



Drumbeat: December 24, 2010

Posted by [Leanan](#) on December 24, 2010 - 10:32am

[RBI stifles Iran oil imports](#)

(Reuters) - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said it will not facilitate payments for Iranian crude imports, in another blow to the Islamic Republic's oil business as global pressure on Tehran grows over its nuclear programme.

Although United Nations sanctions do not forbid buying Iranian oil, the United States has pressed hard for governments and companies to stop dealing with Tehran. Many oil majors and banks have abandoned their dealings since then.

[Hurricane Forecast Calls 2011 Potentially Worse Than 2010](#)

The forecasting team at Colorado State University (CSU) led by Phil Klotzback and Bill Gray say in their first forecast for the 2011 hurricane season that they expect it to be an above-average Atlantic basin tropical storm season along with having an above-average probability of a major hurricane landing on the U.S. coastline and in the Caribbean. The team acknowledges that for the past 19 years of issuing early December forecasts, they have yet to demonstrate real-time forecast skill. They have, on the other hand, demonstrated significant real-time forecasting skill with their early June and early August predictions.

[Consumers face double blow of higher petrol and oil prices](#)

CONSUMERS are facing a "double whammy" of increases in fuel costs.

Petrol has reached a high of 128.9p in Derby – and fuel oil costs for home heating have nearly doubled in the past month.

[Panic buyers 'causing oil delivery delays'](#)

MANY homeowners are facing delays of one to two weeks for home heating oil deliveries because people with adequate supplies are clogging up the system with unnecessary orders, it has been revealed.

Although oil reserves in Northern Ireland are plentiful, exceptionally cold weather is

causing record demand and slowing down deliveries to at least half their normal speed.

[China Energy Shortages And Their Impact On Your Business](#)

These shortages are likely to become increasingly common in China over the next five years. The issue with respect to electricity is especially acute. China derives 70% of its electricity from thermal coal power plants. This number is not expected to change substantially in the near future. China has more than enough thermal power plant generating capacity. The issue is whether China has sufficient coal to fuel those power plants.

[Nigeria: Food scarcity, soaring transport fare dampen Xmas celebrations](#)

On a recent visit to Sokoto, VF found out that farm products like tomatoes, onions, pepper and others were unusually expensive.

An attempt to unravel the cause the artificial shortage, revealed that the flooding that ravaged the state and other parts of the north recently contributed largely to the scarcity.

[Gazprom to disburse RUB 25 bln for developing RF regional gas distribution](#)

MOSCOW (Itar-Tass) -- Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller has adopted a program for the development of Russia's regional gas distribution networks in 2011, the company's official said on Friday.

"Under the document, the Russian gas monopoly will assign 25 billion roubles [USD 1 = RUB 30.57] for the development of gas-distribution networks in 65 regions of the country in 2011," the official said.

[Canadian Study Tries to Start Adult Discussion of Oil Sands](#)

Last week a peer-reviewed study conducted by a panel of experts assembled by the Royal Society of Canada attempted to set forth objectively the facts about the development of the country's oil sands resources. The report takes aim at oil companies, governments and environmental groups alike over their respective roles in the development of the Athabasca bitumen resources, and finds fault with everyone. The committee that authored the report also recommended steps to improve the environmental monitoring in this economically important industry for Canada.

[End the Ethanol Insanity: Ed Wallace](#)

Ethanol damages engines and is not a viable alternative to fossil fuels, but farmers and lobbyists don't want you to know that.

[Best of EB 2010](#)

The best of EB 2010. We tried to mix it up. You picked some. We picked some. Happy Holidays from EB.

[John Michael Greer: Twilight of the chicken tenders](#)

I have a soft spot for the current "Slow Food" movement, but the very choice of that movement's name points out that it's unlikely ever to be anything more than an affectation of the leisured well-to-do. People who work all day, whether at a job or at home, don't generally have time for slow food, and it doesn't do them any good at all to reinforce a set of assumptions that insist that the only alternative to slow food is the prefabricated industrial product that passes these days for fast food.

What's needed, really, is the revival of the sort of cooking that working class people used to do for themselves back in the days before cheap energy made the current food system possible: good food cooked in a way that doesn't place unreasonable demands on the time or energy of people who have many other things to do.

[The Dust Bowl: Lessons from the Greatest U.S. Environmental Disaster](#) (audio)

NASA research scientist Benjamin Cook explains how the Dust Bowl years of the American Midwest were not entirely a "natural disaster" and how lessons learned then prevented a sequel.

[Mexico's Pemex Crude Oil Exports Surge In November](#)

MEXICO CITY (Dow Jones)--Mexico's state-owned oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, saw its November crude oil exports reach their highest level since March of 2008.

Pemex exported an average of 1.617 million barrels a day of crude last month, compared with 1.377 million in October and 1.220 million in November of 2009. The average price was \$76.79 a barrel, up from \$74.30 in October and \$72.44 a year ago, the National Statistics Institute said in its trade report Wednesday.

[Supplies remain tight, eyes on 2011 contracts](#)

Low sulphur gas oil premiums in the Middle East held firm on the back of strong demand from East Africa, while gasoline and naphtha looked supported on persistently

tight supplies, traders said.

The market is also keeping a close eye on 2011 term contract negotiations. Saudi Aramco is among those in talks with customers for its gas oil and gasoline purchases.

The state oil giant is looking to import 1-2 cargoes of gasoline and at least four cargoes of gas oil per month next year, trade sources said.

[A Holiday Wish and a Holiday Warning for Crude Oil](#)

One can only hope that someone on Wall Street or in Washington will have a Dickensian epiphany this holiday. Failing that, I'm buying more oil calls.

[CNPC ups overseas oil production](#)

China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC) said on Thursday that its average annual growth rate of overseas crude oil production reached 15.6 percent, with gas production at 21.3 percent during the past five years.

CNPC, China's biggest oil and gas producer, said in a statement on its website that overseas oil production is more than 10 million tons a year and the total length of its overseas oil and gas pipelines is 9,600 km.

[A student interview with Derek Skees](#)

For those who argue that nuclear energy and oil drilling will damage the natural beauty and small-town feel of the Flathead, Skees responds, "The people want to get back to work, and (employment) far outweighs a small-town feel."

Furthermore, Skees prides himself in being a conservationist and not an environmentalist. In other words, Skees believes in "responsible growth." However, he's not at all concerned about the threat of finite resources.

"There is no such thing as peak oil," he says, "If the Gulf oil spill proved anything, it's that oil is not a fossil fuel — it's a naturally reoccurring process."

[T. Boone Pickens: Our Ongoing Energy Crisis](#)

One billion dollars every day.

That's how much money we're sending overseas to fund our dangerous and growing addiction to OPEC oil.

[China aims at deepening cooperation with Uganda in infrastructure, energy sectors](#)

China will continue to commit itself to assisting Uganda in developing its infrastructure and a self-sustained oil industry, said Chinese ambassador to Uganda Sun Heping in a recent interview.

"The Chinese government has attached great importance to the development of infrastructure in Africa, Uganda in particular, and made it one of the key areas of cooperation in the framework of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum," said Sun in an interview with Xinhua.

[Accountants, Texas board still at odds over Enron](#)

AUSTIN, Texas – To many in the accounting world, Carl Bass is a hero. Long before Enron became a worldwide symbol of scandal, Bass told his supervisors at Arthur Andersen LLP that something was amiss with the Houston energy giant.

But the Texas state board that licenses accountants sees Bass differently — as unfit to continue in his profession.

[Pemex Resumes Service at Repaired Oil Pipeline](#)

Petroleos Mexicanos, Latin America's largest oil producer, said it completed repairs on an oil pipeline that supplies Mexico's largest refinery following an explosion over the weekend.

Pemex, as Mexico's state-owned oil company is known, finished the work last night and started shipping crude through the 30-inch pipeline to the plant in Tula, Hidalgo, a press official, who declined to be named because of company policy, said today by telephone.

[For many Gulf oil spill victims, a glum Christmas](#)

For many people along the Gulf Coast, there won't be much holiday cheer this Christmas.

It's been more than five months since the well was finally capped after spewing millions of gallons of crude into the Gulf. Many shrimpers and oystermen are catching and selling only a fraction of previous hauls. Business owners who saw a summer of lost revenue are still struggling to pay their bills, and many had to lay off workers to make it through the slow winter months.

[Midwest farmland prices soar due to strong prices](#)

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) - Increased commodity prices and strong demand have sent prices of farmland skyrocketing, making it more difficult for young and beginning farmers to get established but strengthening the balance sheets for those who own the land.

[Pay-As-You-Go for the Environment?](#)

Pay-as-you-go (PAYG) is emerging as a winning consumption model for the environment. It does so in two ways. First, by charging for incremental use, PAYG discourages overconsumption often associated with flat rate pricing. Second, it incentivizes reduced or shared use of resources during peak periods in order to avoid excess investments in capacity that would otherwise be underutilized for much of the time.

[Laudable growth](#)

Its core business is heavy engineering work and, with projections of the increased importance that rail will come to play in post-peak oil society, it is critical that there remains here a facility to build, service and repair rolling stock.

The New Zealand economy never was, and never will be, biased towards heavy industry, but there are infrastructural elements it is critical to maintain.

[Top 10 Greentech Influencers of 2010](#)

Since influencers are what makes the greentech industry world go round, we thought we'd bring you the 10 individuals we think had the biggest effect on the greentech sector this year. Some are obvious, and some may be surprising, but here's who we thought changed the landscape for better or for worse:

[Lower your home's winter heating tab with simple steps](#)

Even simple, low-cost steps can reduce heating bills. They include changing the furnace filter (monthly in cold weather), running ceiling fans in reverse, using a programmable thermostat and putting up storm windows (or if none exist, plastic wrap).

[Cavemen burned wood](#)

While the word "biomass" once conjured up pleasant images, it is becoming increasingly clear that the promotion of this old caveman technology as "clean and green" is a colossal "greenwash" by the timber, waste and energy industries attempting to cash in on lucrative public "clean" energy subsidies.

[28 Canoes for women oyster collectors](#)

The Women's group of oyster collectors in Lamin Daranka, West Coast Region, Thursday received 28 canoes worth D364, 000 from the Adaptation to Coastal and Climate Change project (ACCC) at a ceremony held at the NEA head office along Jimpex Road, Kanifing.

Funded by the UNDP and implemented by the National Environmental Agency (NEA) the sub-regional project seeks to develop and pilot a range of effective coping mechanisms for reducing the impact of climate induced coastal erosion in vulnerable regions in the participating countries. The presentation of the canoes was in recognition, by the project, of the oyster collectors' active participation in mangrove restoration, protection and preservation.

[Nigeria: Renewable Energy, Key to Tackling Climate Change](#)

Abuja — The federal government has said that awareness on renewable energy technologies will help in tackling the challenges facing the country on climate change.

[Climate Change: The rise of a Google issue](#)

On “climate change” and “global warming”, early mentions begin in the 1970s with growth in the subject exploding in the 1990s. The latter phrase has been eclipsed by the former in recent years. But the much hyped “global cooling” discussion of the 1980s barely rates a mention when compared with the current climate warming discussion.

[Oil to revisit triple-digit prices next year: Rubin](#)

Rubin has always been a maverick, and during his time at CIBC never hesitated to tell Canada's oil and gas industry what it didn't want to hear. A Cassandra of sorts, Rubin's book, *Why Your World Is About to Get a Whole Lot Smaller*, talks about a coming age of triple-digit oil prices and how it will throw the machinery of globalization into reverse.

The Star recently sat down with the economist to find out if our world has, in fact, started to get smaller.

[Oil Rises in London as Snowstorm Returns, Inflation Spurs Commodity Demand](#)

Crude oil in London traded within 1 percent of a two-year high, as the return of snowstorms to parts of Europe buoyed expectations that fuel demand will increase.

[Gas pump prices rise above \\$3 a gallon](#)

NEW YORK — The national average for a gallon of regular gasoline topped \$3 on Thursday.

It's the first time that the average retail price has been above \$3 a gallon at Christmas. The average pump price rose about a cent and a half a gallon overnight, to \$3.01, according to AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. That's 14 cents more than a month ago and 43 cents higher than a year ago.

[Millions of holiday travelers expected](#)

Despite the high cost of car travel, auto club AAA still expects huge numbers of drivers on the road.

AAA predicts more people will travel this year compared with 2008 and 2009. AAA surveys show about 92.3 million people will travel at least 50 miles from home over the holidays. Most of them — 93% — will travel by car.

[Oil Consumers Grow Wary as Some OPEC Members Target \\$100 Crude](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Oil importers are growing wary of the impact of prices near two-year highs as some OPEC members foresee a further rally to the \$100-a-barrel level and Arab oil ministers gather for a meeting in Cairo.

[No signal from OPEC as oil nears \\$US100](#)

CAIRO - OPEC gave no signals on Friday it would supply the world with more crude, despite oil prices trading near a two-year high and with most analysts predicting a rally above \$US100 per barrel.

[Qatar oil minister says no complaints about supply](#)

(Reuters) - The oil market is very stable and Qatar has not received any complaints about supply, the country's oil minister said on Friday.

"I think so far the market is very very stable... So we don't receive complaints about supply," Minister Abdullah al-Attiyah told reporters in Cairo before a meeting of Arab oil producing countries.

[Oil May Rise From Two-Year High on Outlook for U.S. Supply, Survey Shows](#)

Oil may increase from a two-year high next week amid speculation that the U.S. Energy

Department will report inventories tumbled this week, extending the biggest monthly supply drop in four years.

Sixteen of 30 analysts, or 53 percent, forecast crude oil will rise through Dec. 31. Eight respondents, or 27 percent, predicted prices will fall and six estimated there would be little change. Last week, 53 percent of analysts forecast the market would drop.

[\\$90 Oil In a Weak Economy Is Telling Us Something – Deutsche Bank Sees Oil Spikes by 2012](#)

I'm sure you noticed that oil crossed \$90 this week. I'm sure you have also noticed that the economy in the United States and Europe is not exactly booming. I wish I could time travel back to the year 2000 so that I could tell people that 10 years later oil would be \$90 per barrel in a weak economy. I would have sounded about as sensible as someone predicting the Dow Jones at 500 or 50,000.

[Oil prices are behaving like a currency](#)

Oil has re-entered the US\$90s price range in spite of occasional strengthening of the dollar. The reasons include record- setting winter weather in the northern hemisphere, boosting demand for heating oil. What are the implications of these higher energy prices for tottering national economies this time around?

[Off The Reservation: Oil](#)

Faced with declining portfolios and the near-collapse of the entire banking system, the analysts at Morgan and Goldman basically manufactured easy, short-term gains in the market by releasing competing forecasts on oil prices that drove the market sky high—one more absurd than the next. First, Morgan Stanley announced that crude oil prices could top \$150 in 2008. Not to be outdone, Goldman countered days later that they believed it was trending closer to \$200. If either scenario was sustained for any prolonged period of time, the global economy would have come to a screeching halt. Magically, both banks backed off these prognostications when the government began to hold public hearings, and price hikes cooled down, although an argument can certainly be made that prices have still been egregiously high compared to the demand in the marketplace over the past two years.

The disquieting aspect of this fluctuation was that Morgan Stanley in particular had more than just a motive to push oil prices—they had skin in the game. As an outsider looking in, I was shocked to discover something that was fairly common knowledge in financial circles: Morgan Stanley is more than just a primary analyst and investor in this field—it is one of the largest oil-related companies in the world. Morgan has significant direct holdings in nearly every aspect of the oil industry, from refineries to shipping to stockpiles and reserves.

But wait, it gets better.

[The Last Christmas in America](#)

As unemployment rose toward 10%, the January 1975 cover of Ramparts magazine blared: *The End of Affluence: The Last Christmas in America*. (TLCIA)

The government responded quickly to unemployment, high inflation and rising budget deficits: it started manipulating data to mask the politically inconvenient realities of rising inflation, unemployment and deficits by playing switcheroo with Social Security Trust Funds, inflation data, etc.--games it continues to play to cloak reality from the media-numbed public.

[Post-Peak Oil Trends](#)

From the very first issue, our view has been that the world is running out of cheap, easily accessible oil — and that fortunes will be made trying to replace it.

A taboo topic in the days of \$30 oil, some people dismissed us as crazy. Others called us 'Peak Freaks' on national television.

But we've been vindicated — our readers, enriched — by the decline of big oil fields, the rise of cleantech, the new importance of unconventional oil, and the arrival of \$150 crude.

[New Interest in Turning Gas to Diesel](#)

WASHINGTON — Diesel and jet fuel are usually made from crude oil. But with oil prices rising even as a glut of natural gas keeps prices for that fuel extraordinarily cheap, a bit of expensive alchemy is suddenly starting to look financially appealing: turning natural gas into liquid fuels.

[Gas output in Russia's Sakhalin to exceed 25 bln cubic meters in 2011](#)

Gas production in Sakhalin in Russia's Far East will reach 25.3 billion cubic meters in 2011, 800 million more than that of this year, Governor of the territory Alexander Khoroshavin said on Friday.

Oil production in Sakhalin will amount to 14.9 million tons, a slight drop from that in 2010, he added.

[Belarus fishes for gas discount, Moscow stands firm](#)

(Reuters) - With less than one week until the New Year, Belarus has yet to let up on its demands for Russia to agree on a lower 2011 gas price, prompting both Prime Ministers

to discuss the gas contract by phone on Friday.

[Gazprom offers to cut prices 15% for Estonia, Latvia if deliveries raised](#)

Russia's gas giant Gazprom will cut prices for Estonia, Latvia in 2011 by 15% if gas deliveries there are increased to pre-crisis levels, Deputy Chairman of the Management Committee Valery Golubev said on Friday.

[New Russia oil product tax regime expected in Feb](#)

(Reuters) - Russia set to introduce new regime for oil product export duties in February 2011, news agencies quoted an Economy Ministry official as saying on Friday.

[Russia trails in petrochemical development](#)

Qatar and Russia, which both have more natural gas than they can easily sell, are seeking new uses for their biggest natural resource.

Both are intent on developing a diversified petrochemicals industry based on inexpensive feedstocks derived from natural gas.

But while Qatar, which is already the world's leading exporter of liquefied natural gas, will continue to focus on export markets, Russia will develop chemical projects to supply its growing domestic needs, predicts Colin Chapman, the president of Euro Petroleum Consultants based in London.

[Iran opposition: 'Dark future' awaits the economy](#)

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's opposition leaders said Wednesday that a "dark future" awaits the economy because the government didn't listen to economists when it slashed energy and food subsidies in a country already struggling under biting U.N. sanctions.

Former presidential candidates Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mahdi Karroubi support the government's effort to rein in subsidies but said in a rare statement posted on their websites that it is being implemented badly.

[Shell Pushes Forward To Drill Well In Arctic](#)

The Deepwater Horizon accident last April put a halt to offshore drilling — not just in the Gulf of Mexico but in Alaska, too. Despite that, Shell is pushing ahead with plans to drill an exploratory well in the Arctic Ocean, in the Beaufort Sea off the north coast of Alaska.

[South Korea May Get at Least 11 Spot LNG Cargoes, Ship-Tracking Data Show](#)

South Korea, the world's second- largest buyer of liquefied natural gas, may receive at least 11 spot cargoes of the fuel in December and January to meet demand for heating in winter, according to ship-tracking data.

[Nippon Yusen to Triple India Capesize Fleet on Demand for Coal, Iron Ore](#)

Nippon Yusen K.K., Japan's second- largest operator of dry-bulk ships, plans to more than triple its fleet of capesizes serving India because of demand for coal and iron ore in the world's fastest-growing major steel market.

[Australian, Canadian Uranium Stocks 'Undervalued' on Pent-up Global Demand](#)

Uranium stocks, already trading at higher valuations than their national benchmark indexes, will rise further amid predictions the price of the fuel may surge as much as 30 percent, investors and analysts said.

Uranium prices, which last month climbed to the highest level in more than two years amid a pickup in demand from China, will rally as the global economic recovery spurs countries in Europe and Asia to increase purchases, they said.

[China calls subsidies proper](#)

SHANGHAI — China is defending its subsidies for wind and solar power against a US complaint to the World Trade Organization that such support is unfair, saying its policies are best for fighting climate change.

Yesterday's relatively mild response probably reflects Beijing's desire to keep relations on a positive track in the weeks leading up to Chinese President Hu Jintao's state visit to the United States, which begins Jan. 19.

[China Plans End for Tax on Biofuel Made From Recycled Cooking Oil](#)

China will end the consumption tax on producing biodiesel with used edible oil, the Ministry of Finance said in a statement posted on its website today.

[BlackRock Blames Credit Crisis for Clean-Energy Fund Outflows](#)

Renewable-energy funds suffered record outflows this year, reversing their direction from 2009, as money managers including BlackRock Inc. said the credit crunch dimmed the outlook for solar and wind power projects.

[Are e-readers greener than old-fashioned books?](#)

The Sierra Club's "Mr. Green" has concluded that unless you're a fast and furious reader, the energy to manufacture and dispose of an e-reader is probably greater than that of a traditional book. If you read at least 40 books a year, the Sierra Club says, the e-reader may be greener, but if you read a lot less, stick to a regular book.

[U.S.-Mexico Pact Hailed as Key Step Toward Solving Southwest Water Supply Woes](#)

Damage from a spring earthquake in Mexico set the stage for a breakthrough last weekend in tense negotiations between the United States and its southern neighbor that some hope will usher in an era of cross-border trading of water rights in the parched Colorado River Basin.

Mexico has agreed to store some of its share of the river's water over the next three years in Nevada's depleted Lake Mead reservoir while the country repairs 398 miles of canals and pipelines damaged April 4 in the Mexicali region by the 7.2-magnitude earthquake.

Mexico's three-year water deposit -- accounting for less than 1 percent of Mead's total capacity -- will do little by itself to alleviate the critical water shortage in the southwestern United States or reverse the decadelong decline in the reservoir's water levels, analysts said.

[In a Tight Holiday Season, Some Turn to Barter](#)

Bartering, an age-old mode of commerce, has taken hold this year as the recession draws a broader spectrum of people trading everything from designer clothes to guitar lessons.

The phenomenon is rooted partly in environmental concerns about crowded landfills and the energy consumed in manufacturing as well as a mainstream embrace of recycling. Social media like Facebook lend momentum to the swaps as people join forces to trade, share or negotiate better deals from retailers.

[Bush Policy on Lands Is Reversed](#)

The Interior Department reversed a Bush-era policy on wilderness on Thursday, restoring the authority of its Bureau of Land Management to identify and recommend new areas for protection.

[E.P.A. Says It Will Press on With Greenhouse Gas Regulation](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency announced a timetable on Thursday for issuing rules limiting greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and oil refineries, signaling a resolve to press ahead on such regulation even as it faces stiffening opposition in Congress.

[EPA seizes permit power from Texas on greenhouse gas emissions](#)

WASHINGTON – The Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday that it will seize authority from Texas to regulate major emitters of greenhouse gases because Gov. Rick Perry and state regulators refused to implement the rules.

The move caps a long dispute between Texas and the EPA, which have clashed over the Obama administration's push to regulate industrial sources of carbon dioxide emissions.

[Dirty Coal, Clean Future](#)

To environmentalists, “clean coal” is an insulting oxymoron. But for now, the only way to meet the world’s energy needs, and to arrest climate change before it produces irreversible cataclysm, is to use coal—dirty, sooty, toxic coal—in more-sustainable ways. The good news is that new technologies are making this possible. China is now the leader in this area, the Google and Intel of the energy world. If we are serious about global warming, America needs to work with China to build a greener future on a foundation of coal. Otherwise, the clean-energy revolution will leave us behind, with grave costs for the world’s climate and our economy.

[Climate Lobby Sandbag Sells Carbon Permits as Christmas Gifts](#)

Sandbag, a climate lobby group, is offering people a way of supporting European Union efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by canceling permits as a Christmas gift.

[Business 'should lead' on global warming, says U.N. climate secretary](#)

(CNN) -- Private businesses are better placed than governments to tackle global warming because they can act faster, according to panelists at CNN's climate change debate.

High profile figures in the private sector and the United Nations agreed the urgency to reduce carbon emissions was such that business could not afford to wait for politicians to act.

[Would global warming be so bad?](#)

So what is there to say that the pre-industrial era climate is really the optimal climate?

That the benefits of a possible warmer climates wouldn't outweigh the disadvantages? I have asked that many times to Al Gore supporters and either gotten no answer at all, or some list of alleged (and exaggerated) disadvantages that completely overlooked the benefits.

[Expect more extreme winters thanks to global warming, say scientists](#)

Scientists have established a link between the cold, snowy winters in Britain and melting sea ice in the Arctic and have warned that long periods of freezing weather are likely to become more frequent in years to come.

An analysis of the ice-free regions of the Arctic Ocean has found that the higher temperatures there caused by global warming, which have melted the sea ice in the summer months, have paradoxically increased the chances of colder winters in Britain and the rest of northern Europe.

[Climate Change and 'Balanced' Coverage](#)

The true worst case from doubled carbon dioxide is closer to 18 or 20 degrees of warming, Dr. Alley said — an addition of heat so radical that it would render the planet unrecognizable to its present-day inhabitants.

Dr. Alley calls the usual news media presentation of the issue a form of “false balance.” In his view, mainstream climate science should be seen as coming down on the conservative side of a range of numbers that runs from 2 degrees to 20 degrees. And in setting public policy, he said, lawmakers need to entertain the possibility that any of these numbers is correct.



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