



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Information Resource Center
Embassy of the United States Madrid

September 2009 • Number 15

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS



Remarks by the President at United Nation Climate Change Summit

United Nations Headquarters, New York
September 22, 2009

We are making our government's largest ever investment in renewable energy -- an investment aimed at doubling the generating capacity from wind and other renewable resources in three years. Across America, entrepreneurs are constructing wind turbines and solar panels and batteries for hybrid cars with the help of loan guarantees and tax credits -- projects that are creating new jobs and new industries. We're investing billions to cut energy waste in our homes, our buildings, and appliances -- helping American families save money on energy bills in the process.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-at-UN-Secretary-General-Ban-Ki-moons-Climate-Change-Summit/

<http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/climatechange/lang/en/pages/2009summit>

Press Briefing by Todd Stern, U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change; Michael Froman, Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs; and Carol Browner, Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change, on Climate Change Policy

The White House
September 22, 2009

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Briefing-by-Todd-Stern-Mike-Froman-and-Carol-Browner-on-the-Presidents-Climate-Change-Speech/



Climate Change Perspectives

U.S. Department of State
September 2009

This eJournal USA offers perspectives of experts and activists in several key countries on effective policies to curb greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate global warming and adapt to irreversible changes, and features an introduction by U.S. special envoy Todd Stern.

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa.html>

Obama Administration Delivers More than \$106 Million for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Projects in Nine States

U.S. Department of Energy
September 24, 2009

"This funding will allow states across the country to make major investments in energy solutions that will strengthen America's economy and create jobs at the local level," said Secretary Chu. "It will also promote some of the cheapest, cleanest and most reliable energy technologies we have "energy efficiency and conservation " which can be deployed immediately. Local communities can now make strategic investments to help meet the nation's long term clean energy and climate goals."

States receiving funding today include: Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Indiana, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Vermont, and Virginia.

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=241

Treasury, Energy Surpass \$1 Billion Milestone in Recovery Act Awards for Clean Energy Projects

U.S. Department of Energy
September 22, 2009

This morning, Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner and Energy Secretary Steven Chu hosted a group of clean energy developers and manufacturers at the White House to discuss how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) is creating jobs and helping expand the development of clean, renewable domestic energy. At the meeting, Secretaries Geithner and Chu announced \$550 million in new awards through the Recovery Act's 1603 program, bringing the total to more than \$1 billion awarded to date to companies committed to investing in domestic renewable energy production.

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=240

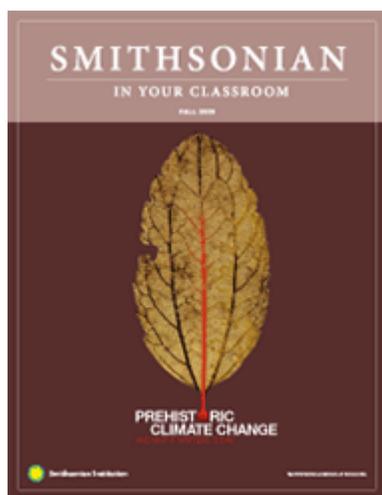
Final Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Rule

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

September 22, 2009

On January 1, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will, for the first time, require large emitters of heat-trapping emissions to begin collecting greenhouse gas (GHG) data under a new reporting system. This new program will cover approximately 85 percent of the nation's GHG emissions and apply to roughly 10,000 facilities.

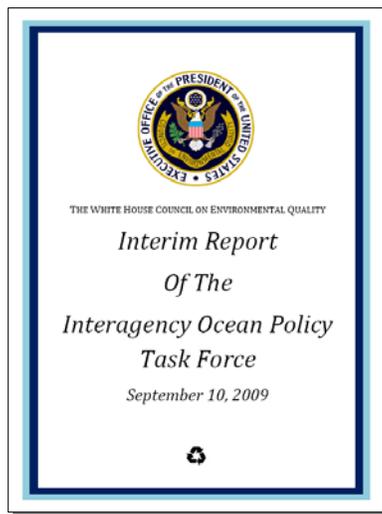
<http://epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghgrulemaking.html>



Smithsonian in Your Classroom

If you're looking for a science activity to help introduce environmental issues, or if you're looking for fun and challenging real-world math problems, we invite you to take a look at this issue of Smithsonian in Your Classroom. In the lesson plan, the class does the work of a team of paleontologists studying a time of rapid global warming 55 million years ago. By examining fossils of leaves from various tree species, and by incorporating the findings into a mathematical formula, the students are able to tell average annual temperatures during this prehistoric time.

http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/lesson_plans/climate_change/index.html



Interim Report of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force

The White House Council on Environmental Quality

September 10, 2009

The Task Force's Interim Report is now available and is undergoing a 30-day public review and comment period. This report provides proposals for a comprehensive national approach to uphold our stewardship responsibilities and ensure accountability for our actions. Additionally, the report outlines a more balanced, productive and sustainable approach to our ocean resources.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/09_17_09_Interim_Report_of_Task_Force_FINAL2.pdf

THINK TANKS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



Climate Change Policy: Recommendations to Reach Consensus

The Brookings Institution
September 2009

The contours of the international climate change negotiations are pretty clear: the U.S., EU and Japan are going to commit to incremental reductions by 2020, more dramatic ones by 2030, and very steep ones by 2050. They are looking to developing countries to more aggressively abate their emissions in the near term, and to start reducing them in the 2030 timeframe, with real reductions coming by mid-century. Developing countries want a steeper commitment by industrial countries, and want to sequence any of their own potential commitments based on whether industrial countries actually live up to their agreements. Industrial countries will also work to increase their commitments on helping

developing countries adapt to a changing climate, and on helping poorer nations finance efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to protect carbon-capturing forests. Whether or not an agreement can be forged on that by Copenhagen is still very much up in the air.

[http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2009/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/09_climate_change_poverty/09_climate_change_poverty.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2009/~/media/Files/rc/papers/2009/09_climate_change_poverty/09_climate_change_poverty.pdf)



A Copenhagen Agreement

Pew Center on Global Climate Change
September 2009

The upcoming UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen presents an historic opportunity to strengthen the international response to global climate change. The aim in Copenhagen should be agreement on the fundamentals of a new multilateral framework ensuring that all major economies contribute equitably to the global climate effort. This interim agreement should establish the basic legal and institutional architecture of a post-2012 framework within which governments can then negotiate a final agreement containing specific national commitments.

<http://www.pewclimate.org/international/copenhagen-climate-agreement>

Smaller, Simpler and More Stable: Designing Carbon Markets for Environmental and Financial Integrity

Friends of the Earth
September 2009

The carbon trading system that would be created by the energy bill that passed the House of Representatives in June would be complex, volatile and prone to gaming, concludes the report. It also finds that emerging proposals to regulate derivatives are necessary but not sufficient to ensure the integrity of carbon markets. Instead, the report concludes, if policymakers wish to use a cap-and-

trade system as a tool to reduce global warming pollution, they must design the system to be much simpler, smaller, and more stable than current proposals.

<http://www.foe.org/sites/default/files/CarbonMarketsReport.pdf>



World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change

The World Bank
September 15, 2009

Developing countries can shift to lower-carbon paths while promoting development and reducing poverty, but this

depends on financial and technical assistance from high-income countries, says World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change.

High-income countries also need to act quickly to reduce their carbon footprints and boost development of alternative energy sources to help tackle climate change. If they act now, a 'climate-smart' world is feasible, and the costs for getting there will be high but still manageable.

<http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/EXTWDRS/EXTWDR2010/0,,menuPK:5287748~pagePK:64167702~piPK:64167676~theSitePK:5287741,00.html>

ARTICLES

Spain's Answer to Unemployment: Go Greener

The Washington Post
September 24, 2009

Green jobs have become a mantra for many governments, including that of the United States. But few nations are better positioned -- or motivated -- to fuse the fight against recession and global warming than Spain. The country is already a leader in renewable fuels through \$30 billion in public support and has been cited by the Obama administration as a model for the creation of a green economy. Spain generates about 24.5 percent of its electricity through renewable sources, compared with about 7 percent in the United States

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/23/AR2009092302152.html?hpid=artslot&sid=ST2009092302161>

Factoring People into Climate Change

The Nation, Barbara Crossette
September 14, 2009

When the climate-change summit of world leaders convenes on September 22, it is very likely that the subject of women will not come up, notes the author. Although many governments pay lip service to population growth, few make the link between population and the environment. The subject of family planning is also taboo in many circles; one participant country in the climate talks has already sounded a warning to keep population off the table. The U.N. and many global NGOs and activists agree on the necessity to accept that population and climate change need to be part of an integrated policy, although making inroads into political thinking is a slow process. The author notes that U.S.

officials can go to the talks, knowing that American public opinion overwhelmingly supports family planning programs worldwide, despite the attempts of some American politicians to polarize the issue
<http://www.thenation.com/doc/20090928/crossette>

Wind Power's Weird Effect

Forbes, Jonathan Fahey

September 7, 2009

The news about wind power is mixed, notes the author. The good news is that, thanks to cheap wind energy, in some parts of the country when there is too much power on the grid, wholesale power prices are now dropping to zero or below at certain times of the day. The bad news is that wind turbines spin the most at night when demand is low and least during afternoons when power is needed. Some power plants are hard pressed to power down when wind power is at its highest. In the long run, the wind power boom could push daytime prices higher. To balance out fickle wind turbines, utilities will need electricity during peak times from gas-fired plants; that intermittent power will be expensive.

<http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2009/0907/outfront-energy-exelon-wind-powers-weird-effect.html>

POD CAST

Climate Change, Energy Security and the Obama Administration

Podcast reviews steps Obama administration has taken on clean energy

September 11, 2009

<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/September/20090914155547wltsruh0.8961603.html&distid=ucs>

Financial Incentives to Preserve the Central African Rainforest

Podcast with John Flynn director of USAID's Central African Regional Program for the Environment, also known as CARPE.

<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/September/20090922121759wltsruh0.3828961.html&distid=ucs#ixzz0RujlJL7>

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