar power facility near Santa Teresa.

The company said it plans to invest as much as \$21 million in the project and will sell the energy the plant generates to El Paso Electric Co. under a 20-year agreement.

[Lighting up the subcontinent](#)

New renewable energy schemes in India promise an end to power cuts, but only if they receive international support.

[NASA: 2010 Meteorological Year Warmest Ever](#)

The 2010 meteorological year, which ended on 30 November, was the warmest in NASA's 130-year record, data posted by the agency today shows. Over the oceans as well as on land, the average global temperature for the 12-month period that began last December was 14.65°C. That's 0.65°C warmer than the average global temperature between 1951 and 1980, a period scientists use as a basis for comparison.

[IKEA workers get wheels. \(Assembly required\)](#)

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- Employees of the Swedish furniture retailer IKEA can now go to work in two-wheel style.

All 12,400 U.S. IKEA employees walked away from work this week with a silver mountain bike, a gift the company says is a big thank you to workers for a great year.

...IKEA said it hopes the bikes will help employees by supporting a healthy lifestyle and providing "everyday sustainable transport."

[The Beekeeper Next Door](#)

Nationwide, hives are being tucked into small backyards and set alongside driveways; even the White House has installed some. Beekeeping classes are filling up quickly, and new beekeeping clubs are forming at the same time that established ones are reporting large jumps in membership.

[Infographic of the Day: Happiness Comes at a Price](#)

What drives all that happiness and woe? As you might have guessed, the economy has a lot to do with it.

...But here is where The Happy Planet Index starts looking a bit grim. The flip side of being rich and content is that you're devouring resources at the same time. Amorphous things such as a fulfilling job and bright economic prospects come at a profound cost to the planet. As we get rich, our carbon footprints swell, and our damage to the planet

increases.

[Oil Gains a Second Day After China's Imports Rise, U.S Jobless Claims Drop](#)

Oil rose for a second day in New York on signs that Chinese demand will withstand measures to slow the economy and that U.S. consumption is recovering.

Futures narrowed their weekly decline after China said November crude imports surged and the International Energy Agency raised its 2011 oil demand forecast for a third month. A U.S. government report yesterday showed jobless claims dropped more than forecast. China's central bank said it will raise the amount the nation's lenders must hold as reserves from Dec. 20.

[Gas prices on track for unseasonable spike](#)

Motorists, brace yourselves for a lump of coal this holiday season: higher-priced gasoline.

Nationwide, a gallon of regular unleaded gas averaged \$2.977 on Friday and more than \$3 a gallon in 20 states. That's up nearly 10 cents the past week and 34 cents higher than December 2009, AAA spokesman Troy Green says.

[China November Crude Imports Jump by 26% as Refiners Boost Fuel Production](#)

China, the world's biggest energy user, increased net imports of crude oil by 26 percent in November from a month earlier as refineries ramped up processing rates to ease a diesel shortage.

[OPEC May Have to Act if Oil Gets to \\$100, Secretary General Says in Quito](#)

Oil prices of \$100 a barrel may indicate "something wrong with fundamentals" in the market and lead OPEC to act, said Abdalla El-Badri, the organization's secretary-general.

[Gold, Copper, Oil, Corn Will Extend Gains Next year, Morgan Stanley Says](#)

Commodities including copper, gold, crude oil, corn and soybeans will extend gains next year as emerging markets drive global demand while supplies tighten, Morgan Stanley said.

[Natural Gas Prices May Rise Next Year on Lower Production](#)

Natural gas prices may rebound next year as producers cut output for the first time in six years amid record stockpiles and an expanding U.S. economy.

A 20 percent drop in prices this year will contribute to a decline in drilling for the fuel sold to factories, power plants and homeowners, the Energy Department said in its monthly Short- Term Energy Outlook on Dec. 7. Output will average 62.01 billion cubic feet a day in 2011, down from a record of 62.09 billion this year, the department estimated.

[With oil prices around \\$90, recovery is over a barrel](#)

The "recovery" gained another enemy this week when the price of oil hit \$90 a barrel on Tuesday (it was trading around \$88 this morning). Higher oil prices translate into bigger costs for American households and the many petroleum-based products they use. This benchmark has long been seen by many economists as a point when oil prices start to harm the U.S. economy. They also are one of the biggest wild cards in the Federal Reserve's bet that deflation -- or at least disinflation -- are the big dangers, rather than inflation.

[Beware \\$90 oil](#)

With high unemployment, weak consumer spending and falling home prices, what else could possibly slow America's economic recovery? Oil prices.

[IEA Raises 2011 Global Oil Demand Forecast for a Third Month, Citing China](#)

The International Energy Agency raised its 2011 global crude oil demand forecast for a third month on consumption gains in North America and China.

Crude use worldwide will average 88.8 million barrels a day next year, about 260,000 barrels more than its previous forecast, the Paris-based adviser said today in its monthly Oil Market Report. Increasing demand could put pressure on OPEC to boost supply early next year, the IEA said.

[IEA and OPEC differ on need for more oil supply](#)

(Reuters) - Two of the world's most influential oil forecasters gave contrasting outlooks for 2011 on Friday, with the consumer's watchdog anticipating robust demand and producer group OPEC saying supply was adequate.

[OPEC Compliance With Output Quota Was Stable at 54% in November, IEA Says](#)

OPEC's compliance with record supply cuts was little changed last month as production declines in five of its member countries offset increases in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Iran, the International Energy Agency said.

[IEA Says OPEC Oil Capacity to Dip in 2011, Rise After](#)

OPEC's oil production capacity will dip next year then rise steadily through 2012 to 2015, according to a monthly report from the International Energy Agency.

The daily production capacity for all 12 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is forecast at 35.50 million barrels for this year, 35.22 million barrels for 2011 and 36.94 million barrels for 2015, the IEA said today.

[IEA: Risk Of Chinese Overheating After "Astonishing" Oil Growth](#)

PARIS -(Dow Jones)- Citing "astonishing" year-on-year growth in Chinese oil demand in October 2010, the International Energy Agency warned Friday that the Chinese economy was in danger of overheating and said food prices have risen more steeply than reflected by official Chinese statistics.

"The strength of China's oil demand is consistent with other indicators suggesting that the economy is in danger of overheating," the IEA said in its monthly Oil Market Report. "Not only does GDP growth continue to hover around the 10% mark, but inflation is also creeping up."

[Nomura Says IEA May Be Overestimating Outlook for Non-OPEC Crude Supplies](#)

The International Energy Agency may be overestimating the outlook next year for oil supply excluding crude produced by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, according to Nomura International Ltd.

[IEA Predicts 18-Month Delay in Development of New Fields in Gulf of Mexico](#)

The International Energy Agency forecast the development of new oil fields in the Gulf of Mexico will be delayed by 12 to 18 months, more than previously estimated, because of restrictions after the BP Plc spill.

[Chevron hikes spending 20 pct in search of growth](#)

Chevron Corp , the second-largest U.S. oil company, will increase spending by a fifth to \$26 billion in 2011, with 85 percent going to exploration and production as the industry seeks out new sources of growth.

[Sinopec Agrees to Purchase Occidental's Argentina Unit for \\$2.45 Billion](#)

China Petrochemical Corp., Asia's biggest refiner, agreed to buy Occidental Petroleum Corp.'s Argentine oil and gas unit for \$2.45 billion, signaling the country's appetite for energy assets shows no sign of easing.

[BG Group announces update on Tupi and Guar fields, Santos Basin, offshore Brazil](#)

BG Group today announced an update on the Tupi and Guar fields in the Santos Basin, offshore Brazil. The update relates to the first two Floating Production, Storage and Offloading (FPSO) vessels on the Tupi field and the first FPSO on the Guar field.

[Russian foreign minister doubts NATO sincerity after Baltic leak](#)

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has expressed concern over NATO's integrity after the revelation of the military alliance's plans on defending the Baltic states against Russia.

The latest batch of U.S. embassy cables released by WikiLeaks shows NATO drew up plans in January to defend the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania against any possible attack by Russia.

[WikiLeaks cables: Oil giants squeeze Chvez as Venezuela struggles](#)

Venezuela's tottering economy is forcing Hugo Chvez to make deals with foreign corporations to save his socialist revolution from going broke.

The Venezuelan president has courted European, American and Asian companies in behind-the-scenes negotiations that highlight a severe financial crunch in his government.

[Sanctions Against Iran](#)

Sanctions are ultimately self-defeating as a means for achieving political coercion and persuasion. They are based on a flawed assumption that the affected party will make decisions based on a limited cost-benefit analysis. At the very most, they can be expected to elicit a temporary and tactical retreat by Iran – perhaps making it suspend enrichment for a few months or agree to more intrusive inspections. What they singularly fail to do is to persuade Iran to make any strategic decisions regarding its nuclear program. With peak oil having already arrived, the world needs access to Iranian hydrocarbon reserves more than ever: this is a country with the fourth and second largest oil and gas reserves, respectively. Applying sanctions because of some perceived fear of a threshold nuclear weapons capacity makes little real sense.

[Shell could lose 80% acreage in Nigeria: WikiLeaks](#)

LAGOS - Royal Dutch Shell said last year if Nigeria's oil reforms went ahead as planned the company could lose 80 percent of its offshore oilfield acreage, according to U.S. diplomatic cables obtained by WikiLeaks.

[U.S.: Chevron must keep pipeline closed](#)

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 9 (UPI) -- Oil giant Chevron Corp. may not reopen its troubled east-bench pipeline in Utah because it is unfit for life, property and the environment, a U.S. agency said.

"Other areas of this pipeline could experience" a leak similar to the Dec. 1 spill that spewed 500 barrels of crude oil at Red Butte Garden and Arboretum in the foothills of the Wasatch Range in Salt Lake City, the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration said.

[N.Y. Objects to Release of Multistate Fracking Rules](#)

A regional regulatory agency that oversees the Delaware River watershed issued proposed regulations on Thursday for natural gas drilling that are intended to bring some uniformity to various rules governing the controversial type of gas extraction that combines horizontal drilling with hydraulic fracturing.

[More new cars get 40 mpg, but 'cheap' gas keeps buyers away](#)

Automakers are offering more conventional cars that cross the 40-miles-per-gallon threshold in highway driving, but relatively low gas prices continue to hold off buyers.

[Feds pull high-speed rail funds from Wisconsin, Ohio](#)

(CNN) - The Obama administration is pulling back \$1.2 billion in funding for high-speed rail projects in Ohio and Wisconsin after the governors-elect in both states vowed to kill the proposed train lines.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced that he would re-direct the funds to other states, with California set to receive the largest sum.

[12 Fastest Growing Economies of 2011](#)

Not surprisingly energy continues to play a key role. We expect this trend to continue

with the advent of “peak oil” and the continuing upward trend in oil and natural gas prices. Countries like Qatar and Azerbaijan with their huge natural gas and oil reserves will continue to boom.

[Medgrid to Study Developing a Mediterranean Power Grid for Solar Energy](#)

A group of utilities, grid operators and equipment makers plans to study developing a network spanning the Mediterranean Sea to link Europe to North African solar-energy projects.

Medgrid, to based in Paris, will carry out feasibility studies during three years for a grid that may start importing electricity to Europe by 2020, it said today in a statement.

[U.S Renewable Energy And Energy Efficiency Export Initiative](#)

This week the US launched its latest salvo in the renewable energy title fight. U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke today joined seven other U.S. government agencies in launching a coordinated effort to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency exports – the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Export Initiative.

[A Primer for the Post-Carbon World](#)

"When it comes to controversial issues, population is in a class by itself. Activist working to reduce global population growth are attacked by the Left for supposedly ignoring human-rights issues or glossing over Western over-consumption. They are attacked by the Right for supposedly favoring widespread abortion and promiscuity. Others think the problem will be solved by technology.

One thing is certain: The planet and its resources are finite and it can not support an infinite population of humans or any other species. A second thing is also certain: The issue of population is too important to avoid just because it is controversial."

Thus begins a fantastic, and chilling, chapter entitled "Population: The Multiplier of Everything Else" by William Ryerson of the Population Media Center in a must-read book entitled The Post-Carbon Reader. edited by Richard Heinberg and Daniel Lerch. Heinberg is well-known for popularizing the Peak Oil concept and is Senior Fellow-in-Residence at the Post Carbon Institute.

[American Energy Policy IV: The Price of Transition](#)

Take a look at the following presentation about our energy future as seen by a very influential professor at Penn State, Dr. Frank Clemente. His vision of the future reveals the true impact of overpopulation. The study focuses mainly upon Coal and Clean Coal Technologies. It's a shock. What he says about natural gas from shale is quite a shock, too. He writes off any renewables as largely a waste of time. He sees nuclear power as a

"ship that already sailed". He doesn't say too much about oil, since Peak Oil has already happened.

[Peak oil needs to be investigated along with alternatives](#)

I find the environmental movement to be something of an enigma. On one hand, I believe that the majority of believers in global warming and smart growth are people who sincerely care about the environment, but on the other hand I'm convinced that the environmental movement has far more to do with money and politics than with the environment. Nothing represents that dichotomy of thought quite as much as the theory of peak oil.

[The Earth-Buster Sale](#)

We do this every year and it's not a bad life. But this year I do feel like singing "If You Don't Know Me By Now." Because there is – you noticed? - a dispiriting return to the corporate Christmas by many consumers. The myth of the single oil-based economy still glories in its unstoppable ads. On the international level there wasn't a leader who explained during the recession that there was an alternative to it. Obama sure didn't.

[The rebirth of the rebirth of distance](#)

Directly relevant to Rubin's express concerns is the frequently cited Death of Distance, a book by Economist editor Frances Cairncross, originally published in 1997 and revised in 2001. It initially focussed upon the impact of the telecommunications revolution.

For a while after the 2008 financial crash, it looked like Rubin's dire predictions (that the spiralling oil price would resurrect the spectre of distance by increasing the transport costs of imported goods) had been at best premature.

[Carolyn Baker: Transition: The Sacred, The Scared, And The Scarred](#)

All of this leads up to a statement by Rob that I find appalling: "I get a sense from how Michael builds his case in his article that he has drawn together all the very worst forecasts of everything and used that to underpin his case for 'Deep Transition'." Yet in just a few sentences below, Rob admits that he finds the facts regarding climate change "terrifying." He then states: "I don't think that one needs to exaggerate threats and try and terrify people into a sense of urgency. The facts are motivating enough on their own. Indeed there is lots of research showing that bombarding people with terrifying information is far more likely to lead to a Flight/Fight/Freeze response than to constructive engagement. It is rarely an effective approach to engaging people in my experience."

This reveals a reality that for me is profoundly disturbing among some members of Transition initiatives, namely, an unwillingness to deeply analyze the meaning of the word "transition."

[11 reasons for S.F. to get jolly](#)



Pat Villano's "The Peak" is part of the "Peak Oil" art show at City Hall.

[Oyster Creek Reactor to Close by 2019](#)

The Oyster Creek nuclear reactor in New Jersey will be shut down by 2019, at least 10 years before its license expires, in a deal with state environmental regulators that will allow it to operate until then without building costly cooling towers, its owner said on Wednesday.

[Toxic Soil Shows Rigors of Nuclear Cleanup](#)

RICHLAND, Wash.—Officials at the federal government's Hanford nuclear cleanup site here met Thursday to discuss the discovery of dangerously radioactive soil, in the latest example of how unexpected challenges have beset nuclear cleanup efforts nationwide.

The contamination discovered last month here in eastern Washington state under a disused research building is so radioactive it could kill on contact, said Don McBride, a radiation expert with the federal contractor cleaning up the building.

[France Suspends Solar Energy Developments for Less-Than-Expected 3 Months](#)

France suspended solar-energy projects for a less-than-expected three months as it studies potential subsidy cuts and measures to limit growth in the industry after a surge in developments.

[Age of sail boats inspires green solutions](#)

London (CNN) -- With its long hull, towering masts and expansive sails, it resembles a schooner from the 19th century. But fitted with a series of high-tech features, this so-called "sail ship" is designed to cut carbon emissions on the high seas today.

[Climate-Change Funds Shift Focus From Wind, Solar](#)

The poor performance of some sectors aiming to slow climate change is pushing money managers to cast further afield for investments that both carry green credentials and are likely to post better returns.

Some renewable-energy stocks, such as those in solar and wind industries, have fallen spectacularly in recent years, belying hopes that they were poised to break out.

[E.P.A. Delays Tougher Rules on Emissions](#)

The Obama administration is retreating on long-delayed environmental regulations — new rules governing smog and toxic emissions from industrial boilers — as it adjusts to a changed political dynamic in Washington with a more muscular Republican opposition.

[India's Call for Binding Climate Commitments Sparks Outcry](#)

India's call on all nations to agree to binding commitments to battle climate change sparked an outcry from an opposition politician and environmental group that called it a policy reversal.

[Africa: Region Urges Release to Copenhagen Pledged "Fast-Track Funds"](#)

Addis Ababa — Africa's negotiating team on climate change has called for urgent release of the \$30 billion "fast-track funds" pledged at the 2009 Copenhagen Climate Conference to help continent grapple with global warming.

[China, India hold out over cuts](#)

CANCUN, Mexico: Nations locked in climate change talks yesterday were looking to build an agreement with wriggle room but with enough momentum to carry forward the fight to reduce carbon emissions.

[Russia to pull out of Kyoto deal](#)

Russia opposes the renewal of the Kyoto protocol and will not sign an extension to the climate treaty, Russian envoy Alexander Bedritsky said on Friday.

"Russia will not participate in the second commitment period of the Kyoto protocol," he told the UN climate change conference in Cancun.

[Israeli forest fire sign of climate change: study](#)

Israel's worst-ever forest fire earlier this month confirms predictions on the impact of global warming in the Mediterranean basin, according to one of Israel's leading climate experts.

"The fire disaster in the Carmel Mountains near Haifa is a taste of the future," Guy Pe'er, co-author of Israel's National Report on Climate Change, said on Wednesday.

[Greenland Ice Sheet Flow Driven by Short-Term Weather Extremes, Not Gradual Warming, Research Reveals](#)

ScienceDaily — Sudden changes in the volume of meltwater contribute more to the acceleration -- and eventual loss -- of the Greenland ice sheet than the gradual increase of temperature, according to a University of British Columbia study.



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