



## Drumbeat: October 31, 2011

Posted by [Leanan](#) on October 31, 2011 - 8:55am

### [Asia faces rocky road in securing energy needs](#)

(Reuters) - Governments in emerging Asian economies will struggle to secure their rising energy needs as rapidly swelling demand in leading consumers China and India outpaces growth in supplies, which is likely to keep oil prices over \$100 a barrel.

High fuel costs for importers are threatening their economies as they grapple with rising subsidy bills and inflation.

The fuel burden, with oil imports costing around 5 percent of gross domestic product, is weighing on economic growth, said Richard Jones, deputy executive director of the International Energy Agency.

### [IEA sees no need for OPEC to cut output at Dec meet](#)

(Reuters) - The IEA does not want OPEC to cut output at a meeting in December as demand for the producer group's oil will be half a million barrels per day (bpd) more in 2012 than it pumped last month, a top IEA official said on Monday.

Gulf Arab oil producers raised oil supply this year to compensate for the loss of output from Libya, where civil war shut down production. Libya's output is recovering, but the International Energy Agency saw no need for producers to cut back, the agency's Deputy Executive Director Richard Jones said.

### [Oil Declines in New York, Paring Biggest Monthly Increase Since May 2009](#)

Oil fell in New York on speculation demand will falter after the biggest monthly gain in more than two years and a surge in the dollar. Brent's premium to U.S. crude slid to a four-month low.

Futures fell as much as 1 percent after Japan weakened the yen for the third time this year and a technical indicator signaled prices may have risen too fast. A stronger dollar typically curbs demand for commodities from holders of other currencies. Crude prices at \$100 a barrel would be unsustainable, according to the former head of the International Energy Agency. Oil is up 17 percent in October, the biggest monthly increase since May 2009.

### [Iran's Khatibi Sees Oil Market Balanced, No Need for Emergency OPEC Talks](#)

Iran's Governor to OPEC Mohammad Ali Khatibi said supply and demand in world oil markets are balanced and he sees no need for an emergency meeting of the producer group, according to the state-run Iranian Students News Agency.

### [Asia LNG prices to continue rising-Shell CEO Voser](#)

SINGAPORE, Oct 31 (Reuters) - Oil major Royal Dutch Shell Plc expects prices of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Asia to continue rising and refining margins to stay under pressure in 2012, its chief executive said on Monday.

"LNG prices are rising and we see this continuing," Peter Voser told Reuters on the sidelines of the Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW).

### [PetroChina to supply 25 pct more gas in winter-spring -paper](#)

(Reuters) - PetroChina Co Ltd , the dominant natural gas supplier in China, will supply 25 percent more of the fuel in the coming winter-spring season than a year earlier, China Petroleum Daily reported on Monday.

### [Beijing in fresh South China Sea warning](#)

China could again be giving ExxonMobil the jitters after the former reiterated its stance against companies drilling in the disputed South China Sea.

The warning from China's foreign ministry on Monday comes shortly after ExxonMobil revealed it had struck hydrocarbons in a disputed region off Vietnam.

"China has indisputable sovereignty over the Spratly Islands and adjacent waters," Reuters quoted Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, Hong Lei, as saying at a regular briefing.

### [Suspected suicide bomber attacks Kazakh oil city](#)

(Reuters) - Two blasts ripped through the oil hub city of Atyrau in western Kazakhstan on Monday, prosecutors said, killing one man described by media as a suicide bomber.

### [Russia's Gazprom to explore for gas in Bangladesh](#)

(Reuters) - Russia's Gazprom , the world's largest natural gas company, on Monday

proposed exploring for gas in Bangladesh's onshore fields to cushion an energy crisis that has slowed the country's economic growth, a senior government official said.

### [Libya oil production at one-third of prewar level](#)

TRIPOLI, Libya — Libya's oil output is almost at a third of its prewar levels, the country's acting oil minister said Monday, adding that the resumption of production was moving quicker than expected.

Output, which virtually ground to a halt during the 8-month civil war that toppled Moammar Gadhafi, has reached 531,000 barrels per day, said Ali Tarhouni, the interim government's oil and finance minister. The OPEC member, which sits atop Africa's largest proven reserves, produced about 1.6 million barrels per day before the war.

### [Syria to respond to Arab League plan](#)

(CNN) -- Syria is due to respond Monday to an Arab League proposal for bringing more than seven months of violence to an end, Qatar's prime minister said Sunday.

### [Kansai Elec To Face 9.5% Power Supply Shortage In Feb -Kyodo](#)

Kansai Electric Power Co. (9503.TO) is expected to face a power supply shortage in February of 2.53 million kilowatts, with its supply capacity falling 9.5% short of estimated peak demand during the month when winter heating demand is the highest, Kyodo News reported Monday, citing government sources.

### [Drilling Debate in Cooperstown, N.Y., Is Personal](#)

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — The letter that arrived in Kim Jastremski's mailbox on County Highway 52 suggested that she stop protesting the possibility of natural gas drilling. It seemed more of a threat than a request.

Computer-generated, unsigned and sent to about 10 other opponents of a practice known as fracking, it compared them to Nazis and said they were being watched while picking up their children at school in their minivans.

Jennifer Huntington's abuse is more public, like comments online suggesting that people find out where her dairy sells its milk so that they can stop buying it, or the warning that her farm, which has a lease with a gas company, "will fall like a house of cards when your water is poisoned." She and other drilling proponents have also been called "sellout landowners that prostitute themselves for money."

### [Nebraska Seeks a Say on the Route of a Pipeline](#)

With a federal decision anticipated soon on whether an oil pipeline will be allowed to run from Canada through the nation's midsection, lawmakers in Nebraska are being summoned on Tuesday to an unexpected legislative session over the issue, which has stirred up a level of rancor that few had predicted.

### [Fukushima Plant Released Record Amount of Radiation](#)

The destroyed Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan was responsible for the biggest discharge of radioactive material into the ocean in history, a study from a French institute said.

The radioactive cesium that flowed into the ocean from the Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear plant was 20 times the amount estimated by its owner, Tokyo Electric Power Co., according to the study by the Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety, which is funded by the French government.

### [Mining Business Risks Summit](#)

Energy costs should continue to appreciate according to Mr. Coxe, because, "85 million barrels of oil get burned up a day. At the margin, the prices have to go up because we have run out of all the low cost sources of supply. Peak oil doesn't mean we are running out of oil, it means we are running out of oil at \$50 bucks a barrel." As a forecast, "oil prices are likely to stay at about \$70 bucks [per barrel of oil] in real terms." He also believes the spread between the West Texas Intermediate and the Brent will be eliminated within the near future, "the United States and to a lesser degree Canada will not have an automatic competitive economic advantage in competing with Europeans as a result of the distortion of energy prices."

### [Eugene aims to halve fossil fuel use](#)

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions that many believe are causing climate change, the city of Eugene has an ambitious environmental goal: cut fossil fuel consumption — including gasoline — in half by 2030.

It's a tall order in a city where the automobile remains the preferred transportation choice, but a city official says a local trend indicates that the goal may be possible to reach.

### [Report highlights alternative transportation options for Northwest](#)

The four case studies includes active transportation (cycling, walking, etc) in Whistler, a ride sharing program in the Kootenays, public transit systems in Wisconsin, electric vehicles in use in Terrace, and potential for enhanced passenger rail service between Edmonton and Prince Rupert.

"The truth is we need to ween ourselves off of fossil fuels," said Nikki Skuce, senior energy campaigners for ForestEthics. "So what are some [things] that people are doing that that can work in a rural context and what are some initiatives that residents are taking?"

### [Carbon Fear And Loathing In Riyadh](#)

A little trip to Riyadh is interesting. There, young western educated planners and cadres are all rigorously indoctrinated, or self-indoctrinated with Postcarbon Sustainability themes and memes. All government agencies are full of them. The holy city of Mecca now boasts an urban rail system able to carry 60 000 passengers per hour, and Saudi railway boomers intend to rival American and Russia railway builders of the 19th century, with 2400 miles of rail track currently under construction. To be sure, the main goal is replacing and substituting oil in the Saudi economy. In their colorful powerpoints, the Postcarbon Prophets of the Kingdom show these rail networks lined by Super Grids fed with clean green energy from huge windfarms and glistening solar power plants, miraculously protected from airborne sandstorm grit and stones. Whatever it is, Future Energy is not oil.

### [Small Time](#)

Why small cities like Baltimore are poised for success in a hot, thirsty, and oil-starved future.

### [Building your town from scratch - a Bush Telegraph hypothetical Part 2](#)

An eight member panel of 'founding mothers and fathers' worked with a live audience to establish the location, purpose and population of what rapidly turned into a state capital, set in WA's Kimberley called 'Delirium.'

Then challenges were set involving technology delivery, carbon tax, peak oil, food security and climate change.

### [World population hits 7 billion](#)

Today, you are one of 7 billion people on Earth.

This historic milestone is rekindling age-old debates over birth control, protecting natural resources and reducing consumption. It also has many wondering whether the Earth can support so many people.

### [11 challenges facing 7 billion super-consumers](#)

Currently, humans are consuming the equivalent of one-and-a-half planet Earths every year, according to WWF's Living Planet Report. Looking at renewable resources—from fish to forests and carbon to agriculture—the report shows just how far we have surpassed the sustainability of our world. By the time the global population is expected to stabilize at 9 (or maybe 10) billion people in 2050, a total 2.8 Earths will be necessary if 'business as usual' continues. In other words it would take the Earth's resources nearly 3 years to recover from 1 year of human consumption. Not surprisingly, some consume a far bigger share than others: for example, if everyone on Earth consumed as much as the average American, global society would need 4.5 Earths today to live sustainably.

### [The status quo will save us all](#)

The solution we have been pursuing for decades — sacrifice — is going to work for at least a bit longer.

Of course I'm not talking about self-sacrifice. What good American believes in that goody-two-shoe garbage?

Nor am I talking about the kind of sacrifice they did in the old days, where you have to actually watch a virgin member of your family burn.

What I am talking about is sacrificing your great-great-grandchildren, and their grandchildren, en masse. It's kind of like how some indigenous cultures suggest we consider the seventh generation in all that we do, only backwards.

### [Enjoy The Present Golden Age](#)

In particular, I think many people anticipate a future where disease and disabilities are absent or easily curable, and where the human lifespan is elongated and perhaps even unlimited.

On the other hand, I think everyone who thinks they were born too early needs to recognize how lucky they are. There is no guarantee that the future will be better than the present, and there are many plausible reasons to believe that it could be much worse.

### [Don't Let Oil Zombies Eat Your Brain](#)

Oil ideology is increasingly on display in Canada these days. This past summer's recent meeting of provincial and federal energy ministers in Kananaskis started with a reasonable sounding discussion about needing a national energy strategy, but then ended in a hearty cry of "Oiiiiiiiil..." based on a rationale that would absolutely fry the planet.

Apparently, oil ideologues, like zombies, are here for a good time, not a long time.



## [The six natural resources most drained by our 7 billion people](#)

For how long can we realistically expect to have oil? And which dwindling element is essential to plant growth?

## [Fossil Fuels as the Whale Oil of the Future](#)

Amory B. Lovins, the longtime efficiency guru, has a new book out that analyzes the possibility of converting the nation to almost total reliance on renewable sources of energy. The conclusions may not win instant acceptance, but it is certainly in the running for the best-blurbed energy book of the year.

## [China's Three Gorges hits full capacity](#)

YICHANG (Xinhua) -- China's Three Gorges Dam on Sunday reached its designed highest mark, the second time for the world's largest water control and hydropower project to run at full capacity.

## [Vestas Cuts 2011 Revenue Forecast 8.6% on Delays at German Turbine Factory](#)

Vestas Wind Systems A/S, the biggest maker of wind turbines, cut its forecasts for margins and revenue this year after delays in expanding production at its new plant in Travemuende, Germany.

## [UK plans to halve solar subsidies](#)

(Reuters) - Britain plans to halve state subsidies for solar panel schemes of up to 50 kilowatts (kW) and to impose minimum energy efficiency standards on buildings applying for solar feed-in tariffs (FITs), the energy ministry said on Monday.

## [Another Solyndra? Electric car battery maker facing financial hardship](#)

A company whose subsidiary received \$118 million in stimulus grant money from the U.S. Department of Energy to build new electric car batteries has now been removed from trading on NASDAQ.

EnerDel got an Energy Department grant in early 2010 for battery manufacturing in Indiana but the stock of EnerDel's parent company, Ener1, fell from \$4.04 in 2010 to just 9 cents on Thursday. By Friday NASDAQ had pulled the company from its listing leaving the stock at \$0.00.

## [Statoil Says Japan on Its 'Watch List' for Offshore Wind Plans](#)

Statoil is refining its floating wind turbine concept while Japan hones plans to install this type of machine off Fukushima following the March earthquake and tsunami that devastated the region and led to reduced nuclear power capacity.

## [Catastrophic Drought in Texas Causes Global Economic Ripples](#)

AUSTIN — The drought map created by University College London shows a number of worryingly dry areas around the globe, in places including East Africa, Canada, France and Britain.

But the largest area of catastrophic drought centers on Texas. It is an angry red swath on the map, signifying what has been the driest year in the state's history. It has brought immense hardship to farmers and ranchers, and fed incessant wildfires, as well as an enormous dust storm that blew through the western Texas city of Lubbock in the past month.

## [The Great Pumpkin: Competitive vegetable growers are closing in on an elusive goal—the one ton squash](#)

To the west, in New Richmond, Wisconsin, a 33-year-old grower named Chris Stevens had used a flower from a 1421 Stelts to pollinate a plant from New Hampshire. Stevens estimated the fruit at 1,541 pounds, but at the 2010 Stillwater Harvest Fest, in Minnesota, it came in at 1,810.5 pounds, a new world record. A Michigan grower came in second. Even South Dakota made the top five.

With climate change, the Great Pumpkin Belt could widen, giving the Ohio Valley stiffer competition from the north, says Andres. Stevens is doubtful that such northerly states are going to overtake Ohio Valley's lead any time soon. "That's the number-one weigh-off in the world," he said reverently. "They have a good chance of holding onto it."



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