



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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U.S. Environmental Protecting Agency is celebrating Children's Health Month!

Back to the Basics: Children's Environmental Health Is A Challenge For All

EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment requires us to continue to pay special attention to the vulnerabilities of children, and especially to children living in disadvantaged communities. Children are more affected by pollution than adults for many reasons. They are smaller, their organ systems are still developing, their play and learning behaviors expose them to additional environmental threats.

In October and throughout the year, we will work with parents, teachers, and health providers to promote healthy environments where children live, learn and play.

There are events planned throughout children's health month to promote healthy environments for children. There is also a wealth of information to explain and promote the reduction and elimination of harmful exposures in terms that are easy to understand.

Presidential Proclamation -- Child Health Day, 2012

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

As a Nation, we share an obligation to ensure the health and well-being of our children. The youth of today will shape America's tomorrow, and on Child Health Day, we rededicate ourselves to providing our next generation with access to the quality health care and clean environment that will nurture their future success.

My Administration has made the health of our Nation's children a top priority. Because of the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies can no longer deny coverage to children with pre-existing conditions. The law also allows young adults to stay on their parents' health insurance plan until age 26, which has brought coverage to more than 3 million Americans. My Administration has also taken action to ensure all our children can attend schools that are safe, where we address bullying and end the myth that it is a simple rite of passage. And through First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! initiative, we are joining with parents, schools, and community leaders to address childhood obesity.

A safe environment in which our children can live and grow is also essential to their well-being. Because clean water is the foundation for healthy communities, we are working to reduce contaminants in our drinking water by updating standards and better protecting our water sources from pollution. We are also building on the successes of the Clean Air Act to improve our air quality and help decrease harmful toxins that can lead to acute bronchitis, asthma, cancer, and impaired development.

On Child Health Day, we are reminded that by giving our children a healthy start in life, we put them and our Nation on the path to a successful future. As we mark this important occasion, let us reaffirm our commitment to meeting that most fundamental responsibility.

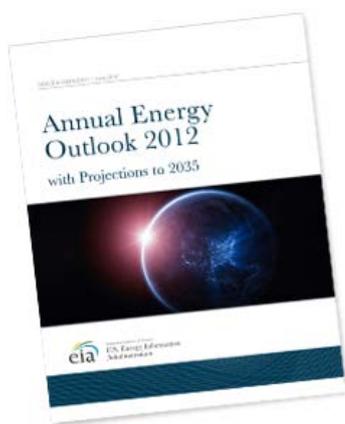
The Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 18, 1928, as amended (36 U.S.C. 105), has called for the designation of the first Monday in October as Child Health Day and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Monday, October 1, 2012, as Child Health Day. I call upon families, child health professionals, faith-based and community organizations, and all levels of government to help ensure America's children stay healthy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

BARACK OBAMA

U.S. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS



Annual Energy Outlook 2012

The projections in the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA's) Annual Energy Outlook 2012 (AEO2012) focus on the factors that shape the U.S. energy system over the long term. Under the assumption that current laws and regulations remain unchanged throughout the projections, the AEO2012 Reference case provides the basis for examination and discussion of energy production, consumption, technology, and market trends and the direction they may take in the future. It also serves as a starting point for analysis of potential changes in energy policies. But AEO2012 is not limited to the Reference case. It also includes 29 alternative cases (see Appendix E, Table E1), which explore important areas of uncertainty for markets, technologies, and

policies in the U.S. energy economy. Many of the implications of the alternative cases are discussed in the "Issues in focus" section of this report.

<http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/aeo/>

The Role of U.S. Technology Policy and Energy Diplomacy in Energy Transformation

Remarks by Avi Gopstein, Senior Technical Advisor to Ambassador Pascual Czech - U.S. Sustainable Energy Conference: Innovation in Sustainable Energy
Czernin Palace, Prague, Czech Republic
September 20, 2012

The United States is deeply committed to universal access to modern energy services through initiatives such as the United Nations Sustainable Energy For All program. Yet the projected costs associated with these goals cannot be borne by governments alone. It is because of this that the Bureau of Energy Resources is engaged with governments and industry alike on a number of international initiatives designed to foster enabling environments that promote public and private investment in sustainable energy production and access.

<http://www.state.gov/e/enr/rls/rem/2012/198521.htm>

Energy Department Announces Free Online Training for Residential Solar Inspectors

U.S. Department of Energy
October 01, 2012

As part of the Energy Department's commitment to invest in skills for American workers, the Department today announced a free online training program for building and electrical code officials who perform inspections for residential photovoltaic (PV) solar energy installations. This training program will help establish a consistent and streamlined PV inspection process in jurisdictions throughout the country, saving time and reducing costs for consumers.

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=798

Global Access to Clean Drinking Water and Sanitation: U.S. and International Programs

CRS Report to Congress

September 10, 2012

This report addresses congressional efforts to address limited access to clean drinking water and sanitation, outlines related programs implemented by USAID and MCC, and analyzes issues related to U.S. and international drinking water and sanitation programs that the 112th Congress might consider.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/198072.pdf>

EPA and NHTSA Set Standards to Reduce Greenhouse Gases and Improve Fuel Economy for Model Years 2017-2025 Cars and Light Trucks

U.S. Environmental Agency

August 2012

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) are issuing final rules extending the National Program to further reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and improve fuel economy for model years (MYs) 2017 through 2025 light-duty vehicles.

<http://epa.gov/otaq/climate/documents/420f12051.pdf>

Solar Energy: Federal Initiatives Overlap but Take Measures to Avoid Duplication

U.S. Government Accountability Office

August 30, 2012

GAO was asked to identify (1) solar- related initiatives supported by federal agencies in fiscal years 2010 and 2011 and key characteristics of those initiatives and (2) the extent of fragmentation, overlap, and duplication, if any, of federal solar- related initiatives, as well as the extent of any coordination among these initiatives.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-12-843>

A Timeline of Environmental Treaties

This list of key environmental treaties shows how nations are working together, politically and scientifically, to safeguard our planet and respond to a global threat.

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/gallery/2012/02/201202171105.html#ixzz288aoJ7ga>

Agriculture and Energy Departments Announce New Investments to Drive Innovations in Biofuels and Biobased Products

U.S. Department of Energy

July 25, 2012

"As part of President Obama's all-of-the-above strategy to deploy every available source of American energy, we continue to strive for more efficient, cost-competitive technologies to produce U.S. energy," said Energy Secretary Steven Chu. "The investments announced today are helping to accelerate innovation across America's growing biofuels industry, which will help to reduce our dependence on imported oil and support job creation across rural America."

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=779

THINK TANKS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Policy Priorities for Advancing the U.S. Electric Vehicle Market

Deborah Gordon, Daniel Sperling, David Livingston
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
September 2012

The U.S. electric-vehicle industry has posted impressive growth over the last decade, with hundreds of companies now advancing the plug-in electric vehicle (PEV) market. But there is still much to do to further the transition to electric-drive vehicles. It will take a sophisticated set of policy tools and local action to spur manufacturers, utilities, localities, and states to fully commercialize PEVs.

<http://carnegieendowment.org/2012/09/17/policy-priorities-for-advancing-u.s.-electric-vehicle-market/duix>

ARTICLES

Investigación de EE.UU. promueve uso sostenible de agua en agricultura

Departamento de Estado de EE.UU.
1 de octubre 2012

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/spanish/article/2012/10/20121001136867.html?CP.rss=true#axzz287qLLXrR>

Marshlands, Hungry for CO2, Could Slow Warming

U.S. Department of State
October 1, 2012

Rising sea levels are among the most threatening consequences of climate change, but new research suggests that higher waters in coastal marshlands may help slow climate change as they enable the ecosystem to more quickly capture and consume carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/article/2012/10/20121001136861.html#axzz288RLAY1e>

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