

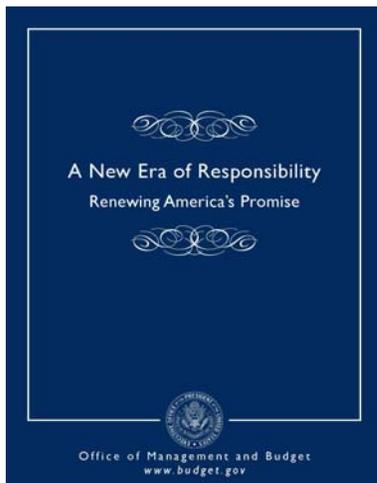


ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS



A New Era of Responsibility. FY2010 Budget.
Office of Management and Budget
February 2009

- **Environmental Protection Agency**

Funding Highlights:

- Provides \$10.5 billion in total for the Environmental Protection Agency, a 34-percent increase over the 2009 likely enacted level.
- Provides \$3.9 billion for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, an unprecedented Federal commitment to water infrastructure investment in the United States.
- Provides \$475 million for a new Environmental Protection Agency-led, interagency Great Lakes restoration initiative, which will target the most significant problems in the region, including invasive aquatic species, non-point source pollution, and contaminated sediment.
- Funds the Agency's operating budget, which comprises its core regulatory, research, and enforcement activities, at \$3.9 billion, the highest level ever.
- Provides over \$1.1 billion in grants for States and Tribes to administer environmental programs.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/asset.aspx?AssetId=757>

- **Department of Energy**

Funding Highlights:

- Begins to build a new economy that is powered by clean and secure energy through funding provided in the 2010 Budget and the \$39 billion provided for energy programs in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
- Provides significant increases in funding for basic research and world-leading scientific user facilities to support transformational discoveries and accelerate solutions to our Nation's most pressing problems – including the development of clean energy.
- Supports economic investment and positions the United States as the world leader in climate change technology.
- Accelerates the transition to a low-carbon economy through increased support of the development and deployment of clean energy technologies such as solar, biomass, geothermal, wind, and low-carbon emission coal power.
- Builds on the \$11 billion provided in the Recovery Act for smart grid technologies, transmission system expansion and upgrades, and other investments to modernize and enhance the electric transmission infrastructure to improve energy efficiency and reliability.
- Supports and encourages the early commercial deployment of innovative, clean energy technologies through loan guarantees.
- Reduces security risks through the detection, elimination, and securing of nuclear material and radiological sources worldwide while maintaining the safety, security, and reliability of the nuclear weapons stockpile.
- Continues the Nation's efforts to reduce environmental risks and safely manage nuclear materials.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/fy2010_new_era/Department_of_Energy.pdf

Remarks by the First Lady at the U.S. Department of the Interior

U.S. Department of the Interior

February 9, 2009

Mrs. Obama this afternoon visited the Department of the Interior, where she spoke about how important it is to protect our natural resources and move towards a clean, sustainable energy future.

"These [priorities] aren't only vital for the survival of our planet as we work to combat climate change, but also incredibly important to strengthen our economy and the well-being of our families," she said. "At a time when so many Americans are out of work, sound energy and environmental policies are going to help create thousands of jobs through the economic recovery and reinvestment plan that Barack is out there promoting today."

http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog_post/stewards/

U.S. Energy: Overview and Selected Facts and Numbers

CRS Report to Congress

February 3, 2009

Energy supplies and prices are major economic factors in the United States, and energy markets are volatile and unpredictable. Thus, energy policy has been a recurring issue for Congress since the first major crisis in the 1970s. As an aid in policy making, this report presents a current and historical view of the supply and consumption of various forms of energy.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/117779.pdf>

U.S. Global Climate Change Policy: Evolving Views on Cost, Competitiveness, and Comprehensiveness

CRS Report to Congress

January 29, 2009

U.S. policy toward global climate change evolved from a “study only” to a more “study and action” orientation in 1992 with ratification of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Convention committed developed countries to aim at returning their greenhouse gas emissions to their 1990 levels by the year 2000. The U.S. decision to ratify the UNFCCC reflected both the nonbinding nature of the accord and analyses that suggested that the United States could achieve the necessary reduction at little or no cost. Under the UNFCCC, developed countries were to adopt national plans and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The United States submitted such plans in 1992, 1994, 1997, 2002, and 2006.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/117784.pdf>

EPA Can Improve Implementation of the Risk Management Program for Airborne Chemical Releases

Office of Inspector General, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

February 10, 2009.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency can improve its program management and oversight to better assure that facilities covered by the Clean Air Act’s Risk Management Program submit or re-submit a Risk Management Plan, says the report.

<http://www.epa.gov/oigearth/reports/2009/20090210-09-P-0092.pdf>

Chemical Regulation. Options for Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Toxic Substances Control Act

United States Government Accountability Office

February 26, 2009

Congress passed the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) in 1976, authorizing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to obtain information on the risks of industrial chemicals and to control those that EPA determines pose an unreasonable risk.

However, EPA does not have sufficient chemical assessment information to determine whether it should establish controls to limit public exposure to many chemicals that may pose substantial health risks.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09428t.pdf>

Climate Change and Water Resources Management: A Federal Perspective

U.S. Geological Survey

February 2, 2009

A study to help better manage and preserve the nation's water resources in a changing climate is compiled by multiple government agencies. Water managers can use the report to support their efforts to provide water to communities and farms, generate power for cities, sustain ecological systems, or protect lives and homes from floods, all critical to the public's health, safety, and quality of life. The report presents the best available science to help water managers prepare for, adapt to, and mitigate the effects of climate change on the nation's water resources.

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1331/Circ1331.pdf>

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): Status and Issues

CRS Report to Congress

February 5, 2009

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides farmers with financial and technical assistance to plan and implement soil and water conservation practices. EQIP is the largest agriculture conservation financial assistance program for working lands. EQIP was first authorized in 1996 and was most recently revised by Section 2501 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246, the 2008 farm bill). It is a mandatory spending program (i.e., not subject to annual appropriations) and is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Funding is currently authorized to grow to \$1.75 billion in FY2012. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pasture, non-industrial private forestland, and other land on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed through an EQIP contract.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/117782.pdf>

Climate Change Science: High Quality Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data are a Cornerstone of Programs to Address Climate Change.

CRS Report to Congress

February 24, 2009

This testimony focuses on the importance of quality data on emissions in the context of a program intended to limit greenhouse gas emissions, and key considerations in developing reliable data on greenhouse gas emissions. This

testimony is based on several prior GAO reports and a review of related literature.

www.gao.gov/new.items/d09423t.pdf

\$740 Million Goes to States for Fish and Wildlife Projects

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

February 23, 2009

Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announces that more than \$740.9 million will be distributed to the fish and wildlife agencies of the 50 states, commonwealths, the District of Columbia, and territories to fund fish and wildlife conservation, boater access to public waters, and hunter and aquatic education. These Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program funds come from excise taxes and import duties on sporting firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, sport-fishing equipment, electric outboard motors, and fuel taxes attributable to motorboats and small engines.

<http://www.fws.gov/news/NewsReleases/showNews.cfm?newsId=A383A17A-A587-E724-62E293452FE6DF6F>

THINK TANKS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Thirsty Energy: Water and Energy in the 21st Century

Energy Vision Update 2009, World Economic Forum

February 2009

The report explores the risks and opportunities inherent in the ancient relationship between energy and water, which has taken on a new urgency as competition for finite freshwater resources rises. According to the report, water is critical to energy production, yet the water/energy nexus is often overlooked. “The importance of bringing water into the energy equation now cannot be underestimated as we are heading for a more water-scarce future,” said Christoph Frei, Senior Director and Head of Energy Industry at the World Economic Forum.

<http://www.weforum.org/pdf/ip/energy/energyvision2009.pdf>

A Roadmap for U.S.-China Cooperation on Energy and Climate Change

Pew Center on Global Climate Change

February 2009

This report presents a vision and a concrete roadmap for U.S.-China collaboration focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the effects of climate change. The report was produced in partnership between the Pew Center on Global Climate Change and the Asia Society’s Center on U.S.-China Relations, in collaboration with The Brookings Institution, Council on Foreign Relations, National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, and

Environmental Defense Fund. Experts and key stakeholders from the worlds of science, business, civil society, policy, and politics in both China and the United States contributed to the report, or “Roadmap,” that explores the climate and energy challenges facing both nations and recommends a concrete program for sustained, high-level, bilateral engagement and on-the-ground action.

<http://www.pewclimate.org/US-China>

The Green Movement and the Challenge of Climate Change

American Enterprise Institute

February 26, 2009

To produce net benefits, climate policy will have to make careful trade-offs between the costs and benefits of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission controls. Many environmentalists regard cost-benefit trade-offs as taboo--a strongly negative reaction that can block rational decision-making. Some green groups, however, have now embraced so-called cap-and-trade emission controls.[1] At least one recent analysis regards the green groups' move toward cap-and-trade as a sign that they are rising above the taboo response to embrace economic reasoning. A closer look shows that there may be less to this story than advertised.

http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.29454,filter.all/pub_detail.asp

Annual Ranking of Green Vehicles Shows Progress Despite Tough Times

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

February 3, 2009

Despite the beating taken by the auto industry in 2008 and more tough times ahead, manufacturers are fine-tuning their engines and transmissions, improving materials, and adding emissions control technologies get a head start on meeting tightened federal fuel economy standards. Worries over the economy and future gas prices are driving interest in high fuel economy vehicles as well, says the author. This year's greenest title goes once again to Honda's natural gas-powered Civic GX. The Toyota Prius and Honda Civic Hybrid claim spots two and three, while the Smart Fortwo Convertible, the Toyota Yaris, and the Nissan Altima Hybrid complete the top six.

<http://www.aceee.org/press/0902gb.htm>

ARTICLES

U.S. Agencies Plan National Climate Service Structure, Products

Service will go beyond early warning to help with mitigation, adaptation

America.gov

February 9 2009

Around the planet, sea level is rising, sea surfaces are warming, ecosystems are changing, glaciers and permafrost are melting, extreme drought is increasing and seawater is becoming more acidic

Around the planet, sea level is rising, sea surfaces are warming, ecosystems are changing, glaciers and permafrost are melting, extreme drought is increasing and seawater is becoming more acidic <http://www.america.gov/st/env-english/2009/February/20090209132739lcniirellep0.3980829.html&distid=ucs>

North Atlantic is world's 'climate superpower'

New Scientist

February 17, 2009

IF ever there was a superpower of the oceans, the North Atlantic, with its ability to control global weather systems, is it. The bad news is that this region also happens to be especially sensitive to the effects of climate change, so what is happening there could affect the world.

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20126955.400-north-atlantic-is-worlds-climate-superpower.html>

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