



## Drumbeat: May 2, 2011

Posted by [Leanan](#) on May 2, 2011 - 10:01am

### [Gas could top \\$4 nationwide this week](#)

NEW YORK (CNNMoney) -- After jumping more than 3 cents over the weekend, gas prices across America could top \$4 a gallon this week, according to one industry analyst.

"We're going to hit \$4 this week, nationally," said Tom Kloza, chief analyst at the Oil Price Information Service. "There's enough momentum to take us up there."

### [Shell to Seek U.S. Approval to Drill as Many as 10 Oil Wells Off Alaska](#)

Royal Dutch Shell Plc (RDSA), which has been blocked from developing leases it holds off Alaska's Arctic coast, this week will ask the U.S. to approve drilling as many as 10 oil exploration wells by 2013.

### [Labour calls for review of gas tax rise](#)

(Reuters) - The Labour Party said it will push for a review of a gas tax increase this week after Centrica Plc said the higher rate may force it to keep closed a field.

### [Airline fees: The \\$500 surprise](#)

NEW YORK (CNNMoney) -- Thinking of spending a weekend in Paris this spring? Think again.

The cost of travel to Europe has increased exponentially, mostly due to surcharges and fees which can add \$500 or more to the price of round-trip airfare.

### [N-plant crisis impacts bond market / TEPCO bond yields soar; April debenture issues down 50% from last year](#)

The accident at Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant has caused unrest in the corporate bond market with the yields of TEPCO bonds and those issued by other electric utility companies soaring to high levels.

The electric companies will likely face difficulties in raising funds if the yields of corporate bonds remain inflated.

### [Don't Laugh At BP's 'Green' Side](#)

There is also a growing 'green' side to BP's business – the lesser known BP Alternative Energy business which includes low-carbon businesses and future growth options outside oil and gas. These include biofuels, wind and solar energy, as well as demonstration projects and technology development in carbon capture and storage.

### [Beer Yeast Dilemma](#)

So, you're the "moral" beer yeast who saw doom coming, who thought, "You know, when the sugar gets scarce and the alcohol level rises to 11%, we're done! I'm going to stop this right here. No more sugar for me!"

But all you did was drop out of the "race" and leave your share of the sugar to your cousin, who happily subdivided down unto the generations – while you shriveled up.

### [Let's face it: none of our environmental fixes break the planet-wrecking project](#)

All of us in the green movement are lost before the planet's real nightmare: not too little fossil fuel – but too much.

### [The coming energy crunch](#)

As the price of oil climbs higher, many officials and policymakers have been quick to say the rise is transitory. But Chris Martenson, author of "The Crash Course" tells BNN that those assurances are misplaced and that we've entered a new era of higher energy prices.

"Now we are getting in the period of more difficult and more expensive oil and unfortunately not quite enough to support the lifestyle we've become accustomed to," Martenson says.

Martenson says investors should take note and begin moving their investments from things like stocks and bonds to real assets.

"Ultimately real wealth is solid investments that we have in tangible things on the production side," he says. "I believe the pendulum has swung very far from things into paper and pendulum is about to swing back to things again."

### [Fuel shortages caused by Emarat missed payment](#)

"The company's financial hardship situation has accelerated on account of both the large rise in crude prices so far this year and the cancellation of a planned domestic gasoline price hike, leaving the company with a much larger spread between its income and costs than initially anticipated," Sam Ciszuk, senior energy analyst at IHS, told Reuters.

### [High POL prices to ruin industry](#)

LAHORE - The business community and manufacturers while blasting the government step of hiking the petroleum product prices for the second time consecutively, have said the raise will destroy the local industry and value-added export sectors. They said rapid rise in the prices of petroleum products would also increase the power generation cost in the country, and put a very negative impact on the whole industry.

### [Jordan Hunkers Down as Egyptian Gas Supplies Are Disrupted](#)

Jordanians are being asked to shut off air conditioners and turn off lights when they don't need them as the country's main source of fuel for electric power – natural gas piped in from Egypt – has been shut off for the second time in three months.

### [That '70s Energy Crisis](#)

MY ex-husband, at 6 feet 4 inches tall and 300 pounds, looks hilarious on his bike. His truck gets 10 miles to the gallon, and he was spending \$8 a day to get to his job transporting cars for an auto auctioneer. His bike would be a lot cheaper, he realized. So he parked his truck across from my house, next to my neighbor's Subaru. She's been taking the bus to her job as a home health care aide – she can't afford the gas, either.

Gas prices are high here, and they're rising about a penny a day: over the last 20 days unleaded at my local Arco rose to \$4.30, from \$4.04. Everyone's suffering, and no one in a position to know better offers an explanation beyond "volatile commodity markets."

### [Romney blames high prices on insufficient supply](#)

The prospective Republican presidential contender said the Obama administration's reliance on creating green technologies and renewable energy supplies is commendable, but it has also caused price increases because of the expectation that supply of existing fuels will not increase.

He called for more oil drilling and natural gas pipelines, as well as coal production.

### [The Oil War at Home](#)

Whom should we blame for high gasoline prices? The president? Oil companies? Price gougers? Protestors in the Arab Spring? People who drive Hummers?

The answer to that question is one of the first serious issues of the 2011 presidential campaign. (Sorry, Trump. Sorry, Birthers.) It's an issue that could -- and perhaps should -- become an oil war at home, politically speaking.

### [Iraq expects reprisals for bin Laden killing](#)

(Reuters) - Iraq's army and police went on high alert on Monday for possible revenge attacks in one of al Qaeda's major battlegrounds after U.S. forces killed Osama bin Laden in a raid on his Pakistan hideout.

Oil infrastructure, power stations and bridges could be targets of militant attacks, security sources said, to prove bin Laden's death has not disrupted operations in Iraq, still an important arena for the Islamist group eight years after the 2003 invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein.

### [Declare victory, wind down the war, and turn to real interests](#)

The slaying capped almost a decade of a drifting wartime task in which security has worsened in both Afghanistan and nuclear-armed Pakistan. The U.S. invaded Afghanistan in order to make war on al Qaeda, but ended up in a fight to keep the Taliban from overrunning Afghan President Hamid Karzai. The question now is whether there is more that the United States can accomplish in Afghanistan or Pakistan. If the answer is yes, what is that more? And if it is no, is it time to wind down?

### [How To Get to the End of History](#)

At the heart of this remarkable book is the idea of "getting to Denmark." By this, Fukuyama means creating stable, peaceful, prosperous, inclusive, and honest societies (like Denmark). As in his "End of History" essay, Fukuyama treats this as the logical endpoint of social development, and suggests that Denmarkness requires three things: functioning states, rule of law, and accountable government.

### [Venezuela Comes Sixth in Gallup "Wellbeing" Survey](#)

Beaten only by Denmark (79%), Canada (69%), Sweden (69%) and Australia (66%) and scoring the same levels of "thriving" as Finland (64%), Venezuela occupied the highest position of those countries considered to be in the "developing world" and came first out of all the Latin American nations.

### [Food for thought: How energy is squandered in food industry](#)

For a nation fixated on the responsible use of resources, we're surprisingly wasteful with energy when it comes to putting food on the table.

From the diesel fuel tractors that harvest our crops, to the refrigerated trucks that transport products cross-country, to the labor-saving technology found in the home such as toasters and self-cleaning ovens, the U.S. food system is about as energy inefficient as it gets. And it's only getting worse.

A fall 2010 report by the Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, ERS, called "Fuel for Food: Energy Use in the U.S. Food System," found that while energy consumption per capita fell by 1 percent between 2002 and 2007, food-related energy use grew nearly 8 percent, as the food industry relied on more energy-intensive technologies to produce more food for more people.

### [Shoppers should get ready to pay more at register](#)

CINCINNATI — Households reeling from gasoline near \$4 also face bigger bills for everything from changing their babies' diapers to wiping their noses to treating themselves to ice cream.

Major makers of everyday consumer products and groceries say they have to raise prices to offset soaring costs for their fuel and the materials and ingredients that go into their products.

### [Oil drives up Canada producer prices in March](#)

OTTAWA (Reuters) - A sharp rise in petroleum prices boosted Canadian producer prices and sent raw material costs soaring in March from February, Statistics Canada said on Monday.

Industrial product prices were up 0.9 percent on the heels of an identical rise in February and close to the 0.8 percent increase forecast by analysts in a Reuters poll.

### [S&P Upgrade Derailed by \\$1.25-a-Day Paycheck: Willie Pesek](#)

If President Benigno Aquino wonders why the Philippines isn't shaking its junk-bond status, a visit to the local supermarket might set him straight.

There, he will find that food prices are surging and pushing growing numbers of his people into extreme poverty -- the less-than-\$1.25-a-day kind. The Manila-based Asian Development Bank says as many as 64 million more Asians may suffer this fate in 2011, negating almost every other economic metric of progress.

### [Oil Drops Most in Two Weeks After U.S. Says Bin Laden Killed in Pakistan](#)

Oil dropped the most in almost seven weeks in London on speculation that the killing of Osama bin Laden may ease the risk of Middle East supply disruptions.

Brent crude futures fell as much as 3.4 percent, the most since March 15, following reports that bin Laden was dead. The al-Qaeda leader, who orchestrated the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington in 2001, died in a firefight in Abbottabad, Pakistan, U.S. President Barack Obama said. Oil had slipped earlier on signs that cooling economic growth in China may temper fuel demand in the world's biggest energy user.

### [Hedge Fund Gas Bets Climb to Three-Month High in Futures](#)

Hedge funds increased bullish bets on natural gas to the highest level in three months on smaller- than-expected stockpile gains and speculation that reduced nuclear output will spur demand for the power-plant fuel.

The funds and other large investors increased wagers on rising prices by 38 percent in the seven days ended April 26 to the most since Jan. 25, according to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's Commitments of Traders report.

### [Commodities Beat Financial Assets for Fifth Month in Best Streak Since '97](#)

Commodities beat stocks, bonds and the dollar for a fifth straight month, the longest stretch in at least 14 years, as demand for raw materials increases with expanding economies and Federal Reserve promises to boost growth.

### [Over a Barrel: Behind The Great Oil Price Smokescreen](#)

Between bouts of kicking themselves for buying the SUV instead of the Prius, a lot of folks are baffled to the point of anger at the finger-pointing and doublespeak that stands in for informed explanation of what's going on. Straight answers and clear explanations on this subject are as rare as a gallon of \$2 premium.

It's not just the price of gasoline that's going up, of course. The price of everything that gets hauled by a truck — think food, for example — is going up as well, because of rising shipping costs.

### [What steps should Congress take to lower gas prices?](#)

Surging gasoline prices have triggered another energy brawl between the White House and congressional Republicans, this time over oil-company tax breaks, as both sides try to skirt voter blame for the increasing pain at the pump. Now averaging \$3.88 a gallon



nationwide, gas prices have jumped 37% so far this year and have more than doubled since President Barack Obama took office. The issue could weigh heavily over the 2012 election.

What would you recommend for action by the administration and Congress?

### [Nate Hagens: Complaining about mosquito bites while a crocodile bites our leg](#)

I am not an oil industry apologist, but recognize that I live in an oil-centric world, own a car, enjoy air travel and partake in the daily smorgasbord of food, services, and novelty made possible in the cheap energy age. To me, given the problems our country and government face, blaming Exxon for high gasoline prices and excessive tax subsidies is akin to complaining about a mosquito bite on your arm when a crocodile has your leg in its mouth.

### [The Effect of Oil Prices on Oil Drilling in the U.S.](#)

Oil markets have changed dramatically in the past couple of decades or so. Except for a few years following the second Oil Embargo - prices got as high as \$60 (in 2005 \$) a barrel in 1981 - real prices have tended to be below \$25 a barrel through about 1999. Conversely, 2003 prices have been higher than that - in some years quite a bit higher. Now, there are all sorts of explanations for this big change we've observed over the past few years, ranging from Peak Oil to the war in Iraq to the rise of the BRICs to market manipulation, but that's the point of this post...

### [Russia oil output close to post-Soviet high in April](#)

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia produced 10.24 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil in April, up 0.5 percent from 10.19 million bpd in March and short of a post-Soviet record of 10.26 million hit in October, Energy Ministry data showed on Monday.

The Russian government is working on a new tax regime to stimulate investments in new Arctic and east Siberian oil and gas deposits as the country targets to keep its oil production steady at around 10.1 million bpd during the next decade.

### [Saudi lifts April oil output to 8.5m bpd](#)

DUBAI/KHOBAR: Saudi Arabia's crude oil output edged back up in April to around 8.5 million barrels per day (bpd) from roughly 8.3 million bpd in March as demand picks up, Saudi-based industry sources said yesterday.

The kingdom slashed output by 800,000 bpd in March, due to oversupply, oil minister Ali Al-Naimi said last month, adding that he expected production in April to be a little higher than March's level. "Production was around 8.5 (million bpd) in April and the reason we raised output is because there was higher demand," said one Saudi-based

industry source, declining to comment on where demand had strengthened.

### [Stuart Staniford: Small Saudi Arabia Caveat](#)

Today, I checked the IEA, which have now released the detailed tables for March, and they also show flat production of 8.62mbd in March, exactly the same as the 8.62mbd in February.

So, for whatever reason, the international agencies do not seem to be accepting the idea that Saudi Arabian production dropped sharply in March. It will be very interesting when the JODI number comes out. That is based on Saudi Arabian self reports, and it will be intriguing to see if official Saudi reports of their production bear any relationship to what the oil minister says to the press.

### [Saudi Electricity Awards GE \\$500 Million Power Plant Deal](#)

Saudi Electricity Co., the kingdom's largest utility, selected General Electric Co. to help expand four power plants in contracts valued at more than \$500 million.

GE will supply gas-turbine technology and services for the projects, which will meet half of Saudi Electricity's targeted increase in annual output, the U.S. company said in an e-mailed statement today.

### [Largest UK gas field may close due to tax row](#)

Centrica, the owner of British Gas, is considering shutting down the country's largest gas field due to Chancellor George Osborne's shock budget tax grab from North Sea operators.

### [North Sea taxes: The fight turns nasty](#)

Six weeks ago, George Osborne picked a fight with gas companies. Yesterday, it escalated several notches – and is likely to turn really nasty before the end of summer. The chancellor will not emerge unscathed from this battle.

### [Rising gas prices not enough to stop third shift plans at GM's Flint Truck Assembly](#)

FLINT, Michigan -- When General Motors announced it would add a third shift of production at Flint Truck Assembly in January, gas prices were barely above \$3 per gallon.

In the three months since, fuel prices have spiked past \$4 a gallon, but GM is betting



enough people and businesses need new trucks -- gas prices be damned -- to make the move stick.

### [Journey to cavernous future for oil](#)

The images of Singapore's Jurong Rock Caverns resemble scenes from Jules Verne's novel Journey to the Centre of the Earth.

Although at first glance they appear to be part of an underground fantasy world, the caverns are part of a major underground 21st-century oil project.

With engineers now carrying out explosions to break away rock, the caverns are moving well beyond science fiction and becoming a science fact that will ease the shortage of space facing the oil industry in the city state.

### [How the U.S. tracked down bin Laden](#)

WASHINGTON — Two years ago, when senior U.S. intelligence officials figured out where the man they thought might be hiding Osama bin Laden was living, they were astounded.

It was a \$1 million complex, in an affluent neighborhood of mostly military retirees 35 miles north of Islamabad in Pakistan.

### [Analysis: Bin Laden death gives US reason to cheer](#)

A nation surly over rising gas prices, stubbornly high unemployment and nasty partisan politics poured into the streets to wildly cheer President Barack Obama's announcement that Osama bin Laden, the world's most wanted man, had been killed by U.S. forces after a decade-long manhunt.

The outcome could not have come at a better time for Obama, sagging in the polls as he embarks on his re-election campaign. For now, at least, he is assured of a big political boost, something that could strengthen his hand as he heads into a big battle over federal spending with Republicans who control the House.

### [Despite siege, Syrians vow to keep protesting](#)

CAIRO (AP) — The Syrian military intensified its vigorous assault on the besieged city at the center of the country's uprising Sunday as defiant residents who have been pinned down in their homes for nearly a week struggled to find food, pass along information and bury their dead.

### [Gulf Council's al-Zayyani Will Return to Yemen to Broker Saleh's Departure](#)

Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary- General Abdel Latif al-Zayyani will return to Yemen to try to salvage an agreement to end the political crisis there after President Ali Abdullah Saleh refused to sign an accord to step down within a month in exchange for immunity, the council said.

Delegates from Yemen's ruling and opposition parties had been scheduled to attend a signing ceremony in the Saudi capital Riyadh today. The ceremony was canceled, and Gulf officials instead met in the Saudi capital Riyadh to discuss the crisis.

### [NATO insists Gadhafi not target of airstrikes](#)

WASHINGTON — NATO officials insisted Sunday that an airstrike that may have killed Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's son was aimed at destroying a military control center, not an assassination attempt.

### [The war for Libya's oil](#)

Nearly half of Libya's GDP comes from crude sales. It's just a fraction of global production but crucial to the nation's economy.

### [Oil Shale: A Viable Energy Source?](#)

DENVER - Public hearings begin Tuesday in Colorado on the viability of oil shale as an energy resource. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar is encouraging the U.S. to take another look at production from oil shale, but opponents of the controversial technology involved say, "Not so fast."

### [Poland dreams of becoming shale gas El Dorado](#)

WARSAW (AFP) — Poland is dreaming of becoming a European shale gas El Dorado thanks to estimates of huge deposits, which if confirmed could make it a natural gas powerhouse and free it from energy dependence on Russia.

### [Venezuela downplays oil tax hike](#)

Venezuela has tried to reassure foreign investors after Hugo Chavez, the country's left-wing president, imposed a 95 per cent tax on oil revenues at prices above \$100 per barrel.

Previously, companies paid a 60 per cent tax when oil prices surpassed this threshold.

But Rafael Ramirez, the Venezuelan oil minister, played down the impact of the change, saying that any companies investing in new developments would only pay the higher tax rates after they had recouped their original expenditure.

### [Venezuela's Chavez says full employment if re-elected](#)

CARACAS (Reuters) – Addressing tens of thousands of red-clad workers at a May Day march on Sunday, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez set a goal to create more than 3 million jobs in eight years and end unemployment in the OPEC nation.

### [Shell sued over oil spill in Niger Delta](#)

Royal Dutch Shell has been hit with a class-action lawsuit in London by the Bodo community of Nigeria, which suffered a "devastating" oil spill when a key pipeline burst in the summer of 2008.

### [Shell Tries to Calm Fears on Drilling in Alaska](#)

SAVOONGA, Alaska — Shell Oil will present an ambitious proposal to the federal government this week, seeking permission to drill up to 10 exploratory oil wells beneath Alaska's frigid Arctic waters.

The forbidding ice-clogged region is believed to hold vast reserves of oil, potentially enough to fuel 25 million cars for 35 years. And with production in Alaska's North Slope in steep decline, the oil industry is eager to tap new offshore wells.

### [Japan's parliament passes tsunami recovery budget](#)

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's parliament passed a \$48 billion tsunami recovery budget Monday, but it will cover only a fraction of the cost of what was the most expensive disaster ever.

### [Japan says no limits to Tepco liability from nuclear disaster](#)

TOKYO (Reuters) - Tokyo Electric Power should face unlimited liability for damages stemming from its crippled nuclear power plant, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said on Monday, indicating Japan's government will take a hard line against the utility in its rescue plan.

### [Japan plans new tsunami wall at nuclear plant](#)

The operator of Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant will build a wall to defend it against future tsunamis, reports said on Monday, as public confidence slipped in the government's handling of the disaster.

### [Life in Limbo for Japanese Near Nuclear Plant](#)

TENEI, Japan — For seven generations, Yoshitoshi Sewa and his ancestors have tilled this farm in a gently curving valley filled with green rice paddies. But now he will not let his young grandchildren play outside their tile-roofed home for fear of an invisible and potentially long-lasting threat, radiation.

“Even if the government says it’s O.K., no one here wants to take the risk of radiation,” said Mr. Sewa, 63, whose farm sits about 40 miles west of Japan’s stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant — well beyond the zone where residents have been told to leave or remain indoors.

### [Many Japanese Factories Recover After Quake](#)

Masatomo Onishi of Kansai University, who studied the recovery after the 1995 Kobe earthquake, said that when a disaster strikes, Japanese companies tend to cooperate with one another and workers rally to the cause.

That seems to be the case at the Ricoh factory here. Even many of the Ricoh workers who lost family members to the tsunami came to work. Some whose homes were destroyed or flooded slept on blankets on the floor of a factory conference room. With gasoline scarce, many rode bicycles. And with bathrooms not working because of blocked sewer lines, employees improvised with plastic bags.

### [Report Urges Storing Spent Nuclear Fuel, Not Reprocessing It](#)

Experts on nuclear power predict that Japan’s Fukushima crisis will lead to a major rethinking of how spent nuclear fuel is handled in the United States but have cast doubt on a proposed solution: reprocessing the fuel to recover plutonium and other materials for reuse.

### [Turmoil Intensifies Focus On Commodities](#)

We are now inundated with analyses of when the world will run out of some essential commodity. The early 19th century scholar and early contributor to the field of economics, Thomas Malthus, famously argued that increasing populations would inevitably overtake the earth's ability to produce food. That concern has continued into modern times. Even before the oil shocks of the early 1970s pushed gasoline to the then unthinkable high price of \$1.00 per gallon, petroleum has been on the verge of global depletion. As I recall, the mid-1950s forecast scheduled for the last drop to be pumped around now.

### [Kurt Cobb: Can dictators solve our problems?](#)

Recently in my state under the auspices of a new law, a small, financially troubled city was the first to be completely taken over by a so-called emergency financial manager appointed by the governor. The extraordinary powers given to this manager under the law allowed him to strip all governing powers from elected officials and the boards appointed by them. This manager is now the de facto dictator of Benton Harbor, Michigan.

### [The Electric Car Strikes Back?](#)

Back in 2006, the documentary *Who Killed the Electric Car?* revealed how various industry players—including petroleum companies and car manufacturers themselves—conspired to sabotage the launch of the first electric vehicles. But shortly after the film was released, its director, Chris Paine, began to hear rumblings of an electric car comeback. "I started an email correspondence with GM," recalls Paine. "I said, 'we thought you had a great car and we were upset that you killed it. But if you're going to do it right, I'm going to tell the story, since it's not often that companies change their minds on big decisions like that.'" Sure enough, a few years later the next wave of electric cars have hit the market—and Paine's sequel, *Revenge of the Electric Car*, tells the story of what happened. I spoke to Paine shortly after his film's Earth Day premiere.

### [Electric Car Boom Could Deliver a Surge in Grid Power](#)

(gigaom.com) -- Here's the bad news about electric vehicles: They're going to be hell on the grid. The Utilities Telecom Council trade group reports that electric vehicles will require a 16-fold increase in power usage in the next decade, putting pressure on utilities to find out how to handle car charging as quickly as possible.

### [Ras al Khaimah striving to put sunlight to work](#)

RAS AL KHAIMAH // The wealth of Abu Dhabi and the glitz of Dubai do not easily rub off on their northern neighbour Ras al Khaimah. Its leader explains it thus: no oil, scarce water and precious little gas.

"Here there is nothing," says Sheikh Saud bin Saqr, the Ruler of Ras al Khaimah. That is why his family has relied for generations on international trade and alliances to prosper. Thus it was that a group of electronics engineers from 22 nations assembled last week in a dusty work yard under a baking sun to view the emirate's progress towards harvesting one resource it has in abundance: sunlight.

### [Clean energy source shows dark side in U.S. tornadoes](#)

CHICAGO (Reuters) – The deadly tornadoes that tore across the South last week highlighted the cruel and ruthless side of wind, an energy source championed as an earth-friendly alternative to fossil fuels.

Wind industry experts say their business was largely unaffected by the worst U.S. tornado disaster since 1925, because the twisters carved their destructive path through a part of the country with almost no wind farms.

### [Germany launches 1st Baltic Sea offshore wind park](#)

(Reuters) - Germany on Monday launched its first commercial-size wind power park in the Baltic Sea, adding to some small existing capacity in the North Sea, operator EnBW said.

### [Dutch bicycle experts push peddle power in Miami](#)

MIAMI — Beware. The Dutch are coming, and they're armed with a radical idea about the future of transportation that could cure obesity and global warming, stall traffic congestion, and maybe shake the very steering wheel from your hands:

Bicycles.

Scoff if you must, but their arrival signals that Miami is getting more serious about making room for cyclists.

### [Australia: National taxi conference opens](#)

The Minister for Sustainable Transport, Nick McKim, today opened the 2011 Australian Taxi Conference being held in Hobart which is discussing issues including global warming.

Mr McKim praised the industry for being proactive on global warming, peak oil and energy source constraints and working to find a way to contribute to solutions.

### [Report: California cities have worst air pollution in U.S.](#)

About 154 million Americans — or more than half the U.S. population — live in areas where the air is so polluted that it is often dangerous to breathe, a new report says.

### [Another Side of Tilapia, the Perfect Factory Fish](#)

Farmed tilapia is promoted as good for your health and for the environment at a time



when many marine stocks have been seriously depleted. “Did you know the American Heart Association recommends eating fish twice a week?” asks the industry Web site, [abouttilapia.com](http://abouttilapia.com). But tilapia has both nutritional and environmental drawbacks.

### [Radical plots: The politics of gardening](#)

For millions of us, gardening is our regular pleasure. But there is an alternative route, through history and across landscape, away from practice and into ideas, that explores the link between, say, propagation and propaganda, or pomegranate and hand grenade. Just think of the words of the radical gardener-artist Ian Hamilton Finlay, from his contumacious green space called Little Sparta in the Scottish lowlands: “Certain gardens are described as retreats when they are really attacks.” But how can a garden be an attack, a flower a critique, a trowel an agent of social change?

### [California Gambles on Carbon Trade](#)

WASHINGTON — California is putting its reputation as a pioneering environmental heavyweight on the line as it prepares to establish a carbon market in eight months.

State regulators are battling the clock, the courts and their own empty pockets as they prepare to oversee the start of the multibillion-dollar market Jan. 1.

### [The ghost of ASPO-9: climate change](#)

ASPO, the association for the study of peak oil and gas, has been around for more than ten years by now; from when it was conceived first by Colin Campbell, at a conference in Germany in 2000. In these years, ASPO has grown from a small group of petroleum geologists to a remarkable association of people with diverse backgrounds and impressive scientific credentials. Now, the 9th ASPO conference in Brussels is over. Jointly organized by ASPO-Belgium and ASPO-Netherlands, the conference had high level speakers, interesting talks and an active and participating audience.

And, yet, a ghost was hovering above the conference: the ghost of climate change.



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