



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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U.S. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, Testimony Before the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittees on Energy and Power, Environment and the Economy

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
February 28, 2012

EPA's budget request fully reflects the President's commitment to reducing government spending and finding cost savings in a responsible manner while supporting clean air, clean water and the innovative safe guards that are essential to an America that's built to last. In some cases we have had to take a step back from programs - this budget reflects a savings of \$50 million through the elimination of several EPA programs and activities that have either met their goals, or can be achieved at the State or local level or by other Federal agencies.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/4a3d7e51caf96c7a85257359003f533e/965f209e952dc0852579b20052a667!OpenDocument>

FACT CHECK: All-of-the-Above Approach to American Energy

The White House
February 29, 2012

Lately, there have been a lot of misleading claims about gas prices. As middle class families are struggling with high prices at the pump, a result of increased global oil prices, politicians have renewed their promises for \$2 gas and their misleading claims about who is to blame. One thing is clear, cheap political points and false debates won't bring down the price of gasoline

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/02/29/fact-check-all-above-approach-american-energy>

Obama Administration Announces Commitments to Protect the Health of Every American/ Agencies publish environmental justice strategies designed to ensure that all communities are protected from environmental harm and benefit from federal programs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
February 27, 2012

"Working together we have been able to make environmental justice a focus not just for EPA, but for agencies across the administration. Each of our federal partners plays a unique role in serving the American people, and each has a unique opportunity to ensure that our communities get the health and environmental protections they deserve," said U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "If we aspire to build an economy and a society that works for every American, we can't allow the heaviest burdens of pollution and health threats to fall on our poorest

citizens. Bringing together our federal partners to tackle these challenges is a major step toward health, environmental and economic benefits in communities across the nation.”

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/4a3d7e51caf96c7a85257359003f533e/cd2d72a02dda6281852579b100516ff3!OpenDocument>

Remarks at the Climate and Clean Air Coalition To Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Initiative

Secretary of State Clinton Remarks
Benjamin Franklin Room
Washington, DC
February 16, 2012

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition will spread practical ideas and practices regarding so-called short-lived pollutants, which remain in the atmosphere only for a short time – pollutants such as methane, black carbon or soot, hydrofluorocarbons. In the past few years, we’ve learned that this group contributes much more to climate change than we previously realized. More than one-third of current global warming is caused by short-lived pollutants. They also destroy millions of tons of crops every year and wreak havoc on people’s health. Millions die annually from constantly breathing in black carbon soot that comes from cookstoves in their own homes, from diesel cars and trucks on their roads, from the open burning of agricultural waste in their fields. Furthermore, methane – a greenhouse gas more than 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide – can also be an abundant source of energy if we capture it instead of just venting it into the air or flaring it.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2012/02/184061.htm>

Energy Department Launches New Research Program to Advance Solar Technologies

U.S. Department of Energy
February 23, 2012

As part of the Obama Administration's blueprint for an American economy built to last, Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced \$3 million available this year to support research to significantly lower the cost of solar energy. The funding will enable collaborative research teams from industry, universities and national laboratories to work together in the Energy Department's research centers including the Scientific User Facilities to develop solutions to drive down the cost of solar energy. By accelerating scientific breakthroughs, these research teams support the Department's SunShot Initiative goal to make solar energy cost competitive with other forms of energy by the end of the decade – creating jobs, enhancing U.S. energy security, and boosting American competitiveness in the global clean energy economy.

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=683

Rio +2.0 in Palo Alto: EPA Chief Lisa Jackson Discusses Initiatives that Expand US Environmental Business Markets, Create Jobs and Build Healthier Cities

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
February 3, 2012

One of my top priorities in all of this is ensuring that our innovations serve every community. We can – and we must – ensure that these efforts benefit our most economically challenged and environmentally polluted communities. Without smart planning that focuses on those needs, the transition from rural to urban areas that is happening across the globe might only worsen those circumstances. Disadvantaged communities, women, minorities and youth are often left out of decision making and access to new technologies. Communications technologies have proven effective in helping these communities gain access to information, better jobs, and improved quality of life.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/082D936CAD94347185257999005E8F9D>

WEEKLY ADDRESS: An All-Of-The-Above Approach to American Energy

The White House
February 25, 2012

In this week's address, President Obama spoke to the American people about the importance of taking an all-of-the-above approach to addressing our nation's energy challenges. With only 2% of the world's oil reserves, we cannot simply drill our way to lower gas prices, as some in Washington have suggested. Americans understand that we must have a long-term strategy that uses every available source of energy—including oil, gas, wind, solar, nuclear, biofuels, and more. We also cannot fail to recognize the important role that increasing the efficiency of our cars and trucks can play in both reducing our dependence on oil and saving consumers money at the pump. Finally, at a time when oil companies are making record profits and American families are paying record prices, we must end, once and for all, the \$4 billion a year in tax breaks oil companies receive. There are no quick fixes to this problem, but together we can make a serious effort to overcome our energy challenges and help create American jobs.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/02/25/weekly-address-all-above-approach-american-energy>

EPA Updates Science Assessment for Dioxins / Air emissions of dioxins have decreased by 90 percent since the 1980s

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
February 17, 2012

EPA has identified many known sources of dioxins. Working with other federal partners, such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, EPA has taken steps to address dioxin. This includes supporting research on dioxin exposure and effects; assessing dioxin human health risks; measuring dioxin levels in the environment, our diet and in our bodies; and reducing exposure to dioxin.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/4a3d7e51caf96c7a85257359003f533e/33bcba60ed25a9b1852579a700604ed7!OpenDocument>

THINK TANKS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Pew Clean Energy Program Launches Innovation

The Pew Charitable Trusts
February 27, 2012

The Pew Clean Energy Program today launched Americans for Energy Innovation, a project to achieve a strong and enduring national commitment to energy research, development, and demonstration (RD&D). This announcement comes as government and business leaders gather at the third annual ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit in Washington this week. Pew, as sponsor of the summit, seeks to optimize and expand federal investments in RD&D, with the long-term goal of tripling the federal budget to \$15 billion annually.

<http://www.pewenvironment.org/news-room/press-releases/pew-clean-energy-program-launches-innovation-initiative-85899372094>

A New Snapshot of Energy Use in Midwest Manufacturing

World Resources Institute
February 27, 2012

The World Resources Institute's Midwest Industrial Energy Efficiency project aims to make cost-effective industrial energy efficiency opportunities more tangible to policymakers, investors, and manufacturing companies. To that end, we have just published a working paper, Midwest Manufacturing Snapshot: Energy Use and Efficiency Policies, which offers a detailed picture of Midwest industrial energy use and current state approaches to reducing industrial energy intensity while cutting energy costs for Midwest manufacturers. It was released at the Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) Winter Meeting, as an agenda item of the outgoing MGA Chairman, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn.

<http://insights.wri.org/news/2012/02/new-snapshot-energy-use-midwest-manufacturing>

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Centro de Recursos Informativos
Embajada de EE.UU. en Madrid
91 5872528

madridIRC@state.gov

<http://madrid.usembassy.gov>

