



Drumbeat: January 19, 2011

Posted by [Leanan](#) on January 19, 2011 - 10:12am

[The Peak Oil Crisis: It's Not Adding Up!](#)

The official bottom line is that IEA's conservative estimate says the world will be consuming 89.1 million b/d this year, while currently producing 88.1. There are only two places the extra oil can come from if we are not to have another damaging and demand killing price spike. Either we draw down global stockpiles or the Saudis increase production. Presently both of these phenomena are underway - OECD stocks fell by 8 million barrels in November and another 33 million in December, not to mention a substantial fall in unofficial floating storage held by speculators. Without fanfare, the Saudis seem to be slowly ramping up production - at least for now.

There are two obvious holes in this rosey scenario that has oil creeping past \$100 a barrel this year (It is currently only a couple of dollars away), but not so high as to stunt global growth. First, the problem is whether demand growth this year will be constrained to only a 1.4 million b/d increase vs. the 2.2-2.7 million b/d increase we witnessed last year and near-universal estimates of economic recovery. The other is whether the Saudis really are able or willing to push up production by a million or more b/d to keep prices under control.

[Emerging economies will lead energy growth, says BP](#)

Emerging economies such as Brazil, India, China and Russia will dominate the growth in world energy consumption over the next 20 years, according to BP.

The oil firm has published its first ever forward-looking analysis of world energy trends - BP Energy Outlook 2030 - in which its base case scenario indicates that primary energy use will grow by nearly 40 per cent over the next two decades.

[\\$100 Oil to Play Spoil Sport?](#)

IEA's report has put pressure on the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries ("OPEC"), the oil producers' cartel - an intergovernmental organization that supplies around 40% of the world's crude - to lift its production ceiling and increase supply to tackle the galloping growth in oil demand, or risk high prices that could spoil the economic recovery.

[Energy intensity is converging across the world](#)



THE energy required to produce a unit of GDP is falling in most countries around the world.

[Record Oil, Gas Prices Loom as Financial Reform Fails](#)

NEW YORK (TheStreet -- The final dam to stopping \$150-a-barrel oil and \$4-a-gallon gas is being breached, as financial regulation continues its daily erosion into worthlessness.

[Rosneft say BP can book Arctic reserves](#)

Russia's largest oil producer Rosneft said UK supermajor BP will be able to book reserves in the companies' joint venture to drill for oil in Russia's Arctic Kara Sea.

[Inquiry after North Sea platform production shut down](#)

Shell has said it has no imminent plans to resume operations on its four Brent platforms after an incident in the North Sea.

[Swiss tighten economic sanctions on Iran](#)

GENEVA — Switzerland on Wednesday tightened economic sanctions on Iran, including restrictions on finance for the oil and gas industry, to bring them into line with those imposed by some other major economies.

The Swiss government announced after a cabinet meeting that it had decided to move beyond UN sanctions adopted by the UN Security Council last June.

[Jordan, Russia want Palestinian state, sign oil deal](#)

Amman - The leaders of Jordan and Russia on Wednesday vowed to work together to achieve an independent Palestinian state and boosted cooperation in the energy sector.

'I have told my Palestinian friends that the eventual target will be the establishment of a modern, unified and sovereign state with East Jerusalem as its capital,' Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said in remarks before starting talks with King Abdullah II.

[Geothermal energy: All the benefits of nuclear - but none of the problems](#)

By mass, 99.9% of the Earth is hotter than 100C. That means that not far below our feet is the power to boil unlimited water and generate clean, renewable energy. Is the UK throwing all it can at this extraordinary opportunity? Of course not, who do you think we are? Germans?

[Top 10 small-scale renewable energy innovators](#)

From high-rise plant factories to solar rubbish dumps, here is the pick of small companies at the World Future Energy conference.

[ExxonMobil warns carbon emissions will rise by 25% in 20 years](#)

ExxonMobil, the world's largest oil company, expects global carbon emissions to rise by nearly 25% in the next 20 years, in effect dismissing hopes that runaway climate change can be arrested and massive loss of life prevented.

[Nicole Foss: We Need Freedom of Action To Confront Peak Oil](#)

In the third video in the series "Peak Oil and a Changing Climate" from *The Nation* and On The Earth productions, co-editor of *The Automatic Earth*, Nicole M. Foss, explains how energy relates to the economy and what our impending energy crisis will look like. Foss discusses the issues associated with peak oil in financial rather than environmental terms, because she finds that peak oil has much more to do with finance than it does with climate change.

[Saudi boosted oil output to cool rally: International Energy Agency](#)

LONDON - The International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Tuesday that OPEC leader Saudi Arabia had stealthily boosted output to cool an oil price rally, while OPEC accused the agency of providing inconsistent oil price views.

Tensions between oil exporter group OPEC and the agency, representing industrialised consumers, have risen as Western countries put pressure on the Saudis and their allies, the only producing nations with spare capacity, to meet unexpectedly robust demand that has driven crude up near \$100 a barrel.

[Brazil Oil Fields May Hold More Than Twice Estimated Reserves](#)

Brazilian oil deposits below a layer of salt in the Atlantic Ocean hold at least 123 billion barrels of reserves, more than double government estimates, according to a university study by a former Petroleo Brasileiro SA geologist.

The research, which set out to show government figures were overly optimistic, found they underestimated the area's potential, said Hernani Chaves, a professor at the Rio de Janeiro State University who worked at Petrobras for 35 years. The forecast, which the study puts at a 90 percent probability, compares with 50 billion barrels estimated by Brazil's oil regulator, known as ANP.

[Coal to rival oil by 2030, BRIC key to growth - BP](#)

LONDON (Reuters) - China, India, Russia and Brazil will dominate energy demand growth in the next 20 years, which will see non-fossil fuels grow fast and energy output from coal almost matching oil, energy major BP said on Wednesday.

"Non-OECD Asia will account for nearly two-thirds of non-OECD consumption growth over the next 20 years and more than three-quarters of the net global increase, rising by nearly 13 million barrels a day," BP's chief economist Christopher Ruhl said in a statement.

[Chinese Power Capacity Advances 10% as Consumption Climbs, Xinhua Reports](#)

Installed capacity climbed to 962,190 megawatts in 2010, the news agency reported, citing data from the China Electricity Council. Thermal power capacity accounted for 706,630 megawatts last year, or 73 percent of the total, Xinhua said.

[Jeff Rubin: How sustainable is growth with triple-digit oil?](#)

With oil prices within spitting distance of triple-digit levels, it may be time to reconsider just how long this recovery will run.

The fact that we're seeing oil at triple-digit prices in this cycle should come as no surprise. After all, that's where oil prices ended up last cycle before deep-sixing the global economy. But to see triple-digit prices again this early into what by all historical standards has been a painfully slow global recovery must be disconcerting to a world economy never hungrier for growth.

[Commodities Boom Signals Growth as U.S. Companies Benefit](#)

U.S. investors should welcome, not fear, climbing commodity prices.

The increases are "largely a reflection of the fact that the pace of economic growth, particularly in the U.S., has picked up," said Nariman Behraves, chief economist at consultants IHS in Lexington, Massachusetts, and a former Federal Reserve official who has been covering the global economy for more than 35 years. "It's not something to be worried about."

[Afghan fuel shortage spreads to Kabul](#)

Iran's month-old blockade has brought higher prices and shorter tempers, along with resentment toward NATO forces, which Afghans blame for Tehran's decision to restrict supplies.

[Why a political tremor in Africa can be felt in Europe](#)

Revolution in a small African country with not many resources. An undramatic headline, but the weekend's momentous events in Tunisia will be watched carefully in capitals from Doha to Moscow and Brussels, not least for their potential impact on European energy supplies.

[... And they all fall down](#)

A new year begins now in earnest, with the dotards who run the crumbling monarchies of the Middle East all quaking in their Gucci shoes as one of their brethren gets the ritual, abrupt boot that has been a hallmark of regime change in the region for over three generations.

Not entirely without logic, the geriatric rulers looking at Tunisia recall the first steps of the downfall of the communist regimes that began in 1989 with an epochal tearing down of the Berlin Wall

[Rosneft sees more Arctic technology tie-ups in Russia](#)

(Reuters) - Russia's largest oil firm, Rosneft, expects many future Arctic oil projects to require technology partnerships similar to the firm's recent tie-up with BP, Rosneft's vice president said on Monday.

[Russian oil tsar Sechin goes global with BP deal](#)

(Reuters) - BP's \$16 billion share swap with state-controlled Rosneft means energy tsar Igor Sechin has delivered on one of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's boldest dreams: taking Russia's national champions global.

[UK says BP-Rosneft tie commercial, not political](#)

(Reuters) - Britain said a the share swap and Arctic exploration deal struck between British oil major BP and Russia's Rosneft was commercial and there had been no political involvement by the government.

[Indonesia eyes \\$23.78bn oil revenue](#)

The Indonesian government expects 215.34 trillion rupiah (\$23.78 billion) in revenue from the oil and gas sector this year based on an average price of \$80 per barrel, data from the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry showed today.

[Qatar replaces long-serving energy minister](#)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates - Qatar's ruler replaced the OPEC member nation's longtime energy minister in an unexpected cabinet shuffle Tuesday, state media reported.

[Energy Prices Will Be Much Higher in 2011](#)

MidasLetter.com – Rather unanimously, much like calls for higher gold, oil's forecasters are calling for a return to oil over \$100 a barrel. No surprise, really, considering the proliferation of automobiles in the BRIC countries, as growth in that sector averages from 8.5 to above 10%, and is expected to continue in that mode throughout 2011. While the whole "Peak Oil" concept dies a quiet death amid vast new discoveries and technologies, shale oils have added decades to the global supply of oil and gas. Their rather expensive extraction technologies however, demand a higher price for oil, and the market thus cooperates.

[Graph Shows Influence of Gasoline Price on Miles Driven in the U.S.](#)

So what are the takeaways here? The obvious one is it takes a *lot* to make Americans drive less, and it's not just that each driver drives more over time, but also that there are more drivers on the road as population increases

[Idaho official signs off on megaloads permits](#)

BOISE, Idaho - Idaho Transportation Director Brian Ness has agreed to issue travel permits that would allow oil giant ConocoPhillips to begin hauling as early as next week large oil refinery machinery along a winding and scenic stretch of U.S. Highway 12.

[Energy giants' profits continue to soar](#)

Gas and electricity companies are making even more money out of consumers than they were three months ago, Ofgem's chief executive, Alistair Buchanan revealed yesterday.

When Ofgem announced an inquiry into the power industry in November, margins for the six biggest suppliers had risen by 37 per cent from £65 to £90 a year but following two more price rises those margins had soared by 49 per cent to £97, he told MPs.

[Offshore Industry: Waiting for Godot; Will He Ever Come?](#)

The offshore oil and gas and oilfield service industries appear to be playing the roles of Vladimir and Estragon, the two lead characters in Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. The play deals with two days in the lives of these gentlemen who are awaiting the arrival of an acquaintance who they admit they hardly know and probably might not recognize when he arrives. Godot never does come, which forces the two men to fill their waiting time. While waiting they eat, sleep, talk, argue, sing, play games, exercise, swap hats, and contemplate suicide – anything "to hold the terrible silence at bay." It sure sounds like the actions of the domestic offshore industry both during and after the offshore deepwater drilling moratorium.

[Noble moves Mexico rigs to US Gulf as work stalls](#)

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Noble Corp, the world's second-largest offshore drilling contractor by fleet size, is moving five shallow-water rigs to the U.S. Gulf of Mexico from the waters off Mexico after work dried up there.

[Snohvit back in business](#)

Norway's Statoil said today the Snohvit gas field in the Barents Sea and its onshore LNG processing facility were back to full production after almost a month of downtime for repairs.

[Iraq to pay expenses for Kurdish players](#)

The Iraqi Oil Ministry has agreed with its Kurdish counterpart to pay exploration costs and expenses to the foreign companies working in the northern Kurdish region, a spokesman for Iraq's Oil Ministry said today.

[Fracking Study Reviewers Represent Academia; No Industry Employees](#)

A panel of geologists, toxicologists, engineers and doctors that will peer-review a high-profile Environmental Protection Agency study of hydraulic fracturing will include six scientists from Pennsylvania, more than any other state.

[Gasland: A review](#)

Fox's personal style and his knack for storytelling help keep the film moving, although the focus on his personal journey makes it difficult to evaluate the various claims made against shale gas drilling – especially fracking – and put them together into a coherent picture.

And that is where the film falters. By failing to evaluate the claims of his interviewees more carefully, he has left himself open to the kind of takedown carried out by Energy In Depth, the oil and gas lobbyists, last year.

[Gazprom to buy more Central Asian gas in '11](#)

(Reuters) - Russia's state-owned energy giant Gazprom will increase gas purchases from Central Asian countries by 2 percent this year to 38.8 billion cubic metres (bcm), the firm said in a statement on Wednesday.

['Significant' China, Saskatchewan Energy Deal in The Works -Official](#)

A "significant" energy deal is in the works between China and the Saskatchewan province of Canada, the managing director of Saskatchewan's trade and investment representative office in Shanghai said Wednesday.

[Sinopec teams up with Enbridge for Northern Gateway pipeline](#)

BEIJING — Sinopec Corp., China's second-largest energy company, has struck a partnership with Enbridge Inc. on the Canadian company's proposed \$5.5-billion Northern Gateway pipeline — a controversial project now under regulatory review.

[China's power plan may mean copper imports -Aurubis](#)

HAMBURG (Reuters) - China's plan to modernise its electricity transmission network may stimulate more copper imports and raise Chinese copper prices, Aurubis, Europe's biggest copper smelter, said on Wednesday.

[Pakistan president seeks investment in clean energy](#)

Pakistan must more than double its economic growth rate and invest in sustainable energy to improve its citizens' standards of living, says the country's president.

"We are an example of the world's energy crisis," Asif Ali Zardari told an international audience at Abu Dhabi's World Future Energy Summit yesterday. "We face drought, we face massive food shortages and potential starvation."

[Population swells by 24pc in 10 years](#)

LAHORE: Pakistan retained its position as the world's sixth most populous country during the last decade. There had been 24% increase in the population during the last 10 years, says a research conducted by the Development Reporting Cell with regard to the increase of population.

[Sasol Abandons \\$10 Billion Indonesian Coal-to-Fuels Plan, Focuses on Gas](#)

Sasol Ltd., the largest producer of motor fuels from coal, abandoned a plan to build a \$10 billion coal-to-fuels plant in Indonesia to focus on opportunities in the gas-to-fuels industry.

[Subsidizing Ethanol Is Bad Policy](#)

The federal policy of trying to reduce energy dependence through the use of ethanol runs counter to free-market economics. Increasing the use of ethanol will not reduce dependence upon foreign energy sources, according to a research paper published by the National Academy of Science, which concluded this about ethanol: "Neither can [it] replace much petroleum without impacting food supplies."

[Corn Advances to 30-Month High, Wheat Gains on Outlook for Smaller Stocks](#)

Corn rose for a fifth day to a 30-month high in Chicago and wheat climbed amid shrinking global stockpiles. Soybeans advanced on speculation that a strengthening yuan may spur imports into China.

[Solar Energy Competitive With Oil in Persian Gulf, New Energy Finance Says](#)

Solar energy may be more attractive than oil-fueled power plants in the Middle East, suggesting governments should encourage sun power and preserve petroleum for export, Bloomberg New Energy Finance said.

[Masdar chief: energy field needs competition](#)

ABU DHABI // Governments must encourage competition in the energy field as well as develop policies to further adopt clean technologies, said Dr Sultan al Jaber, chief executive of Masdar, today.

"Competition drives innovation," he said during the opening of the World Future Energy Summit. "We must catalyse the implementation and develop the required regulatory framework that encourages the use of clean energy technologies."

[France hopes for UAE nuclear deals](#)

France is seeking fresh nuclear energy contracts in the UAE after losing out on a bid to build the country's first reactors.

"If they have other plans we will obviously bid," said Pierre Lellouche, the French foreign trade minister. "There's plenty of room, it seems, for dozens of French firms."

[German Next-Day Power Price Rises to Two-Week High as Windmills Subside](#)

German power for next-day delivery advanced to its highest price in two weeks as forecasts showed production from wind may decline and temperatures may drop.

[The New Light Bulbs Lose a Little Shine](#)

California's utilities are spending \$548 million over seven years to subsidize consumer purchases of compact fluorescent lamps. But the benefits are turning out to be less than expected.

One reason is bulbs have gotten so cheap that Californians buy more than they need and sock them away for future use. Another reason is the bulbs are burning out faster than expected.

[TfL says journeys double on two pilot Barclays Cycle Superhighways](#)

Transport for London (TfL) has revealed that the number of journeys made on the first

two Barclays Cycle Superhighways has doubled on some stretches of the routes during rush hour.

[Path to greener Loop may be down energy-smarter road](#)

Architecture buffs typically look at the Loop through an aesthetic lens — Art Deco towers, steel-and-glass high-rises, and so on. But Smith and Gill instead view the Loop through the prism of energy.

[BP Says Not Enough Climate Progress in UN Talks to Stabilize Emissions](#)

BP Plc said there's not enough progress in climate-change goals to stabilise emissions, according to the company's Energy Outlook 2030 report.

[In Ventura, a retreat in the face of a rising sea](#)

Higher ocean levels force Ventura officials to move facilities inland, an action that is expected to recur along the coast as the ocean rises over the next century.

[Brits Ponder Fuel Rationing](#)

The last time the British government instituted a substantial rationing program was 1940—the Nazis had spread out across Europe and the continent was mobilizing for all-out war. The rationing program, which lasted until 1954, had a profound effect on the collective consciousness of the British public, and is largely remembered not as a time of deprivation but of plucky courage, solidarity and fortitude in the face of a dangerous adversary. So could rationing work again?

Today I attended the launch of a report commissioned by the British parliament that called for the rationing of fuel to help meet the government's carbon emission targets and prepare for future fossil fuel scarcity. The report called for an electronic trading system for energy quotas. Such a system is a long way from becoming law, but it raises an interesting debate about how to mobilize a population around the the fight to slow climate change.

[British lawmakers propose energy rationing](#)

A group of MPs have suggested that the UK should introduce a system of energy rationing to deal with what they view as impending energy and climate crises.

[Quotas 'would tackle fuel poverty'](#)

A system of energy rationing is needed to tackle fuel poverty and ensure cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, a report commissioned by a group of MPs has said.

Under the tradable energy quotas (TEQs) scheme, all adults would receive an equal free allocation of units of energy credit, which would be redeemed every time they bought gas and electricity or petrol for cars.

[With Fuel Rationing On The Way, Can IT Help?](#)

Personal energy quotas could be a wake-up call... and an opportunity for IT companies to help with a global challenge.

[Oil rises to near \\$92 a barrel in Asia](#)

BANGKOK – Oil prices rose to near \$92 a barrel Wednesday in Asia, underpinned by a rise in regional stock markets and increases to demand forecasts for this year.

[Crude Oil Supply Drops in Survey on U.S. Pipeline Shutdown](#)

U.S. crude supplies probably fell for a seventh week on the shutdown of the Trans Alaska pipeline and as a premium for Brent oil from the North Sea drew cargoes to Europe, a Bloomberg News survey showed.

Inventories dropped 1 million barrels, or 0.3 percent, in the seven days ended Jan. 14 from 333.1 million a week earlier, according to the median of 15 analyst estimates before an Energy Department report tomorrow. Nine of the respondents forecast a decrease and six projected a gain.

[Barclays Forecasts U.S. Natural Gas Prices Will Remain Around \\$4 This Year](#)

U.S. natural gas prices may remain at about \$4 per million British thermal units in 2011, according to Barclays Capital.

While gas may slide to as low as \$2 per million Btu in the short term, “concerted demand and supply reactions would restore prices” to near \$4, Barclays said in a research note dated yesterday. Power plants may substitute coal with gas as the fuel turns cheaper, arresting the slide.

[PetroChina Refinery Explosion Injures 30, Fire Under Control, Xinhua Says](#)

More than 30 people were hurt following an explosion at PetroChina Co.’s Fushun refining complex in northwestern Liaoning province, the official Xinhua News Agency

said, without citing anyone. No deaths were reported.

[India oil depot fire lights up Mumbai skies](#)

MUMBAI, India - An official says a major fire has burned nearly 10,500 gallons (40,000 liters) of lubricant oil at a depot of state-owned Indian Oil Corporation in western India.

[Natural gas leak reported at offshore platform](#)

LAKE CHARLES, La. - A natural gas leak has forced the evacuation of an offshore platform in the Gulf of Mexico, and an undersea robot is being used to investigate the source.

[Transneft Says Foreigners Tried to Derail Putin's Asian Oil Link Network](#)

Foreign states tried to derail Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's project to build a network of oil links to supply Asian markets with Siberian crude, national pipeline operator OAO Transneft said.

[Occidental wins Abu Dhabi's Shah gas project – sources](#)

Occidental Petroleum has been awarded a contract to develop Abu Dhabi National Oil Company's (ADNOC) Shah gas project, in a deal expected to be worth \$10bn.

"ADNOC has awarded the Shah gas field to Oxy," said an ADNOC source in Abu Dhabi.

[China to be biggest oil consumer by 2030](#)

Just when you thought you'd heard all the impressive predictions about China in the coming years, BP comes out with another.

In a report released on Wednesday, the energy giant claims that China will be the largest source of oil consumption growth over the next 20 years – increasing consumption to 17.5m barrels per day – overtaking the US as the world's biggest oil consumer in the process.

[Norway steps up Iran sanctions](#)

The Norwegian government today announced more stringent sanctions against Iran that will hit the Middle East country's oil and gas sector.

[Security added at Gulf oil spill claims meetings](#)

ORANGE BEACH, Ala. – The shooting of a congresswoman and rising tempers along the Gulf Coast have prompted increased security for meetings between BP's oil spill claims czar and residents seeking compensation.

[Crude Oil Poised for Significant Breakout: Ways to Play](#)

Crude oil prices seem poised for a significant breakout in 2011. Here's why.

Global production of crude oil and condensate has now reached the levels of production seen in 2005 and 2008, just shy of 74 million barrels per day (mbpd) on a twelve month rolling average of production (Source: (EIA)). Six years of frenzied drilling and elevated prices have not yet produced the additional barrels needed by a growing global economy. Prices remain high despite significant unemployment in the OECD and anemic economic growth.

[Why Don't High Oil Prices Reduce Demand, Why Don't Big Demand Drops Reduce Prices?](#)

Why haven't high oil prices reduce demand? In simple terms we appear to be in a period of price inelastic oil demand. According to interesting research by Stuart Staniford "In the post 2004 interval, large price increases are required to produce more oil. I christened this the "era of inelastic oil" (in search of a less loaded term than "peak oil", as well as one that is less empirically disputable)."

[Where are the "peak oil" alarmists?](#)

Where are the "peak oil" alarmists when we need them to spice up the news of rising gasoline prices? Have they all gone into hiding?

Gas prices in Colorado are about to crack \$3 a gallon again and possibly stay there for some time. Isn't the moment ripe for doomsayers to emerge, blaming this market fluctuation on America's fossil fuel "addiction" and the depletion of world petroleum supplies?

[Peak Prices Or Production Peak? Ominous Signs For Oil At The Start Of 2011](#)

Ominous signs were there right at the beginning of the year. On January the 3rd, it was reported that the world price of crude oil had reached its highest level in two years. The price of a barrel of Brent oil was stated to be 94.84 Dollars. This, energy analysts were quick to point out, represented a more than two hundred percent increase over the price of crude at the beginning of last year.

[Inflation soars as commodity price surge hits the high street](#)

Inflation has jumped to a two-year high, ahead of City expectations and adding to pressure on the Bank of England to raise interest rates, as food price inflation rises to levels even higher than those seen in the Great Inflation of the 1970s. Pensioners and savers are being hardest hit.

[Food shortages across Northern Rivers](#)

IF you faced the shock of going to the supermarket this week and finding there wasn't any fresh produce to buy, you weren't alone, with reports of stock shortages across the Northern Rivers because of floods to the north and south.

[2011's most fuel-efficient cars? Not just hybrids, electrics](#)

This year promises huge leaps in fuel-sipping (even zero-fuel) vehicles as electric cars like the Nissan Leaf and Chevy Volt enter the U.S. market. Car companies, prodded by U.S. requirements to boost overall fuel efficiency, are turning out an array of cars getting at least 30 miles per gallon, including SUVs and a station wagon.

[Retail outlets adding electric car charging stations](#)

Retail stores around the USA are installing charging stations for electric vehicles to serve owners of an emerging fleet of electric cars, bikes and scooters.

"There weren't any retail charging stations in the Reno market so it was a chance to become a leader," says Steve Reimer, 53, who opened an Einstein Bros. bagel shop here in December and installed Reno's first such charging station. "It just seems like the right thing to do from an environmental standpoint."

[A Reality Check on the Plug-In Revolution](#)

What's really needed if we are to turn the Plug-In Revolution into the main event, instead of a colorful but distracting sideshow?

[Tysons Corner project wedges Silver Line metro amid traffic](#)

A Virginia suburb of Washington, D.C., is undergoing the largest reshaping of a dense suburban landscape in the USA — with minimal disruption, say engineers and urban planning experts.

The work will extend Washington's subway system to Dulles International Airport and, planners hope, turn Tysons Corner, a maze of office buildings, shopping malls and

parking lots, into a walkable neighborhood.

[City dwellers are 'greener'](#)

People who live in the biggest cities are most likely to recycle, volunteer for environmental organizations and participate in other "green" behaviors, found a new study, which surveyed urban dwellers in a variety of Chinese cities.

[Grassroots group sees future in seeds](#)

JOSHUA TREE — On the eve of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, nearly 100 Hi-Desert residents planted the seeds of a local revolution, both within and beyond the confines of the small United Methodist Church hall they met in.

“Seeds in the Sand: How to Grow Organic Food in the Desert,” was the third public meeting and potluck held by Transition Joshua Tree, a burgeoning grassroots organization that tackles issues such as peak oil, climate change and economic crisis on a community level, by building local working groups.

[When you're dying for a lower carbon footprint](#)

From dust we are, and to dust we shall return — by burial, cremation or emulsification.

As some Americans push ever harder to leave a smaller carbon footprint on the environment, the funeral industry is taking a new step to help us go even more gently into that good night. Instead of a traditional burial, which takes up space six feet underground, or cremation, which uses a surprising amount of energy, the dead can now be dissolved.

[Kalamazoo writer Kurt Cobb is to present novel on "peak oil" this week](#)

KALAMAZOO — What happens when all the Earth's known oil reserves have been extracted?

Some fear that the ongoing demand for the precious natural resource will drive the world to the point of social, economic and environmental collapse.

After years of research, local writer Kurt Cobb puts the discussion of “peak oil” in novel form. Peak oil is the term given to the point in time when the maximum rate of global petroleum extraction is reached. Cobb's novel, “Prelude,” is the story of a young energy analyst named Cassie Young, who questions her Washington, D.C., firm's stance on world oil supplies and becomes involved in a secretive, treacherous world of big business and the arrival of peak oil.

[Deep Green: What the Greens got right](#)

Peak oil: Ecologists and geologists have warned about oil depletion for decades. Geophysicist M. King Hubbert described the phenomenon in 1956. He was largely ignored. Global peak oil per capita occurred in 1979 and we have now arrived at the absolute peak - just as predicted.

Net Energy: Oil depletion and society's oil addiction drives us toward lower-grade reserves, such as tar sands, with a low net energy, costing more energy to retrieve, returning less to society and emitting more CO₂ pollution. Researchers such as Charles Hall at the State University of New York warned society about this in the 1970s.

[Pushing the Energy Envelope With China](#)

At a joint forum, officials say the two nations could work together in areas like energy efficiency and carbon capture.

[BP hydrogen plant awaits Abu Dhabi's 'endorsement'](#)

ABU DHABI (AFP) – A joint venture between BP and Abu Dhabi's Masdar to build a \$2.2 billion hydrogen power plant has been delayed as it still awaits government "endorsement," a BP statement said Tuesday.

[Special Report: Is a solar trade war about to flare?](#)

Now there's a different foreign presence in Finow. When the first solar modules arrived for installation they came not from a local manufacturer -- German solar company Conergy runs a factory just 45 minutes away in Frankfurt an der Oder, for instance -- but from China's Suntech Power Holdings, now the world's largest maker of photovoltaic (PV) solar modules. "We were quite surprised when the trucks brought Chinese modules, and not German ones," Kobbe says. "But they were probably cheaper." Solarhybrid, which spearheaded construction of the park, says reductions in Germany's renewable subsidies meant it had to use Suntech modules to stay competitive.

[Conservation group sues to stop California solar plant](#)

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) – A U.S. conservation group has sued the federal government over its approval of a major solar power plant in the California desert, the latest in a string of challenges to the nation's renewable energy goals from the environmental community.

[EDF's Solar 'Time Bomb' Will Tick On After France Pops Renewables Bubble](#)

France's solar power boom that's led to farmers building unneeded barns just to cover them in panels is costing Electricite de France SA more than a billion euros (\$1.3 billion) a year as it meets state pledges to pay above- market prices for renewable energy.

[Danes pin hopes on wind farms](#)

The Danish wind turbine maker Vestas Wind Systems has not given up on the long-term future of wind power despite a disastrous third quarter last year in which the company closed five Scandinavian factories, cut 3,000 staff and lost €104 million (Dh509m) before tax.

[For Devotees of Wind Power, a New Product Label](#)

The label would guarantee that a product was manufactured with some wind power.

[Climate Change Not All Bad For Some Nations: Report](#)

The United States, China, Ethiopia and some northern European countries are among those that are expected to be able to grow more crops as a result of temperature changes and rainfall, according to a study released Tuesday.

However, the gains in those countries would not be nearly enough to stave off an inevitable increase in world starvation and price spikes for food as a result of shortfall in three out of four main cereal crops, the study said.

[Online news service promotes false climate change study](#)

An online news service sponsored by the world's premier scientific association unwittingly promoted a study making the false claim that catastrophic global warming would occur within nine years, the Guardian has learned.

[Five EU states shut CO2 registries](#)

(Reuters) - The Czech Republic, Greece, Estonia and Poland closed their carbon trading accounts on Wednesday, after Austria closed its registry on Tuesday, according to national registries and the European Commission.

[WWF-Canada Report Shows High Cost of Carbon to Investors](#)

TORONTO, ONTARIO--(Marketwire - Jan. 19, 2011) - Today, WWF-Canada released a ground-breaking report highlighting climate change as a new risk for institutional

investors, and providing insights in carbon risk assessment of an investment portfolio. The report *Carbon Counts: Assessing the Carbon Exposure of Canadian Institutional Investment Portfolios* was prepared for WWF-Canada by Mercer and Trucost to identify the carbon exposure of Canadian institutional pooled investment products.

[Insurance Industry Worries about Growing Risks from Climate Change](#)

Insurers are struggling to assess the risks from climate change, industry officials say, with the floods in Australia and Brazil highlighting the potential losses from greater extremes of weather.

Scientists say a warmer world will cause more intense drought, floods, cyclones as well as rising sea levels and the insurance industry says the number of weather-related disasters has already soared over the past several decades.



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