



## ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Information Resource Center  
Embassy of the United States Madrid

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### GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

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A BOTTOM-UP APPROACH TO GREENING GOVERNMENT



#### **Greengov**

On Monday, October 5th, 2009, President Barack Obama signed an Executive Order on Federal Sustainability – and in doing so, committed the Federal government to lead by example, practice

what we preach and help build a clean energy economy through how we operate.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/GreenGov/>

#### **U.S. Crude Oil, Natural Gas, and Natural Gas Liquids Proved Reserves, 2008**

Energy Information Administration

October 29, 2009

The Energy Information Administration's (EIA) estimates of proved reserves of natural gas and crude oil as of the end of 2008 tell very different stories about apparent changes in the availability of these two energy resources in the United States.

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil\\_gas/natural\\_gas/data\\_publications/crude\\_oil\\_natural\\_gas\\_reserves/cr.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/natural_gas/data_publications/crude_oil_natural_gas_reserves/cr.html)

#### **Memorandum of Understanding Among the US Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and Department of the Interior, Regarding Coordination in Federal Agency Review of Electric Transmission Facilities on Federal Land**

The White House

October 28

Today, Obama Administration officials released a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by nine Federal Departments and Agencies to make it faster and simpler to build transmission lines on Federal lands. The goal of the agreement is to speed approval of new transmission lines, reduce expense and uncertainty in the process, generate cost savings, increase accessibility to renewable energy and jump start job creation

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/ceq/Transmission%20Siting%20on%20Federal%20Lands%20MOU.pdf>

#### **President Obama Announces \$3.4 Billion Investment to Spur Transition to Smart Energy Grid**

US Department of Energy

October 27, 2009

Speaking at Florida Power and Light's (FPL) DeSoto Next Generation Solar Energy Center, President Barack Obama today announced the largest single energy grid modernization investment in U.S. history, funding a broad range of technologies that will spur the nation's transition to a smarter, stronger, more efficient and reliable electric system. The end result will promote energy-saving choices for consumers, increase efficiency, and foster the growth of renewable energy sources like wind and solar.

<http://www.energy.gov/8216.htm>

### **Remarks by the President Obama Challenging Americans to Lead the Global Economy in Clean Energy**

The White House

October 23, 2009

"Countries on every corner of this Earth now recognize that energy supplies are growing scarcer, energy demands are growing larger, and rising energy use imperils the planet we will leave to future generations. And that's why the world is now engaged in a peaceful competition to determine the technologies that will power the 21st century. From China to India, from Japan to Germany, nations everywhere are racing to develop new ways to producing and use energy. The nation that wins this competition will be the nation that leads the global economy. I am convinced of that. And I want America to be that nation. It's that simple."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-challenging-americans-lead-global-economy-clean-energy>

### **Secretary Chu Announces New Investments in Cutting-Edge Wind Energy Research Facilities**

US Department of Energy

October 15, 2009

"Wind power has the potential to provide 20% of our electricity and create hundreds of thousands of jobs," said Secretary Chu. "We need to position the United States as the clear leader in this industry, or watch these high-paying jobs go overseas. The investment we're making today will help ensure that America has both the talent and the technology we need to compete."

[http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress\\_alerts.cfm/pa\\_id=250](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=250)

### **Full Committee Hearing: to receive testimony on energy and related economic effects of global climate change legislation**

United States Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on energy and related economic effects of global climate change legislation

[http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing\\_ID=3050c928-94fb-d215-d744-8018edf5a669](http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=3050c928-94fb-d215-d744-8018edf5a669)

### **President Obama Declares October National Energy Awareness Month**

The White House

October 6, 2009

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2009 as National Energy Awareness Month. I call upon the people of the United

States to mark this month by making clean energy choices that can both rebuild our economy and make it more sustainable. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

[http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress\\_alerts.cfm/pa\\_id=244](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=244)

### **President Obama signs an Executive Order Focused on Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance**

The White House  
October 5, 2009

Demonstrating a commitment to lead by example, President Obama signed an Executive Order (attached) today that sets sustainability goals for Federal agencies and focuses on making improvements in their environmental, energy and economic performance. The Executive Order requires Federal agencies to set a 2020 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target within 90 days; increase energy efficiency; reduce fleet petroleum consumption; conserve water; reduce waste; support sustainable communities; and leverage Federal purchasing power to promote environmentally-responsible products and technologies.

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/President-Obama-signs-an-Executive-Order-Focused-on-Federal-Leadership-in-Environmental-Energy-and-Economic-Performance/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/President-Obama-signs-an-Executive-Order-Focused-on-Federal-Leadership-in-Environmental-Energy-and-Economic-Performance/)

### **Short-term Energy and Winter Fuels Outlook**

Energy Information Administration  
October 6, 2009

Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects average household expenditures for space-heating fuels to be \$960 this winter, October 1 to March 31, a decrease of \$84, or 8 percent, from last winter. The forecast principally reflects lower fuel prices, although expected slightly milder weather than last winter will also contribute to lower fuel use in many areas. The largest expenditure decreases are in households using natural gas and propane, projected at 12 and 14 percent, respectively.

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/steo/pub/oct09.pdf>

### **Briefing on International Energy Affairs**

David L. Goldwyn, Coordinator for International Energy Affairs  
October 9, 2009

“Let me talk a little bit about what I mean by energy security. Energy security, for any country, is access to diverse, affordable, reliable energy supplies, free of political or economic coercion. Now, for the United States, energy security has been primarily about oil security; it’s been about avoiding oil price shocks and avoiding price volatility because of the way it affects our economy. And we do that by diversifying the kind of fuel used, diversifying the number of countries that we get that fuel from, slowing the rate of increase of our own energy demand, improving efficiency, deploying clean energy technology.”

<http://www.state.gov/s/ciea/rmk/130461.htm>

### **US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon**

US Department of Energy  
October 2009

The Solar Decathlon joins 20 college and university teams in a competition to design, build, and operate the most attractive and energy-efficient solar-powered house.

<http://www.solardecathlon.org/>

## **Solar Powering Your Community: A Guide for Local Governments**

US Department of Energy

<http://www.solaramericacities.energy.gov/GuideForLocalGovernments>

## **GreenChill Advanced Refrigeration Partnership**

The GreenChill Advanced Refrigeration Partnership is an EPA cooperative alliance with the supermarket industry and other stakeholders to promote advanced technologies, strategies, and practices that reduce refrigerant charges and emissions of ozone-depleting substances and greenhouse gases.

<http://www.epa.gov/greenchill/>

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## **Methane Capture: Options for Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction**

Congressional Research Service

September 17, 2009

Research on climate change has identified a wide array of sources that emit greenhouse gases (GHGs). Among the six gases that have generally been the primary focus of concern, methane is the second-most abundant, accounting for approximately 8% of total U.S. GHG emissions in 2007. Methane is emitted from a number of sources. The most significant are agriculture (both animal digestive systems and manure management); landfills; oil and gas production, refining, and distribution; and coal mining.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/130799.pdf>

## **Climate Change: Costs and Benefits of the Cap-and-Trade Provisions of H.R.2454**

Congressional Research Service

September 14, 2009

This report examines seven studies that project the costs of H.R. 2454 to 2030 or beyond. It is difficult (and some would consider it unwise) to project costs up to the year 2030, much less beyond. The already tenuous assumption that current regulatory standards will remain constant becomes more unrealistic as time goes forward, and other unforeseen events (such as technological breakthroughs) loom as critical issues which cannot be modeled. Hence, long-term cost projections are at best speculative, and should be viewed with attentive skepticism.

<http://energy.senate.gov/public/files/R40809.pdf>

## **THINK TANKS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Pew Center's Corporate Energy Efficiency**

Pew Center on Global Climate Change

The Pew Center's Corporate Energy Efficiency project is a multi-year research and communications effort to identify and highlight the most effective methods used by companies today to reduce their energy consumption and lower their related greenhouse gas emissions. The Pew Center will publish a report in early 2010 summarizing key findings, and additional materials will be posted on this web site. The project is funded by a three-year, \$1.4 million grant from Toyota.

<http://www.pewclimate.org/energy-efficiency>

### **The Pittsburgh Summit: Acting on our Global Energy and Climate Change Challenges**

September 24-25, 2009

“Today the Leaders at the Pittsburgh Summit made a critical commitment to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies over the medium term while providing targeted support for the poorest. This groundbreaking effort will encourage the conservation of energy, improve our energy security, and provide a down-payment on our commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

<http://www.pittsburghsummit.gov/resources/129661.htm>

### **Climate Change and the Future Impacts of Storm-Surge Disasters in Developing Countries**

Center for Global Development

September 24, 2009

As the climate changes during the 21st century, larger cyclonic storm surges and growing populations may collide in disasters of unprecedented size. As conditions worsen, variations in coastal morphology will magnify the effects in some areas, while largely insulating others. The authors explore the implications of sea-level rise and storm surges for 84 developing countries and 577 of their cyclone-vulnerable coastal cities with populations greater than 100,000.

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1422836/>

### **Climate Change: Impact on Agriculture and Costs of Adaptation**

International Food Policy Research Institute

October 2009

The unimpeded growth of greenhouse gas emissions is raising the earth's temperature, according to the study. The consequences include melting glaciers, more precipitation, more and more extreme weather events, and shifting seasons. The accelerating pace of climate change, combined with global population and income growth, threatens food security everywhere

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/pr21.pdf>

### **Meeting the Climate Challenge: Core Elements of an Effective Response to Climate Change**

Center for American Progress and United Nations Foundation

October 6, 2009

Achievable gains in energy efficiency, renewable energy, forest conservation, and sustainable land use worldwide could achieve up to 75 percent of needed global emissions reductions in 2020 at a net savings of \$14 billion. These actions, along with additional investments in climate adaptation, would deliver a wide range of economic, security, and environmental benefits in developed and developing countries. According to the report, greater international support for these core elements would make an immediate contribution to solving the climate problem and help to achieve a new international climate agreement.

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/10/pdf/UNclimateissues.pdf>

### **National Parks in Peril: The Threats of Climate Change**

National Resources Defense Council

October 1, 2009

Climate change from human activity is the leading threat to wildlife, plants, water and ice in 25 of America's national parks, according to the report. The report outlines climate-related threats in 25 parks spanning 22 states. The top risks include: loss of snow and water, rising seas, more extreme weather, loss of plants and wildlife, and more pollution.

<http://www.rockymountainclimate.org/website%20pictures/National-Parks-In-Peril-final.pdf>

### **Growing U.S. Trade in Green Technology**

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American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research  
October 7, 2009

The two main issues that should be considered when assessing the prospects for increased export potential for American energy technology are the actual dynamics of the present market environment and the cross-cutting factors that will come to bear on how trade flows will unfold in the real world, according to the testimony.

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/10709%20Hayward%20Testimony.pdf>

### **The WTO and Climate Change: Challenges and Options**

Peterson Institute for International Economics  
September 2009

Trade and environment intersect in many ways. Aside from the broad debate as to whether economic growth and trade adversely affect the environment, linkages are recognized between existing rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and rules established in various Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Controlling greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) promises to be a top priority for both national and international agendas, and special attention has been given to the relationship between the WTO and the emerging international regime on climate change.

<http://www.iie.com/publications/papers/hufbauer-kim0909.pdf>

### **Climate Change Policy: Recommendations to Reach Consensus**

The Brookings Institution  
September 2009

As the financial crisis continues to take its toll on the global economy, another serious challenge looms large: preventing the planet from warming more than 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit. Policymakers are now faced with the daunting task of stimulating growth without using carbon-intensive practices and stabilizing the climate without dampening economic recovery. If the financial crisis has shown that the future is unpredictable and that the nations and people of the world are interconnected in ways we do not always perceive, the climate challenge reinforces these lessons and suggests the need for timely, global coordination.

[http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2009/09\\_climate\\_change\\_poverty.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2009/09_climate_change_poverty.aspx)

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<http://www.unfoundation.org/assets/pdf/meeting-the-climate-challenge.pdf>

### **Climate Change Poses Grave Threat to U.S. National Parks**

Natural Resources Defense Council  
October 1, 2009

New report identifies top threats and recommendations to protect parks.

<http://www.nrdc.org/media/2009/091001a.asp>

### **Climate Change: The Resilience Option**

American Enterprise Institute  
October 2009

The Earth's climate is prone to sharp changes over fairly short periods of time. Plans that focus simply on stopping climate change are unlikely to succeed; fluctuations in the Earth's climate predate humanity. Rather than try to make the climate static, policymakers should focus on implementing resilience strategies to enable adaptation to a dynamic, changing climate. Resilience strategies can be successful if we eliminate current risk subsidies and privatize infrastructure.

<http://www.aei.org/outlook/100078>

## **ARTICLES**

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### **A Plan to Power 100 Percent of the Planet with Renewables**

Scientific American  
November 2009

Wind, water and solar technologies can provide 100 percent of the world's energy, eliminating all fossil fuels.

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=a-path-to-sustainable-energy-by-2030>

### **Prepare for Health Effects of Climate Change, World Experts Urge**

America.gov  
October 6, 2009

<http://www.america.gov/st/health-english/2008/April/20080416152929lcnirellep0.5135767.html>  
en español <http://www.america.gov/st/energy-spanish/2009/October/20080421132728pii0.7741205.html>

## **POLLS**

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### **Fewer Americans See Solid Evidence of Global Warming**

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press  
October 22, 2009

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Sept. 30-Oct. 4 among 1,500 adults reached on cell phones and landlines, finds that 57% think there is solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past few decades. In April 2008, 71% said there was solid evidence of rising global temperatures.

<http://people-press.org/report/556/global-warming>

### **Europeans Tend to Care More Strongly about Climate Change than Americans**

The Harris Poll  
October 22, 2009

A new Financial Times/Harris Poll in the United States and the five largest European countries finds that Americans under 65 are less likely than Europeans to see climate change as a major threat, to see the need for a new international agreement on climate change as a top priority or to

favor increased aid to developing countries to help them deal with climate change. However, most people in all six countries agree, when asked, that signing a new treaty on climate change should be one of our top priorities

[http://www.harrisinteractive.org/harris\\_poll/pubs/Harris\\_Poll\\_2009\\_10\\_22.pdf](http://www.harrisinteractive.org/harris_poll/pubs/Harris_Poll_2009_10_22.pdf)

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Centro de Recursos Informativos  
Embajada de EE.UU. en Madrid  
91-5872528  
[madridIRC@state.gov](mailto:madridIRC@state.gov)  
<http://www.embusa.es/irc>