



Drumbeat: April 27, 2011

Posted by [Leanan](#) on April 27, 2011 - 8:55am

[The Peak Oil Crisis: Dimming of the Globe](#)

Late last month a newly enhanced web site, www.energyshortage.org, dedicated to collecting articles concerning energy shortages around the world reappeared on the web after an absence of some months. The stories deal with coal, electricity and natural gas shortages as well as oil. In the course of the past month the web site has located and linked to nearly 200 stories that deal with some aspect of the developing global energy shortage. Most of these stories come from local paper and taken together paint a distressing picture of looming societal breakdown in many parts of the world that is not as yet generally appreciated by the public.

Most of the problems reported on deal with electricity shortages - which in several countries have deteriorated to the point where economies are threatened with collapse. In South Asia - Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and later in India - a combination of too many people, hydro-power reducing droughts, depleting fossil fuel reserves and inadequate investment in infrastructure raises the possibility that many urban areas may soon be uninhabitable.

[Oil up slightly after Bernanke comments on economy](#)

Oil settled slightly higher Wednesday after Fed chairman Ben Bernanke said the nation's economy will continue to recover, and gas prices will level off or drop.

Benchmark crude for June delivery rose 55 cents to settle at \$112.76 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. In London, Brent crude rose 99 cents to settle at \$125.13 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

[Chicago: City of the big gas prices](#)

NEW YORK (CNNMoney) -- Chicago is not your kind of town when you pull into a local gas station.

Drivers in Chicago pay more for gas than they do in any other major metropolis in the continental United States. Analysts say that's due largely to a perfect storm of federal, state and local taxes.

[US traders use river transport to profit from oil glut](#)

Barges laden with crude are set to make their way to the oil-rich Gulf of Mexico in the latest sign of how price anomalies have reconfigured energy markets.

Petro Source Terminals, a storage tank operator, plans to start filling vessels with crude oil at the river port of Catoosa, Oklahoma, to sell to refiners in Louisiana, hundreds of miles downstream.

[Stuart Staniford: Gross World Product Will Not Grow at 4%+ for Five Years](#)

This requires the world come up with another 17mbd of supply in the next five years, though it only managed to come up with about 3-4mbd over the last five years, and that took a quadrupling of prices to achieve. I don't see where this much oil can possibly come from. Saudi Arabia is saying they aren't going to increase production much if at all in the next five years. Russia is pretty much plateaued. The US is long past peak, and will be lucky to avoid further declines. Iraq is the one hope for truly large increases in oil supply, but that increase has just barely started, and is not going to amount to more than a few mbd over the next five years.

[Employers unlikely to help with rising gas prices this time around](#)

As gas prices surpass \$4 per gallon in many cities across the country, employers who, in the past, helped workers cope with higher commuting costs through shorter work weeks, increased telecommuting and transportation subsidies, may not be as willing or able to offer much assistance this time around, according to one workplace expert.

"Circumstances have changed significantly from early 2008, which was the last time we experienced such a dramatic spike in fuel prices," said John A. Challenger, chief executive officer of global outplacement consultancy Challenger, Gray & Christmas Inc. "Companies are focused primarily on rebuilding efforts as they struggle out of the worst recession in decades and, right now in this job market, they have the upper hand and do not have to offer extra incentives to attract or retain workers."

[Saudi Aramco plans \\$125 billion spending spree](#)

SEOUL // Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil exporter, will spend about \$125 billion (Dh459bn) on projects over the next five years as it seeks to increase refining capacity by 50 per cent, Chief Executive Officer Khalid al-Falih said.

The company wants to boost oil-processing capacity to 6 million barrels a day from the current 4m barrels, Mr al-Falih said in a speech in Seoul today. Aramco is building two plants in the kingdom and is considering a further four "grassroots" facilities, he said. That includes one refinery at Jaizan in Saudi Arabia and possible joint-venture projects in China, Vietnam and Indonesia, he said.

[Saudi Arabia detains bloggers over protest - activists](#)

(Reuters) - Authorities in Saudi Arabia have detained two Shi'ite bloggers this week for taking part in demonstrations in the country's oil-producing Eastern Province, a Shi'ite website and activists said on Wednesday.

The Sunni Muslim monarchy of Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter and major U.S. ally, does not tolerate any form of dissent. It has not seen the kind of mass uprisings other countries in the region have over the past few months.

[Total finds "mega" gas field in Bolivia-sources](#)

LA PAZ (Reuters) - French energy company Total has made a major natural gas find in Bolivia that could initially produce 6.5 million cubic meters per day, government and market sources said on Wednesday.

It could be the biggest natural gas discovery in 10 years in Bolivia, where the leftist government of President Evo Morales nationalized the energy industry in 2006. Since then, Bolivia's reserves of the fuel have shrunk.

[A surprise: China's energy consumption will stabilize](#)

Berkeley, CA-- As China's economy continues to soar, its energy use and greenhouse gas emissions will keep on soaring as well—or so goes the conventional wisdom. A new analysis by researchers at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) now is challenging that notion, one widely held in both the United States and China.

Well before mid-century, according to a new study by Berkeley Lab's China Energy Group, that nation's energy use will level off, even as its population edges past 1.4 billion. "I think this is very good news," says Mark Levine, co-author of the report, "China's Energy and Carbon Emissions Outlook to 2050" and director of the group. "There's been a perception that China's rising prosperity means runaway growth in energy consumption. Our study shows this won't be the case."

[EPA to Shed Light on Fracturing Rules](#)

Federal regulators will soon clarify the rules for natural gas companies that inject diesel fuel into the ground as part of their hydraulic fracturing operations, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency said Tuesday.

The guidance, which EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson says is coming "very shortly," is meant to clear up rules for natural gas producers.

[BP Expects to Resume GOM Drilling by Summer](#)

BP says it expects to resume drilling in the Gulf of Mexico by the summer, less than 18 months after a rig it had leased there exploded, killing 11 workers and triggering a catastrophic oil spill.

[Q+A-What's going on at Japan's damaged nuclear power plant?](#)

(Reuters) - Japanese engineers are struggling to gain control of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, 240 km (150 miles) north of Tokyo, which was seriously damaged by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

[Interest in hybrid vehicles grows with gas prices](#)

Hybrids are hot.

Web searches for information about hybrid vehicles at Edmunds.com have shot up more than 100% year- to-date compared with a year earlier.

The increase is linked to soaring gasoline prices but still is “remarkable” especially considering that the number of hybrids featured on the auto information website has not risen, Edmunds.com said.

[High gas prices can be difference for electric cars](#)

An analysis by the Environmental Law and Policy Center -- which says fuel efficiency is the solution to the problem of high gas prices -- finds the potential for \$4 a gallon gas prices to alter consumer behavior. And it says that, if gas goes to \$5 a gallon, consumers who drive 12,000 miles a year could save on average \$2,257 at Commonwealth Edison's off-peak electric rates by switching to a pure electric vehicle.

[Green cars are ready, car buyers aren't](#)

NEW YORK (CNNMoney) -- Despite all the hype around electric and hybrid cars -- and a rapid increase in the number of available models -- most car shoppers still aren't ready to buy, according to a new survey.

When it comes to hybrid cars, the problem is simple... price. Car shoppers want to do their part to help the environment, as long as their part doesn't involve paying more. Or, in the case of plug-in cars, changing their driving habits.

[BP Raises Wind Energy Capacity 8.9%, Starts Work at Facility in Texas](#)

BP Plc, Europe's second-largest oil company, said it increased its capacity to generate power from the wind by 8.9 percent in the first quarter and began building a wind farm in Texas.

[Is Canada a "rudderless" pumper of oil?](#)

As Canada heads to the polls, are we talking enough about the future? Tony Chapman, CEO of advertising firm Capital C and a provocative speaker, says Canada is at sea when it comes to innovation. "We have no centralized focus to make innovation a priority," he says.

[Richard Heinberg: Won't innovation, substitution, and efficiency keep us growing? - Conclusions](#)

How can resources be infinite on a small planet such as ours? Easy, said Simon. Just as there are infinitely many points on a one-inch line segment, so too there are infinitely many lines of division separating copper from non-copper, or oil from non-oil, or coal from non-coal in the Earth. Therefore, we cannot reliably quantify how much copper, oil, coal, or neodymium or gold there really is in the world. If we can't measure how much we have of these materials, that means the amounts are not finite—thus they are infinite.

It's a logical fallacy so blindingly obvious that you'd think not a single vaguely intelligent reader would have let him get away with it. Clearly, an infinite number of dividing lines between copper and non-copper is not the same as an infinite quantity of copper. While a few critics pointed this out (notably Herman Daly), Simon's book was widely praised nevertheless. Why? Because Simon was saying something that many people wanted to believe.

[Q&A: Hunter Lovins](#)

MCP: And they have more or less oil than they're reporting?

HL: Considerably less! Now this should not come as a surprise. I suppose it does, because we'd like to believe that oil is infinite. And indeed the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and folks at the International Energy Agency have been saying this for years. But of late the IEA has stopped saying it. You may have noticed—maybe not, I don't think it was reported in this country, I read it in the Financial Times—that a couple of IEA employees whistle-blew, accusing the organization of cooking its books. There is actually a lot less oil than anybody thought. The British government said: "We base our national projections on IEA numbers, where did those numbers come from?" The IEA's chief economist replied, "Well, they're assumptions." So the British government commissioned an industry task force, chaired by the managing director of Royal Dutch Shell, which called for an immediate transition to green transport. Another report came out last year saying that within three to four years we can expect real constraints on the supply of conventional oil, i.e. Peak Oil. So, again, I submit that what

the Chamber of Commerce is saying is precisely the opposite of what is in businesses interest.

[Masdar plan for \\$200m pioneering wind farm](#)

Masdar, Abu Dhabi's clean energy company, is considering building a US\$200 million (Dh734.6m) wind farm near the Saudi Arabian border that would be the first of its kind in the region.

Abu Dhabi is committed to sourcing 7 per cent of its power from renewable sources within nine years, and wind has unexpectedly become a contributor. The Gulf is not a windy region, but turbine makers are developing specialised blades to generate more energy from the light breezes the region receives.

[Electronics expertise may drive Japan from nuclear energy](#)

RAS AL KHAIMAH // Japan may soon use its formidable expertise in microelectronics and semiconductors to push renewable energy to the forefront of the country's energy agenda as it moves away from nuclear power.

[Outlook Dim for Climate Agreement by Year's End](#)

BRUSSELS — Major greenhouse gas-emitting nations on Wednesday ruled out reaching a global agreement to limit such gases at a meeting this year in Durban, South Africa, but they pledged to continue working toward that goal in future.

[Russia faces fuel crisis as gasoline exports surge](#)

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia, the world's largest oil producer, faces a regional fuel supply crisis that could quickly spread after an order by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to curb domestic pump prices led oil firms to increase export volumes.

Shortages that have been building since Putin told oil firms in February to restrain retail prices came to a head last weekend, when almost all independently owned gasoline stations in the Altai region ran out of fuel. If they spread, the shortages could eventually hurt the popularity of Putin, who as the head of the government bears direct responsibility for economic policy, months before a presidential election which is due next March.

[Crude Rises as Europe Economic Data Boost Demand Optimism, Pressure Dollar](#)

Crude climbed after European economic data indicated demand may be recovering in

the region, easing concern that oil prices near their highest in more than two years may be hurting growth.

[Gasoline Futures Highest Since 2008](#)

Gasoline futures on Tuesday traded at the highest level since July 2008 after three Texas refineries were idled following a power outage.

[U.S. Gasoline Imports From Europe Decline as Climbing Prices Erode Demand](#)

Gasoline shipments to the U.S. from Europe are poised to drop in April to the lowest in four months, reinforcing speculation that a surge in pump prices is hurting consumption in the world's biggest oil user.

At least 15 tankers were scheduled to ship 570,000 metric tons of the fuel to the U.S. Atlantic Coast from Europe as of April 20, the least for a comparable period since December, according to Clarkson Research Services Ltd., a unit of the world's biggest shipbroker.

[U.S. reliance on imported liquid fuels expected to fall: EIA](#)

The United States' reliance on imported liquid fuels is expected to fall in the long term, according to the Annual Energy Outlook 2011 report released Tuesday by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Total consumption of liquid fuels in the United States, including both fossil fuels and biofuels, is forecasted to increase to 21.9 million barrels per day in 2035 from about 18.8 million barrels per day in 2009, said the report.

[Commodity Paradigm Shift](#)

The world is using up its natural resources at an alarming rate, and this has caused a permanent shift in their value and we all need to adjust our behaviour to this new environment. It would help if we did it quickly, says Jeremy Grantham, co-founder of GMO, a global investment firm managing \$107-billion in client assets.

[Jeff Rubin: Is peak coal coming?](#)

The price of oil isn't the only hydrocarbon going through the roof. Check out thermal coal prices to see how dependent economic growth has become on burning increasing amounts of fossil fuels. Prices of Newcastle coal, the Asian coal price benchmark, are poised to rise by as much as 30 per cent this year, approaching the peak levels seen in 2008.

[An alternative to \\$1.50-a-litre gas](#)

Few people last weekend needed convincing that the future of transportation is not oil. Compact cars needed \$50 worth of gas for a fill. Truck and SUV owners will yet again soon be objects of sympathy or derision.

[Explosion rocks Egypt gas terminal near Israel](#)

EL-ARISH, Egypt – Masked gunmen blew up a natural gas terminal near Egypt's border with Israel on Wednesday, sending flames shooting into the air in the early hours of the morning and forcing the shutdown of the country's gas export pipeline to Israel and Jordan.

It was the second attack in just the past month on the el-Sabil terminal near the Sinai Peninsula town of El-Arish just 30 miles (50 kilometers) from Israel. On March 27, gunmen planted explosives at the terminal, but they failed to detonate.

[Reliance could be penalised for gas shortfall-oilmin source](#)

(Reuters) - India is considering a penalty for Reliance Industries for falling short of targeted gas production at its D6 block, an oil ministry source said on Wednesday.

[Israel prepares for Egyptian gas halt](#)

TEL AVIV – State-owned Israel Electric Corp said today it was preparing to keep its power plants running after saboteurs blew up an Egyptian pipeline that supplies natural gas to Israel and Jordan.

[India exploring Iran oil payment via Turkey -oil min source](#)

(Reuters) - India is exploring payments via Turkey for oil imports from Iran, an Indian oil ministry source said on Wednesday, as the two countries search for a way to settle their trade after a long standing clearing system was scrapped by New Delhi.

[Philippines increase security for oil exploration](#)

The Philippines will increase security for its oil exploration activities in the country and in the adjacent Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

Philippine naval forces assigned to secure these operations are set to undergo training from the United States government.

[South Africa: Fuel price hikes 'just the beginning'](#)

Jeremy Wakeford, chairman for the Association for the Study of Peak Oil, said the price of crude oil and therefore refined fuels (petrol and diesel) would continue to rise, resulting in major price spikes.

"Prices are being driven fundamentally by rising global demand for oil in the face of supply that has been stagnant for six years and which will begin to decline annually within about two to three years. On top of this, other short-term factors such as a weakening dollar, geopolitical events, especially in the Middle East, and speculative activity tend to amplify the oil price movements."

[Pemex Yields Sink Below Petrobras as Borrowing Plans Curbed](#)

Plans by Petroleos Mexicanos to sell the least debt in three years are helping push the oil producer's 10-year borrowing costs below Petroleo Brasileiro SA (PETR4)'s for the first time since January.

[Mexico eyes shale gas boost for petrochemical sector](#)

(Reuters) - Mexico is considering ramping up shale gas production to support its petrochemicals sector which has traditionally used feedstocks based on crude oil, the country's energy minister said on Tuesday.

Although the prolific shales of Texas are believed to extend across the border into northern Mexico, little has been done to develop the deposits due to the state-controlled industry's focus on producing crude oil.

[Feds Looking for Input on Oil Shale Development](#)

The oil shale conversation is heating up once again. Starting Tuesday, the Bureau of Land Management will embark on a two week tour of three state, including Colorado, to get input on whether public lands should be leased for oil shale development.

[Venezuela to Charge 95% Tax on Oil When Prices Are Above \\$100 a Barrel](#)

Venezuela, South America's largest OPEC oil producer, will charge an increased windfall tax in lieu of royalties as long as crude trades above \$70 a barrel.

The South American nation is swapping out its old system of royalties and will instead charge a higher levy of 80 percent or 95 percent on revenue above \$70 and \$100 a barrel, respectively, Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said. If prices fall to between \$40 and

\$70, producers will face both the standard 33 percent royalty and a 20 percent windfall tax, according to a presidential decree published in today's Official Gazette.

[Life Without Oil: Towards a nuclear-hydrogen economy \(Part 2\)](#)

Are we ready to embrace alternative energy such as hydrogen? Should we invest in nuclear power? These are some of the questions answered in the second excerpt from the book *Life Without Oil: Why We Must Shift to a New Energy Future*.

[Obama says he's pressing major oil producers to boost supplies to help stabilize fuel prices](#)

WASHINGTON — As the high cost of gasoline takes a toll on politics and pocket books, President Barack Obama said Tuesday he is calling on major oil producers such as Saudi Arabia to increase their oil supplies to help stabilize prices, warning starkly that lack of relief would harm the global economy.

"We are in a lot of conversations with the major oil producers like Saudi Arabia to let them know that it's not going to be good for them if our economy is hobbled because of high oil prices," Obama told a Detroit TV station.

['Disturbing' revelations in probe of possible gas price manipulation](#)

An investigation into possible manipulation of gasoline prices has uncovered "disturbing" revelations, Attorney General Eric Holder said today.

"There are a couple things that ... are disturbing," Holder said, declining to elaborate.

[Kentucky puts anti price gouging law in effect](#)

Through an executive order, Governor Steve Beshear has activated the state's anti-price gouging consumer protection law.

[Give Me Life, Liberty and a Tank of Cheap Gas](#)

When President Barack Obama took his deficit-reduction show on the road last week, he found audiences had more on their minds than spending cuts and tax increases.

"What are you doing about gas prices?" someone at a town- hall-style meeting at North Virginia Community College in Annandale wanted to know.

[Russia ready to increase fuel supplies to Europe, Asia - Putin](#)

Russia is ready to increase its oil and gas supplies to Asian and European markets to make up for growing demand, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said.

"We treat the situation on the global energy market with full responsibility and are ready to increase supplies to both Asia-Pacific and Europe," the Russian premier told a news conference in Denmark.

[More Syrian troops pour into southern city](#)

BEIRUT (AP) — A human rights activist says gunfire and sporadic explosions are being heard in the southern city of Daraa after the Syrian army sent in more tanks and reinforcements.

[Syria's Violent Crackdown Prompts UN's Ban to Call for an Outside Inquiry](#)

Syria's increasingly violent suppression of anti-government protests prompted United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to call for an external inquiry as the U.S. and European Union consider sanctions.

[Yemen president to step down in month under deal](#)

SANAA, Yemen — Yemen's political opposition accepted a deal Tuesday that would see President Ali Abdullah Saleh step down in 30 days, bringing to an end the country's three-month-long crisis.

[Putin says Libyan oil main goal of NATO campaign](#)

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that Libya's oil resources were the main object of the NATO-led military campaign in the country.

[U.S. approves oil purchases from Libya](#)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A division of the U.S. Treasury Department said it approved transactions related to oil exported from the rebel-backed Transitional National Council of Libya.

[Chavez says Libya officials discuss peace options](#)

(Reuters) - A delegation of Libyan officials is in Venezuela to discuss possible peaceful solutions to the war in the North African country, Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez

said on Tuesday.

A vocal opponent of military action by Western governments, Chavez is also a close ally of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi and has proposed talks between rebels and the government.

[Deadlock in Libya exposes international rifts](#)

(Reuters) - Military deadlock in Libya has exposed growing international rifts, with critics of NATO bombing calling it another case of the West trying to overthrow a regime by stretching the terms of a U.N. resolution.

"Is there a lack of such crooked regimes in the world?" Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin asked on Tuesday. "Are we going to bomb everywhere and conduct missile strikes?"

[Nigerian police vows to deal with political thugs in oil rich state](#)

The police in oil rich Nigeria's Delta State has said the command would treat any political thugs caught as armed robbers.

[BP Profit, Output Still Weighted Down By US Gulf Effects](#)

LONDON -(Dow Jones)- BP PLC Wednesday posted a 5% fall in adjusted profit for the first quarter, as the damage wrought by the Deepwater Horizon disaster last year continued to weigh down its earnings and petroleum production outlook despite high oil prices.

[One Year Later, Where Does BP Stand?](#)

In the weeks after the magnitude of the Gulf oil spill became ever larger and clearer, most of the attention was focused on the growing environmental impact. But many people soon began asking another question: Would the disaster change the very future of BP, one of the largest oil companies in the world? Some even wondered openly whether it could eventually spell the demise of BP.

[Carnival sues BP, others for oil spill damages](#)

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Cruise operator Carnival Corp has filed a lawsuit against BP Plc and other companies seeking damages that resulted from the biggest oil spill in U.S. history.

The lawsuit, filed on April 20 in U.S. District Court in New Orleans, also named Cameron

International Corp CAM.L, Transocean Ltd, and Halliburton Co, along with several others.

[Radiation Readings in Fukushima Reactor Rise to Highest Since Crisis Began](#)

Radiation readings at Japan's Fukushima Dai-Ichi station rose to the highest since an earthquake and tsunami knocked out cooling systems, impeding efforts to contain the worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl.

[Kansai may delay restart of 3 nuclear reactors](#)

TOKYO (Reuters) - Kansai Electric Power Co said its nuclear run rate this year would be lower than initially planned, and it may delay the restart of three reactors due to stricter safety steps imposed after a massive earthquake triggered the world's worst nuclear crisis in 25 years.

[Chernobyl impact felt 25 years later](#)

How many illnesses resulted from radiation exposure at the Chernobyl cleanup are unclear.

Gregory Hartl, a World Health Organization spokesman, says 6,000 cases of thyroid cancer have been detected in the region affected by Chernobyl's disaster. The number of those directly linked to the disaster — as opposed to, for example, the result of improved detection — is uncertain. The United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency has determined 56 people died from the event.

[OPG seeks approval for underground vaults to store nuclear waste](#)

Ontario Power Generation is seeking federal approval to build underground vaults near Kincardine, Ont., to store low- and intermediate-level nuclear waste.

[It Isn't Gridcrash that Makes the Lights Go Out](#)

Peak oil and climate change will hit most of us where it hurts - in our jobs, our pocketbooks, in the homes where we won't be able to make the rent or mortgage payment, in our health because we'll no longer be able to afford routine care, in our choices - instead of "vacation fund or 401K, we'll be wondering "shoes or groceries." Add in that we can expect the price of electricity to rise - carbon sequestration is expensive, nuclear power is expensive initially and dealing with its wastes is very expensive, investment in renewables is not cheap either - we can expect the price of our electricity to rise steadily.

So whether or not we ever have rolling blackouts again or grid failure, lots of us will be having our power turned off. And since electricity for the most part runs luxury items (although we are not accustomed to thinking of them as luxuries) like refrigeration and lights, if it comes down to hard choices like "food or electric," "lights or medicine" we should all recognize that electricity is not essential to (most) human life, and prepare to function well and comfortably without it.

[End of "Fossil Fuel Age" will drive oil-prices up](#)

Varnholt is a big believer in the Peak Oil thesis - the theory whereby we are extracting the maximum amount of oil, so as we decline from this peak, the price of oil will inevitably rise - and he backs up this confidence.

"Look at what the Saudis have invested in their operational infrastructure in the last decade, and they're not producing more oil, they're actually producing less than they did in 2000. This tells you one of two things; there's less oil available, or it's harder to get to it - or possibly a combination of both - but the latter is the most likely."

[Whither Gasoline Prices?](#)

Assuming the turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa begins to abate, what can drivers expect to be paying at the pump later in the year? Both Evans and Michaels think that oil would drop back to \$80 per barrel, which implies a gasoline price of about \$3 per gallon. What about future oil production? Evans dismisses peak oil as a "religion."

[Could The Oil Market Be A War Predictor?](#)

If the oil market is a predictor of anything besides prices in the future, things are about to get a lot hotter in Libya or in Saudi Arabia, or maybe both. I see the oil market trying to price in an escalation of further war.

[Chevrolet Volt, Nissan Leaf plug-ins ace crash tests](#)

In a boost for electric cars, the insurance industry's auto safety lab today will give two new plug-ins — the Chevrolet Volt and Nissan Leaf — its top rating for protecting occupants in a crash.

[Suburban growth focused on inner and outer communities](#)

A new pattern is emerging this century. Most of the growth is happening on opposite ends of the suburban expanse: in older communities closest to the city and in the newer ones that are the farthest out.

"A few decades ago, all the growth was on the edge," says Robert Lang, an urban sociologist at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas who analyzed 2010 Census data. "Now, there are citylike suburbs doing well on one side of the metropolis while conventional suburbs still flourish on the fringe."

[A free farm holiday if you're willing to work](#)

AQUEBOGUE, N.Y. – It started with an ad on Craigslist: Free holiday on an organic farm on Long Island, work for your keep and enjoy wineries and great beaches nearby.

The farm would even supply transportation from New York City and bicycles to get around once you arrive. All a friend and I had to do was take the subway to a farmers market in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn and a van would pick us up. The entire experience wouldn't cost a penny. I suspected it was all too good to be true. Perhaps some religious cult hungry for new members was trapping us with dreams of idyllic rural life.

[Traditional incandescent bulbs on their way out starting Jan. 1](#)

Edison's 131-year-old bulb still lights homes worldwide. In an age when iPhones get revamped every few months, its longevity stands out.

Yet its eclipse is coming. The United States is on the verge of a lighting revolution that will oust the traditional incandescent in favor of more energy efficient (and less polluting) alternatives. Are you ready?

[Life Without Oil: Towards a nuclear-hydrogen economy \(Part 2\)](#)

Are we ready to embrace alternative energy such as hydrogen? Should we invest in nuclear power? These are some of the questions answered in the second excerpt from the book *Life Without Oil: Why We Must Shift to a New Energy Future*.

[Partial Understanding On Planet Easter Island](#)

The planetary death wish on the part of energy gurus is one of many examples of partial understanding of the interconnected nature of our predicaments. Other examples abound, even though I'll ignore the teeming masses of neoclassical economists who have no clue where we are, how we arrived here, or where we're headed. Jeff Rubin, called by Nicole Foss an economist who doesn't understand economics, seems to believe the industrial economy can endure oil priced at \$225 with a little attention to relocalization. And he describes how traders can make tons of money in the casino. Foss, a peak oiler who doesn't understand peak oil, claimed the price of oil would never exceed \$100/barrel after 2008 and predicted the 2-year bull run in the stock markets was done at the 6-month mark.

[Meet the farmers of the future](#)

Geo-engineer, energy supplier or web host? Claire Wyatt asks what skills farmers will need in the future

We're always looking for the next big thing, and for people with the skills to create the new world we crave. This has never been truer in the agricultural world. Climate change, a growing global population, land and water shortages, peak oil and food security are all putting pressure on farmers to adapt and improve.

[Sask. going ahead with \\$1.2B carbon capture project](#)

The Saskatchewan government is going ahead with a \$1.24 billion overhaul of a coal-based power plant so the carbon dioxide it produces can be stored.

[Climate change 'number one issue'](#)

El Salvador is "already" facing wild weather, the country's environment minister tells Al Jazeera.

[Tornado Season Intensifies, Without Clear Scientific Consensus on Why](#)

Experts said drawing conclusions for an increase in tornado was hard, because tracking and measuring systems had improved over the years.

[Rising seas scariest climate impact - Nauru's Moses](#)

OSLO (Reuters) - Sea level rise is the "most terrifying" impact of climate change and rich countries are showing scant leadership in addressing the threats, the incoming chair of a U.N. alliance of small island states said on Tuesday.

[David Attenborough: This heaving planet](#)

Half a century ago, the WWF was formed to help save endangered animals. Today, it's human beings who are increasingly at risk, through overpopulation and food scarcity. Can we bring our birth rate under control and avert potential catastrophe?



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