
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.

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Reports

- [Item#1](#)
100% RENEWABLE ENERGY – AND BEYOND – FOR CITIES. World Future Council. March 2010.

What does '100 percent renewable' really mean, and what does 'and beyond' signify? The paper provides strategies for cities to become 100% powered by renewable energy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://worldfuturecouncil.org/fileadmin/user_upload/PDF/100_renewable_energy_for_citys-for_web.pdf

[PDF format, 29 pages].

Item#2

AMERICA INSECURE: CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC SECURITY OF AMERICAN FAMILIES. Urban Institute. Gregory Acs and Austin Nichols. Web posted March 23, 2010.

The paper synthesizes findings from a series of Urban Institute reports produced under the "Risk and Low-Income Working Families" research initiative. It is structured around two key questions: (1) How have economic instability and insecurity for America's low-income working families changed over time? and (2) What are the factors that contribute to or offer protection from substantial income losses and promote or inhibit recoveries from such losses?

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412055_america_insecure.pdf

[PDF format, 32 pages].

Item#3

CHINA PREPARES FOR AN ICE-FREE ARCTIC. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Linda Jakobson. March 2010.

The prospect of the Arctic being navigable during summer months as a result of climate change has impelled the Chinese Government to allocate more resources to research in the High North. Several Chinese academics have encouraged their government to be aware of the political, economic and military implications of shorter shipping routes and untapped energy resources. However, Chinese officials advocate cautious Arctic policies for fear of causing alarm and provoking countermeasures among the Arctic states.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://books.sipri.org/files/insight/SIPRIInsight1002.pdf>

[PDF format, 16 pages].

Item#4

COAL IN CHINA: RESOURCES, USES AND ADVANCED COAL TECHNOLOGIES. Pew Center on Global Climate Change. Gudong Sun. March 2010.

China's energy-development pathway has increasingly become a topic of international attention, particularly as China has become the largest national source of annual greenhouse gas emissions. At the

forefront of this pathway is a reliance on coal that has spanned many decades. In a world faced with increasing environmental pressures, China must develop ways to utilize coal more efficiently and more cleanly. Its ability to do so will be crucial for its domestic energy security, for its local environment and the well-being of its population, and for the future of the global climate.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/coal-in-china-resources-uses-technologies.pdf>

[PDF format, 31 pages].

Item#5

THE ECONOMICS OF INFLUENCING IRAN. Brookings Institution. Suzanne Maloney. March 22, 2010.

Influencing the Islamic Republic of Iran has proven to be a perennial conundrum for American presidents, says the author. The complexity of Iranian politics and the intractability of the problems posed by Tehran's revolutionary theocracy may explain why, over the course of three decades, each U.S. administration has been forced to revise its initial approach to Iran in hopes of achieving better outcomes. The overall result has been an American tendency to oscillate between engagement and pressure, with frustratingly limited results.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/03_economic_pressure_iran_maloney/201003_economic_pressure_iran_maloney.pdf

[PDF format, 8 pages].

Item#6

ROOTS OF COPENHAGEN FAILURE: NATURE DOES NOT RECOGNIZE NATIONS. YaleGlobal. Bo Ekman. March 24, 2010.

The Copenhagen climate summit was not just a failure to achieve meaningful results to avert climate change, it was also a failure for national actors to find solutions to supranational problems, according to Bo Ekman. Indeed, the summit was likely to fail from the beginning not simply because national self-interest often trumps global common interest, but because the structure of the world order is not designed to solve environmental problems that know no national boundary. Such a criticism could extend to other global problems as well, such as the financial crisis or biodiversity.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/roots-copenhagen-failure-nature-does-not-recognize-nations>

[HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

SICK WATER?: THE CENTRAL ROLE OF WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. U.N. Environment Programme. March 22, 2010.

Transforming wastewater from a major health and environmental hazard into a clean, safe and economically-attractive resource is emerging as a key challenge in the 21st century. It is a challenge that will continue to intensify as the world undergoes rapid urbanization, Industrialization and increasing demand for meat and other foods unless decisive action is taken says the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.grida.no/res/site/file/publications/sickwater/SickWater_screen.pdf

[PDF format, 88pages].

Item#8

UNIONS AND UPWARD MOBILITY FOR IMMIGRANT WORKERS. Center for Economic and Policy Research. John Schmitt. March 2010.

The report reviews the characteristics of the immigrant workforce and analyzes the impact of unionization on the pay and benefits of immigrant workers. According to the most recent available data, immigrant workers are now over 15 percent of the workforce and almost 13 percent of unionized workers. Even after controlling for systematic differences between union and non-union workers, union representation substantially improves the pay and benefits received by immigrants.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/unions-immigrants-2010-03.pdf>

[PDF format, 16 pages].

Item#9

VISA SECURITY POLICY: ROLES OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND HOMELAND SECURITY. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Ruth Ellen Wasem. March 8, 2010.

The case of Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, who allegedly attempted to ignite an explosive device on Northwest Airlines Flight 253 on December 25, 2009, has refocused attention on the responsibilities of the Departments of State and Homeland Security for the visa process. Proponents of DOS playing the principal role in visa issuances assert that only consular officers in the field have the country-specific knowledge to make decisions about whether an alien is admissible and that staffing 250 diplomatic and consular posts around the world would stretch DHS beyond its capacity. Whether the visa security roles and procedures are adequately funded may arise as the FY2011 budget is considered.

Full Text:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/R41093.pdf>

[PDF format, 24 pages].

Item#10

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.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Global_warming/G-20%20Report.pdf

[PDF format, 44 pages].