



Drumbeat: October 13, 2012

Posted by [Leanan](#) on October 13, 2012 - 10:25am

[State of the Earth: Still Seeking Plan A for Sustainability](#)

The problem in addressing climate change, which Sachs also called the biggest and hardest challenge ever to face humanity, may be human nature itself. Fossil fuels remain the cheapest fuel source, and as long as they do, we will continue to burn them, Hansen noted, arguing for a carbon tax on coal, oil and natural gas with the proceeds distributed to citizens of the countries collecting the tax. And climate change timescales are "longer than human memory and longer than terms in political office," Goddard noted. "Human experience is also largely local, and it's hard to notice a global trend."

[Oil Falls After IEA Cuts Global Demand Forecast](#)

"There is recognition here that the global economy is not growing at a robust pace and it's going to limit oil demand," said Tim Evans, an energy analyst at Citi Futures Perspective in New York. "In contrast, supply is growing at a somewhat faster pace. As long as you have supply growing faster than demand, then that's going to put downward pressure on prices."

[CME, Wall Street Win Delays From CFTC Swap Dealer Rules](#)

CME Group Inc., energy traders and Wall Street banks won delays and exemptions from the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission as regulations intended to improve oversight of the swaps market took effect.

[Russia, Serbia Ink Gas Supply Deal for Next Decade](#)

Russia and Serbia signed on Saturday an intergovernmental agreement on deliveries of Russian natural gas to Serbia for the period until 2021.

The framework document envisions annual supplies of 5 billion cubic meters of natural gas by Russia's energy giant Gazprom.

[Hungary to take over MOL's gas storage-paper](#)

(Reuters) - Hungary's government prepared the ground to take over the strategic natural gas storage facility of oil group MOL with a new bill submitted to parliament, the daily Nepszabadsag said on Saturday.

[Iran denies sharp fall in oil exports](#)

Iran's oil exports have remained steady in recent months, OPEC Governor Mohammad-Ali Khatibi said, denying reports of the International Energy Agency (IEA) which claimed Iran's oil exports had plunged in September.

"Iran's oil exports are the same as in previous months and the situation is stable," ISNA News Agency quoted Khatibi as saying on Saturday.

[Turkey Says Pilot of Syrian Airplane Ignored Its Warning](#)

A Syrian plane grounded by Turkish authorities yesterday contained munitions, in violation of civil aviation rules, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said.

"They are equipment and munitions sent for the Syrian Defense Ministry from a Russian institution" equivalent to Turkey's state arms manufacturer, Erdogan told a televised news conference in Ankara. He said an inspection was under way by Turkish officials.

[EU Reaches Preliminary Deal to Tighten Iran Sanctions](#)

The European Union reached a preliminary agreement to tighten sanctions on Iran to increase pressure on the Gulf nation's nuclear program, according to two EU diplomats with knowledge of the matter.

[Letting sleeping oil deposits lie](#)

Much public land exploration is on hold

More than half the federally owned land approved for oil exploration and leased to energy firms for that purpose is going unexploited – because the companies holding the rights say it would be economically infeasible.

[Coast Guard Says Sheen Near Macondo Matches 2010 BP Spill](#)

"The most likely source is the bent riser pipe that once connected the rig to the well head, where a mix of oil, drilling mud and seawater were trapped after the top kill operation," Brett Clanton, a spokesman for London-based BP, said in an e- mailed

statement today.

Samples that BP analyzed from the sheen contain a compound found in the drilling mud and not in the source oil, the company said.

[Feds approve BP-Transocean plan to identify source of sheen related to 2010 Gulf oil spill](#)

NEW ORLEANS — Federal officials said late Friday they have approved a joint plan from BP and Transocean to identify the source of a sheen in the Gulf Of Mexico associated with the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Officials said in a news release that the federal on-site coordinator approved the joint plan on Thursday. Coast Guard Capt. Duke Walker had required the plan, and federal officials informed BP and Transocean they might be held responsible for the costs of identifying the source and the cleanup.

[Last-Ditch Bid in Texas to Try to Stop Oil Pipeline](#)

Environmentalists have taken to treetops in Winnsboro, Tex., to try to block bulldozers building the southern leg of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline.

[Fukushima operator must learn from mistakes, new adviser says](#)

TOKYO (Reuters) - Tokyo Electric Power Co must adopt measures used in other Japanese industries to reform after acknowledging that it failed to anticipate and tackle the Fukushima disaster, the utility's newly installed outside adviser said on Saturday.

[Smart's electric car might actually be... smart](#)

The electric car Smart ED is possibly the best value yet among zero emission cars.

[Green Power Battles Data Line in Puget Sound](#)

There's a battle brewing in the Puget Sound between a utility that wants to be the first on the U.S. West Coast to generate power from ocean currents and a Japanese telecommunications giant that says the plan threatens its billion-dollar fiber optic cable connection to the U.S.

[Dr. Chu's Remarks About Biofuels at Biomass 201](#)

The Biomass 2012 conference took place in Washington DC in July. Recently, online

videos went up showing some of the speaker highlights and I've gleaned what I could from them for you below. In addition to Dr. Steven Chu's remarks, I've included those of Heather Zichal and Cheryl Martin.

[Food Sickens Millions as Company-Paid Checks Find It Safe](#)

On a sweltering hot day in mid-May, wind whips through an open-air latrine, carrying a cloud of dust reeking of human excrement across the field. Flies swarm in a squalid bathroom. Tomas Ramirez, 11, who says he's worked the whole harvest with his parents in the field, says he uses some bushes instead of the feces-smearred bathroom.

"I'm always dirty because there is nowhere to wash," he says.

The field foreman, Martin Fuentes, says his crew has nowhere to wash their hands.

"This is all the boss gives us," he says. "We don't get anything here, so we just make do."

[The soaring cost of Sunday roast: Dramatic price rises are forcing families to cut back on meat, veg and fruit](#)

Families are giving up their traditional Sunday roast as the cost of both meat and vegetables soar.

In fact, many are cutting back on fresh food altogether.

Farmers and supermarkets are blaming the meat price explosion – which is likely to continue beyond Christmas – on the rising cost of feed for livestock.

[Some climate scientists, in a shift, link weather to global warming](#)

Drought and intense heat in the last decade leads some to believe there's enough evidence to establish a statistical pattern. It's a break with mainstream scientific thought.



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