

---

E-ALERT is compiled based on an email service we receive from the Department of State's Office of International Information Programs. We are sending it to you to alert you of the latest issues and debates in the United States.

It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

Please contact the Information Resource Center if you have problem retrieving any of the documents listed. To cancel this service, please reply to the present message and type "unsubscribe" as the text of your message.

---

#### **Title Index**

- [Item#1](#) America's Biggest Polluters: Carbon Dioxide Emissions From Power Plants In 2007
- [Item#2](#) China Is Using More Corn For Industrial Products
- [Item#3](#) Emerging Leaders: How The Developing World Is Starting A New Era Of Climate Change Leadership
- [Item#4](#) The Great American Migration Slowdown: Regional And Metropolitan Dimensions
- [Item#5](#) How Well Have Middle Class American Families Accumulated Wealth?
- [Item#6](#) Many Americans Mix Multiple Faiths
- [Item#7](#) Memo To Copenhagen: Commentary Is Misinformed – China's Commitment Is Significant
- [Item#8](#) Polls On The Environment And Global Warming
- [Item#9](#) Proposed National Objectives, Principles And Standards For Water And Related Resources Implementation Studies
- [Item#10](#) Public Diplomacy 2.0: Where The U.S. Government Meets "New Media."
- [Item#11](#) Real Prospect For Energy Efficiency In The United States
- [Item#12](#) Taiwan's Gamble: The Cross-Strait Rapprochement And Its Implications For U.S. Policy
- [Item#13](#) U.S. Opinion Turns Against The Globalism Of Its President

\*\*\*\*\*

## Reports

### Item#1

AMERICA'S BIGGEST POLLUTERS: CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS FROM POWER PLANTS IN 2007.

Environment America. Courtney Abrams. November 24, 2009.

The nation's power plants emitted 2.56 billion tons of global warming pollution in 2007, which is equivalent to the pollution from nearly 450 million of today's cars, nearly three times the number of cars registered in the United States in 2007, according to the data. More than 70 percent of this pollution came from plants, primarily coal plants, built before 1980.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://cdn.publicinterestnetwork.org/assets/935e22b3277135e3f541a58c664ae2a8/EA\\_web.pdf](http://cdn.publicinterestnetwork.org/assets/935e22b3277135e3f541a58c664ae2a8/EA_web.pdf) [PDF format, 55 pages].

### Item#2

CHINA IS USING MORE CORN FOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS. U.S. Department of Agriculture. H. Frederick Gale et al. December 12, 2009.

China's corn imports are minimal, even though it is using a growing proportion of its corn to produce starch, ethanol, and other industrial products. The corn-processing industry's growth was encouraged by Chinese government policy, but the industry now has excess capacity. Many of the corn-based industrial products are exported. China's price support for corn during 2008/09 increased raw material costs for the industry and slowed its growth.

Full Text:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/FDS/2009/12Dec/FDS09K01/FDS09k01.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages].

### Item#3

EMERGING LEADERS: HOW THE DEVELOPING WORLD IS STARTING A NEW ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERSHIP. World Wildlife Fund. Mark Lutes. Web posted December 10, 2009.

There is a widespread belief that developing countries do not take climate change seriously, are not taking steps to reduce emissions and will be an obstacle to reaching a new global agreement to stop climate change. In reality, these countries are not only taking action to reduce their own emissions, but many of them are also playing a constructive role in the international climate negotiations, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://assets.panda.org/downloads/wwf\\_emerging\\_leaders\\_paper\\_web.pdf](http://assets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_emerging_leaders_paper_web.pdf) [PDF format, 15 pages].

Item#4

THE GREAT AMERICAN MIGRATION SLOWDOWN: REGIONAL AND METROPOLITAN DIMENSIONS. Brookings Institution. William H. Frey. December 9, 2009.

Mired in housing debt and struggling through the Great Recession, more Americans are choosing to stay put rather than uproot themselves and their families. In a new report, William Frey uses Census and IRS data to analyze recent migration trends across the United States showing significant shifts in how frequently, and to where, Americans are moving.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/1209\\_migration\\_frey/1209\\_migration\\_frey.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/1209_migration_frey/1209_migration_frey.pdf) [PDF format, 28 pages].

Item#5

HOW WELL HAVE MIDDLE CLASS AMERICAN FAMILIES ACCUMULATED WEALTH? Urban Institute. Robert I. Lerman. Web posted December 9, 2009.

Many commentators have worried about the low savings rates and high debt levels of American families. Does this picture of unbridled consumption and low asset accumulation fit the American family? Did declines in 2008–2009 house prices, stocks, and bonds reinforce stagnating wealth or offset previous growth in wealth? Using data from the 1989, 1998, and 2007 Surveys of Consumer Finances (SCF) to replicate family experiences over the life cycle by following age cohorts, this fact sheet shows that from 1989 to 2007 American families were accumulating wealth at a healthy rate as individuals and families moved through their life cycle.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411990\\_17\\_LermanNetworthOvertime.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411990_17_LermanNetworthOvertime.pdf) [PDF format, 2 pages].

Item#6

MANY AMERICANS MIX MULTIPLE FAITHS. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. December 2009.

The religious beliefs and practices of Americans do not fit neatly into conventional categories. A new poll by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life finds that large numbers of Americans engage in multiple religious practices, mixing elements of diverse traditions. Many say they attend worship services of more than one faith or denomination, even when they are not traveling or going to special events like weddings and funerals.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://pewforum.org/newassets/images/reports/multiplefaiths/multiplefaiths.pdf> [PDF format, 22 pages].

Item#7

MEMO TO COPENHAGEN: COMMENTARY IS MISINFORMED – CHINA’S COMMITMENT IS SIGNIFICANT. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. William Chandler. December 8, 2009.

According to the author, criticism of China’s pledge to reduce its carbon intensity by 45 percent by 2020 is ill-founded; it only serves to provide cover for U.S. opponents to climate change action, and risks blocking effective progress.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/Memo\\_to\\_Copenhagen\\_final\\_2.pdf](http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/Memo_to_Copenhagen_final_2.pdf) [PDF format, 7 pages].

Item#8

POLLS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL WARMING. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. Karlyn Bowman and Andrew Rugg. December 8, 2009.

The study is a compilation of public opinion data on the quality of the environment, which political party is better on the issue, the handling of the environment by the Bush and Obama administrations, priorities for President Obama and Congress, the political importance of the environment, environmental activism, and global warming. The study includes the latest polling data as well as important historical trends for comparative purposes.

Full Text:

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/PublicOpionStudyEnvironment.pdf> [PDF format, 61 pages].

Item#9

PROPOSED NATIONAL OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS FOR WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES IMPLEMENTATION STUDIES. The White House. December 3, 2009.

The White House Council on Environmental Quality releases a proposal to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) for their review that would significantly change the principles and guidelines that govern America’s water resource planning. The proposal would require that such projects help to improve the economic well-being of the Nation for present and future generations, better protect communities from the effects of floods and storms, help communities and individuals make better choices about where to build based on an understanding of the risk, and protect and restore the environment.

Full Text:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/091203-ceq-revised-principles-guidelines-water-resources.pdf> [PDF format, 32 pages].

Item#10

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY 2.0: WHERE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MEETS “NEW MEDIA.” The Heritage Foundation. Helle C. Dale. December 8, 2009.

Can Facebook and Twitter change the world? Can all the nifty new social-networking sites promote democracy and a better understanding of American values around the world? The potential is certainly there, as was seen in the invaluable Twitter updates during the post-election protests in Iran. The U.S. government is embracing Web 2.0 for an ambitious strategy of reaching previously untapped populations around the world, call it Public Diplomacy 2.0. While the potential progress is undeniable, so is the potential danger. Public diplomacy expert Helle Dale explains the recent developments, strategies, benefits, and risks of cyber diplomacy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://s3.amazonaws.com/thf\\_media/2009/pdf/bg2346.pdf](http://s3.amazonaws.com/thf_media/2009/pdf/bg2346.pdf) [PDF format, 11 pages].

Item#11

REAL PROSPECT FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE UNITED STATES. National Research Council. December 2009.

America's economy and lifestyles have been shaped by the low prices and availability of energy. In the last decade, however, the prices of oil, natural gas, and coal have increased dramatically, leaving consumers and the industrial and service sectors looking for ways to reduce energy use. To achieve greater energy efficiency, the report says that there is a need for technology, more informed consumers and producers, and investments in more energy-efficient industrial processes, businesses, residences, and transportation.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12621](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12621) [HTML format with links].

Item#12

TAIWAN'S GAMBLE: THE CROSS-STRAIT RAPPROCHEMENT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. POLICY. Center for a New American Security. Abraham M. Denmark and Richard Fontaine. December 2009.

President Obama's recent visit to Beijing highlighted several issues of mutual interest and concern for the U.S.-China relationship, and the fact that Taiwan was not a major issue of contention highlights the rapidly changing dynamics of the cross-Strait environment. The policy brief details the risks and rewards

associated with this evolving cross-Strait environment and lays out several policy recommendations for the United States.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/press/Taiwan\\_Denmark\\_Dec2009\\_USTaiwan.pdf](http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/press/Taiwan_Denmark_Dec2009_USTaiwan.pdf) [PDF format, 8 pages].

Item#13

U.S. OPINION TURNS AGAINST THE GLOBALISM OF ITS PRESIDENT. YaleGlobal. Bruce Stokes. December 10, 2009.

All of President Obama's internationalist and multi-lateral policies may come to naught if he cannot convince Americans that such a strategy is in their best interest. Moreover, if American public opinion cannot be reversed, an insular country could erode US international standing and weaken its ability to obtain a consensus on a wide range of issues, according to columnist Bruce Stokes.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/us-opinion-turns-against-globalism-their-president> [HTML format, various paging].