

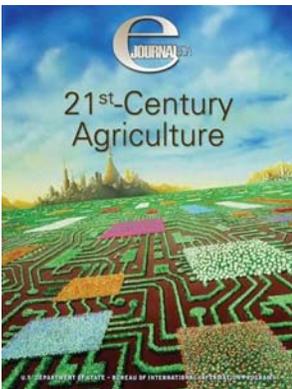


ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Information Resource Center
Embassy of the United States Madrid

March 2010 • Number 20

U.S. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS



21st-Century Agriculture

Bureau of International Information Programs
March 2010

Humanity's longest struggle has been to feed itself. This eJournal USA explores how 21st-century technical prowess and agricultural skill hold the key to feeding the growing populations of the future.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/ejs/0310.pdf#popup>



Global Water Issues

Bureau of International Information Programs
March 2010

Global Water Issues explores from an international perspective the many interrelated aspects of how humanity manages water quality and supply, how water relates to environmental concerns, and how this most fundamental substance affects even mankind's social and political arrangements. This abridged First Look edition includes several chapters. Watch for the complete book in Summer 2010.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.america.gov/st/energy-english/2010/March/20100310143830fsyelkaew0.4131739.html&distid=ucs>

Remarks by Secretary Clinton on World Water Day

National Geographic Society, Washington, DC
March 22, 2010

"...And as pressing as water issues are now, they will become even more important in the near future. Experts predict – and many of you are in this audience who are experts – that by 2025, just 15

years from now, nearly two-thirds of the world's countries will be water-stressed. Many sources of freshwater will be under additional strain from climate change and population growth. And 2.4 billion people will face absolute water scarcity – the point at which a lack of water threatens social and economic development.”

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/03/138737.htm>

Statement on World Water Day by Maria Otero, Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs

U.S. Department of State
March 22, 2010

Today the United States recognizes World Water Day by renewing our belief that no child should ever die from water-borne illness, no war should ever be fought over water, and no person should go thirsty from lack of access to safe water.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.state.gov/g/138728.htm>

en español

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/138940.pdf>

ENERGY STAR® program

U.S. Department of Energy
March 19, 2010

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy today outlined a series of steps to further strengthen the trusted ENERGY STAR® program. This action comes at a critical time for American consumers, many of whom struggle to keep up with their monthly energy bills.

http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=309

Energy Use in the U.S. Food System

U.S. Department of Agriculture
March 10, 2010

Energy is an important input in growing, processing, packaging, distributing, storing, preparing, serving, and disposing of food. Analysis using the two most recent U.S. benchmark input-output accounts and a national energy data system shows that in the United States, use of energy along the food chain for food purchases by or for U.S. households increased between 1997 and 2002 at more than six times the rate of increase in total domestic energy use. This increase in food-related energy flows is over 80 percent of energy flow increases nationwide over the period.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR94/ERR94.pdf>

Obama Administration Recording Greenhouse Gas Emissions

America.gov
March 24, 2010

The United States is seeking to increase the number of industry sectors that must report greenhouse gas emissions under a new mandatory reporting system.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.america.gov/st/energy-english/2010/March/20100324111854abretnuh0.194607.html&distid=ucs#ixzz0jeaKvtlp>

Water at USAID: From Ridge to Reef

As the first decade of the new millennium comes to an end, there remains no doubt about either the critical importance of water resources to every aspect of life on Earth, or the enormity of the water-related challenges currently facing global society. Despite many successful water projects, billions of people still lack adequate water and sanitation; pollution and over-exploitation threaten rivers, lakes and oceans; and water insecurity hinders efforts to foster economic growth in the developing world

USAID is committed to addressing these challenges, and creating a water secure world in which every society enjoys access to an acceptable quantity and quality of water to meet human, livelihood, production, and ecosystem needs.

http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/water/index.html

Top 25 Cities with the Most Energy Star Labeled Buildings in 2009

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
March 23, 2010

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) releases a list of U.S. metropolitan areas with the largest number of energy efficient buildings that earned EPA's Energy Star in 2009. The list is headed by Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Denver, Chicago, Houston, Lakeland, Dallas-Fort Worth, Atlanta and New York. Energy efficiency saves building owners money and fights climate change.

http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/downloads/2009_Top_25_cities_chart.pdf

La Alianza de las Américas para la Energía y el Clima en el Foro Urbano Mundial: Impulsando la urbanización sostenible

America.gov
26 de marzo 2010

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.america.gov/st/develop-spanish/2010/March/20100326133844xjsnommis0.5662348.html?CP.rss=true>

THINK TANKS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

A Comparison of the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act (Cejap Act) and the Carbon Limits and Energy for America's Renewal Act (Clear Act)

Pew Center on Global Climate Change
March 2010

The brief compares key elements of two bills currently under consideration in Congress. The Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act (CEJAP Act) provides a comprehensive, economy-wide approach to achieving reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by capping emissions, using a combination of auctions and free allocations for distributing allowances, and allowing firms to trade and purchase offsets to reduce compliance costs. The second bill, the Carbon Limits and Energy for America's Renewal Act (CLEAR Act), caps greenhouse gas emissions, but the approaches used in

these bills differ significantly. The brief describes the key features of each bill and Table 1 at the end of the brief contains a side-by-side comparison of the bills.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/policy-memo-cejap-clear-march2010.pdf>

Building a Solar Future: Repowering America's Homes, Businesses and Industry with Solar Energy

Environment America

March 9, 2010

America has virtually limitless potential to tap the energy of the sun. Solar energy is clean, safe, proven and available everywhere, and the price of many solar energy technologies is declining rapidly. By adopting solar energy on a broad scale, the nation can address our biggest energy challenges, according to the authors.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.environmentamerica.org/uploads/37/06/370684e48c4a60d6c25763175070f0ae/Building-a-Solar-Future.pdf>

Climate Change: Preliminary Observations on Geoengineering Science, Federal Efforts, and Governance Issues

U.S. Government Accountability Office

March 18, 2010

Key scientific assessments have underscored the urgency of reducing emissions of carbon dioxide to help mitigate potentially negative effects of climate change. Recently, some policymakers have raised questions about geo-engineering--large-scale deliberate interventions in the earth's climate system to diminish climate change or its potential impacts--and its role in a broader strategy of mitigating and adapting to climate change.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10546t.pdf>

Who's Winning the Clean Energy Race?: Growth, Competition and Opportunity in the World's Largest Economies

Pew Charitable Trusts

March 24, 2010

For the first time, China led the United States and other G-20 members in 2009 clean energy investments and finance, according to the data. China invested \$34.6 billion in the clean energy economy, nearly double the United States' total of \$18.6 billion. Over the last five years, the United States also trailed five G-20 members, Turkey, Brazil, China, the United Kingdom, and Italy, in the rate of clean energy investment growth.

http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Global_warming/G-20%20Report.pdf

Alternative Views of Climate Change

Council on Foreign Relations

February 23, 2010

Debating global warming policy has moved to the top of agendas worldwide, but some skeptics still question whether action is necessary or possible.

http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.cfr.org/publication/14318/alternative_views_on_climate_change.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder

Climate Financing for City Development?

ICLEI

March 05, 2010

Cities in a Post-2012 Climate Policy Framework is the theme of an ICLEI Global Report now published. This Climate Analysis report builds upon 38 Interviews from local governments, international climate and urban experts, and international business representatives. The report investigates how suitable the international climate financing architecture is for cities and local governments in the developing world, provides a current account of local governments in the international climate negotiations, and a discussion of city-level greenhouse gas inventories.

http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.iclei.org/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Global/Services/Cities_in_a_Post-2012_Policy_Framework-Climate_Financing_for_City_Development_ICLEI_2010.pdf

ARTICLES



One Earth Magazine. NRDC

Spring 2010.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.onearth.org/10spr>

Facing Extinction: 9 Steps to Save Biodiversity

Solutions,

No. 1, January-February 2010

Four distinguished authors outline conservationists' responsibility to defend and restore ecosystems in a world where biodiversity is increasingly compromised by climate change and human activity. They propose nine ways to do this that involve local communities, individual and national economics, biodiversity endowments, and education to increase "bioliteracy." With so many species extinct or on the brink of extinction, the goal is to reach "zero extinction" by returning to good stewardship.

http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.thesolutionsjournal.com/feature_article/2009-02-24-facing-extinction-nine-steps-save-biodiversity

Under the World's Greatest Cities, Deadly Plates

Washington Post

February 23, 2010

In 1800, only one city in the world had more than a million people, Beijing. Last year, humanity reached a turning point, when more people lived in cities than rural areas; today, there are 381 cities with over a million residents each. Over 400 million people worldwide live in large cities that face

significant seismic hazards, and the author writes that strong earthquakes, such as those that recently struck central Chile and Port-au-Prince, Haiti, will extract an increasing human toll due to the growing global trend toward urbanization. Achenbach notes that it is not the earthquake itself, but buildings, often poorly constructed, that kill people.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/22/AR2010022204828.html>

New Species from Ancient Caves

National Wildlife

Vol. 48, No. 2, February/March 2010

Caves shelter thousands of animal species, many of them unknown, according to biologists exploring caves beneath California's southern Sierra Nevada Mountains, in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, where new and unusual species are being discovered. Cave life forms are vulnerable to chemicals, poisons and other contaminants, and are adversely affected by amateur cave explorers who disrupt delicate underground habitats. Caves help purify groundwater in karst (hollowed-out bedrock) aquifers that supply freshwater to an estimated quarter of the world.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Animals/Archives/2010/New-Species-from-Ancient-Caves.aspx>

WEBCHATS

International and Local Action to Combat Climate Change

America.gov

Discuss the effectiveness of multilateral international organizations like the United Nations in confronting the complex challenges of climate change and whether more can be done through alternative groupings or local action. Our guest will be Jonathan Pershing, deputy special envoy for climate change at the State Department.

This webchat will take place on April 7 at 8 a.m. EDT (12:00 GMT).

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.america.gov/st/webchat-english/2010/March/20100329123507ihecuor0.623695.html&distid=ucs>

Climate Change: Move or Adapt

CO.NX webchat transcript

March 17

Dr. Marcia K. McNutt, director of the U.S. Geological Survey in the Department of the Interior, answered questions in a March 17 CO.NX webchat on climate adaptation.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.america.gov/st/webchat-english/2010/March/20100323165235xjsnommis0.6873852.html&distid=ucs#ixzz0j5Dth24G>

WATER AND CLIMATE RESOURCES

A range of materials about the effects of climate change on water

Web sites

UN Water World Water Day Website

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/flashindex.html>

The World Bank

World Bank

Water and Climate Change

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTWAT/0,,contentMDK:21723353~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:4602123,00.html>

CLIMATE INSTITUTE



Climate Institute

Water

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.climate.org/topics/water.html>



U.N. Development Programme

Climate Change Adaptation and Water

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.undp.org/water/crosscutting/climate.html>



UN-Water

Task Force on Climate Change

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.unwater.org/TFclimate.html>



The International Research Institute
for Climate and Society

International Research Institute for Climate and Society

Water Resources Management

http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://portal.iri.columbia.edu/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=500&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=0&mode=2&in_hi_userid=2&cached=true



PACIFIC
INSTITUTE

Pacific Institute

Climate Change and Water

http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.pacinst.org/topics/water_and_sustainability/climate_change/



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Water - Climate Change and Water

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.epa.gov/ow/climatechange/>

Videos

Water & Climate Channel

Understanding the Vital Links Between Water and Climate Change

http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.thewaterchannel.tv/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=76&Itemid=98

Brochure

Climate Change and Water: Perspectives from the U.S. Forest Service

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/resources/pubs/.../water-climate-brochure.pdf>

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