



# TJIC Alert

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April 2012

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## Energy, Environment, Science & Technology

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### ENERGY

#### 1. The Blueprint for a Secure Energy Future: Progress Report

The White House

March 12, 2012

20 p.

Full Text: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/email-files/the\\_blueprint\\_for\\_a\\_secure\\_energy\\_future\\_oneyear\\_progress\\_report.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/email-files/the_blueprint_for_a_secure_energy_future_oneyear_progress_report.pdf)

One year ago, the President put forward a comprehensive plan in the Blueprint for a Secure Energy Future outlined the Administration's all-of-the-above approach to American energy, a strategy aimed at reducing our reliance on foreign oil, saving families and businesses money at the pump, and positioning the United States as the global leader in clean energy. The report, which represent the efforts of six Federal agencies, underscore the Administration's commitment over the past three years to promoting an all-hands-on-deck, all-of-the-above approach to American energy and building a more secure energy future.

#### 2. Renewable Energy: Federal Agencies Implement Hundreds of Initiatives

U.S. Government Accountability Office

March 12, 2012

172 p.

Full Text: <http://gao.gov/assets/590/588876.pdf>

Governmentwide, 23 agencies and their 130 subagencies GAO reviewed implemented nearly 700 renewable energy initiatives in fiscal year 2010. The Departments of Defense (DOD), Agriculture (USDA), Energy (DOE), and the Interior were collectively responsible for almost 60 percent of all initiatives. The initiatives supported a range of renewable energy sources, and the most commonly supported sources were bioenergy, solar, and wind.

### **3. Operational Energy Strategy: Implementation Plan**

U.S. Department of Defense

March 2012

28 p.

Full Text: [http://energy.defense.gov/Operational\\_Energy\\_Strategy\\_Implementation\\_Plan.pdf](http://energy.defense.gov/Operational_Energy_Strategy_Implementation_Plan.pdf)

Pursuant to title 10, U.S.C., section 138c, the Department of Defense (DoD) published the Operational Energy Strategy on June 14, 2011, to transform the way U.S. Armed Forces consume energy in military operations. The Strategy sets the direction for operational energy use within the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) and the Joint Staff, Combatant Commands, Military Departments, and Defense agencies. The goal of the Operational Energy Strategy is energy security for the Warfighter, to assure that U.S. forces have a reliable supply of energy for 21st century military missions.

### **4. Will We Be Able To Maintain & Replace Our Energy & Transportation Infrastructure In A Post-Peak Oil World?**

Jeffrey Brown

ASPO-USA

April 4, 2011

Currently available online at <http://www.energybulletin.net/stories/2011-04-04/commentary-will-we-be-able-maintain-replace-our-energy-transportation-infrastruct>

The author, an independent petroleum geologist, notes that developed countries worldwide are facing huge costs associated with maintaining and replacing aging infrastructure. This will entail a large expenditure of resources and energy, chiefly petroleum, but Brown, who has extensively documented an ongoing and accelerating trend in the decline of global oil exports, believes that large-scale maintenance and replacement is unlikely to happen. In an energy- and resource-constrained future, Brown states that “what can’t be funded and maintained won’t be funded and maintained” – already, many local governments in the U.S. are turning paved county roads back into gravel because they can’t afford the upkeep. Natural disasters, such as the earthquake and tsunami that recently hit Japan and the hurricanes that struck the U.S. Gulf Coast in 2005, will only aggravate the problem. He believes that the U.S. will eventually be forced to conduct “triage” on its infrastructure; however, no serious discussion of this possibility is taking place, as most government planners are still working on the assumption of future increases in automobile traffic.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **5. Growing Up Green**

International Information Program

March 30, 2012

24 p.

Full Text: [http://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/30145/publications-english/Growing\\_up\\_Green\\_eJ\\_150.pdf](http://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/30145/publications-english/Growing_up_Green_eJ_150.pdf)

This issue of eJournal USA explores how young people are leading the way to a cleaner, greener, more sustainable future. From launching their own environmental organizations to developing alternative energy resources, today's youth have what it takes to make the world a better place.

### **6. Global Warming Is Real and Has Consequences - Part I**

William D. Nordhaus

YaleGlobal

April 4, 2012

Full Text: <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/global-warming-real-has-consequences-part-i>

Although the consequences of global warming are painfully vivid, some scholars still question whether it requires urgent action. In January, a group of scientists summarized reasons for their skepticism and opposition to findings of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. They insist that evidence is lacking to show the world is warming. Nordhaus responds to the essay, pointing out faults in the skeptics' review of climate modeling, temperature trends and basic cost-benefit analysis. The

skeptics contend that uncertainties do not warrant alarm or huge investments to launch a transition away from fossil fuels. Nordhaus counters that taking steps to slow climate change won't result in economic catastrophe, concluding, "The claim that cap-and-trade legislation or carbon taxes would be ruinous to our society does not stand up to serious economic analysis.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

## **7. Global Warming Is Real and Has Consequences - Part II**

Pavin Chachavalpongpun

YaleGlobal

April 6, 2012

Full Text: <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/global-warming-real-has-consequences-part-ii>

Climate-change naysayers claim that shifting from fossil fuels to alternative energies is unnecessary or too costly for economies. Yet, the cost of climate change is clearly evident. Manufacturers are considering moving from Thailand and other countries threatened by flooding and other forces related to climate change, according to the author. Before the massive floods, "Thailand was an attractive investment destination in the first place, with a well-developed infrastructure, a free-enterprise economy, generally pro-investment policies and strong export industries," Pavin notes. Thai politicians compounded the disruptions by refusing to cooperate on policies to prevent flooding. So in selecting factory locations, investors and businesses could seek competitive advantage and avoid countries with climate woes and political infighting.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

## **8. Electronic Waste: Actions Needed to Provide Assurance That Used Federal Electronics Are Disposed of in an Environmentally Responsible Manner**

U.S. Government Accountability Office

March 19, 2012

43 p.

Highlights page: <http://gao.gov/assets/590/588718.pdf>

Full Text: <http://gao.gov/assets/590/588707.pdf>

Over the past decade, the executive branch has taken steps to improve the management of used federal electronics. Federal agencies have made some progress to improve their management of used electronic products, as measured by greater participation in the FEC and an increase in certified electronics recyclers, but opportunities exist to expand their efforts.

## **9. Turning Stormwater Into Productive Water**

Michelle Avis

Verge Permaculture

March 28, 2011

Available online at <http://www.vergepermaculture.ca/blog/2011/03/28/turning-storm-water-productive-water>

Cities worldwide are facing major challenges in stormwater management, due to the growth in non-permeable surfaces such as asphalt and concrete pavement. Traditionally, most municipal stormwater systems have been designed to carry water away as quickly as it arrives, by diverting it to storm drains, where it ends up in local streams, rivers and lakes; conventional stormwater management systems are a major cause of local water pollution by concentrating surface contaminant runoff into local ecosystems. Many innovative, low-cost alternatives to traditional stormwater management are being employed in cities around the world; this article features examples from Sydney, Australia and Tucson, Arizona, USA, such as curb cuts, check dams and constructed wetlands, that create permeable areas to allow flood control and water filtration in urban street settings.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### 10. The Federal Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program: Background, Funding, and Activities

Patricia Moloney Figliola

14 p.

Congressional Research Service

January 13, 2012

Full Text: <http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/misc/RL33586.pdf>

The High-Performance Computing and Communications Program Act of 1991 has evolved over time and is now called the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) Program, to better reflect its expanded mission. Two pieces of legislation have been introduced in the 112th Congress that would have an effect on the NITRD member agencies. H.R. 2096, the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2011, was introduced by Representative Michael McCaul on June 2, 2011. Companion legislation, S.1152, also called the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2011, was introduced by Senator Robert Menendez on June 7, 2011. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and no further action has been taken. These bills are identical.

### 11. The Global Information Technology Report 2012

World Economic Forum

April 4, 2012

441 p.

Full Text: [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/Global\\_IT\\_Report\\_2012.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/Global_IT_Report_2012.pdf)

Through the evolved methodological framework of the Networked Readiness Index (NRI), The Global Information Technology Report 2012 measures the extent to which 142 economies take advantage of ICT and other new technologies to increase their growth and well-being. This year, Sweden tops the rankings, followed by Singapore and Finland.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

### 12. Millennials Will Benefit and Suffer Due to Hyperconnected Lives

Janna Quitney Anderson and Lee Rainie

36 p.

Pew Internet & American Life Project

February 29, 2012

Full Text:

[http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2012/PIP\\_Future\\_of\\_Internet\\_2012\\_Young\\_brains\\_PDF.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2012/PIP_Future_of_Internet_2012_Young_brains_PDF.pdf)

While experts see many young people becoming nimble analysts and decision-makers because of their embrace of the networked world, they also warn that some constantly-connected teens and young adults will lack a deep engagement with people and knowledge by being hyperconnected.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

### 13. Universities in Innovation Networks

Krisztina "Z" Holly

50 p.

Center for American Progress

January 19, 2012

Full Text: [http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2012/01/pdf/dwwsp\\_university\\_innovation.pdf](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2012/01/pdf/dwwsp_university_innovation.pdf)

The United States is known for its innovativeness and entrepreneurial spirit. Between half and three-quarters, or even more, of all economic growth in the last half-century can be tied to technological innovation, depending on which study you use. Yet in the last few decades, measures increasingly demonstrate that the United States is falling perilously behind in innovation.

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