



## **ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

**Information Resource Center  
Embassy of the United States Madrid**

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### **Presidential Proclamation -- 40th Anniversary of the National Environmental Policy Act** The White House

Forty years ago, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was signed into law with overwhelming bipartisan support, ushering in a new era of environmental awareness and citizen participation in government. NEPA elevated the role of environmental considerations in proposed Federal agency actions, and it remains the cornerstone of our Nation's modern environmental protections. On this anniversary, we celebrate this milestone in our Nation's rich history of conservation, and we renew our commitment to preserve our environment for the next generation.

NEPA was enacted to "prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man." It established concrete objectives for Federal agencies to enforce these principles, while emphasizing public involvement to give all Americans a role in protecting our environment. It also created the Council on Environmental Quality to lead our Government's conservation efforts and serve as the President's environmental advisor.

America's economic health and prosperity are inexorably linked to the productive and sustainable use of our environment. That is why NEPA remains a vital tool for my Administration as we work to protect our Nation's environment and revitalize our economy. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 reaffirmed NEPA's role in protecting public health, safety, and environmental quality, and in ensuring transparency, accountability, and public involvement in our Government.

Today, my Administration will recognize NEPA's enactment by recommitting to environmental quality through open, accountable, and responsible decision making that involves the American public. Our Nation's long-term prosperity depends upon our faithful stewardship of the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land we sow. With smart, sustainable policies like those established under NEPA, we can meet our responsibility to future generations of Americans, so they may hope to enjoy the beauty and utility of a clean, healthy planet.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 1, 2010, as the 40th Anniversary of the National Environmental Policy Act. I call upon all executive branch agencies to promote public involvement and transparency in their implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act. I also encourage every American to learn more about the National Environmental Policy Act and how we can all contribute to protecting and enhancing our environment.

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

BARACK OBAMA

## U.S. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

### **Remarks by the President and the Vice President at Meeting with Governors on Energy Policy**

The White House  
February 3, 2010

“I want to be clear that my administration is following a non-ideological approach to this issue. We believe in a strategy of more production, more efficiency, and more incentives for clean energy. We're willing to make some tough decisions on issues like offshore drilling, so long as we protect coastlines and communities. We are moving forward on a new generation of nuclear power plants, although we want to make sure that they are safe and secure.”

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-and-vice-president-meeting-with-governors-energy-policy>

### **Obama destaca compromiso de EE.UU. respecto a cambio climático en el discurso sobre el Estado de la Unión**

America.gov  
1 de febrero 2010

En su primer discurso sobre el Estado de la Unión ante el Congreso el 27 de enero, el presidente Obama reafirmó su compromiso con el liderazgo estadounidense respecto al cambio climático, y calificó la innovación y las iniciativas en energía limpia de elementos cruciales en la recuperación económica y en el estímulo de la creación de empleo.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.america.gov/st/energy-spanish/2010/February/20100201192610AClehcieR0.7170221.html>

### **EPA's Budget Proposal Seeks Efficiencies, Increased Environmental Protection**

US Environmental Protection Agency

The Obama Administration today proposed a budget of \$10 billion for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This budget heeds the president's call to streamline and find efficiencies in the agency's operations while supporting the seven priority areas EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson outlined to guide EPA's work.

“To meet our environmental challenges and ensure fiscal responsibility, we're proposing targeted investments in core priorities. This budget cuts spending while promoting clean air, land and water, growing the green economy and strengthening enforcement,” said Administrator Jackson. “The president's budget is focused on creating the conditions that help American families, communities and small businesses thrive. Clean air, clear water and green jobs are rebuilding the foundations for prosperity in communities across the country.”

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.epa.gov/budget/>

### **President Obama Sets Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Target for Federal Operations**

The White House  
January 29, 2010

President Barack Obama today announced that the Federal Government will reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution by 28 percent by 2020. Reducing and reporting GHG pollution, as called for in Executive Order 13514 on Federal Sustainability, will ensure that the Federal Government leads by

example in building the clean energy economy. Actions taken under this Executive Order will spur clean energy investments that create new private-sector jobs, drive long-term savings, build local market capacity, and foster innovation and entrepreneurship in clean energy industries.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/president-obama-sets-greenhouse-gas-emissions-reduction-target-federal-operations>

### **Presidential Memorandum -- A Comprehensive Federal Strategy on Carbon Capture and Storage**

The White House  
February 3, 2010

The Department of Energy is conducting a comprehensive clean coal technology program including research, development, and demonstration of CCS technologies and is pursuing important international cooperative initiatives to spur demonstration and deployment of CCS. The Environmental Protection Agency is developing regulations that address the safety, efficacy, and environmental soundness of injecting and storing carbon dioxide underground. The Department of the Interior is assessing, in coordination with the Department of Energy, the country's geologic capacity to store carbon dioxide and promoting geological storage demonstration projects on public lands. All of this work builds on the firm scientific basis that now exists for the viability of CCS technology.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-memorandum-a-comprehensive-federal-strategy-carbon-capture-and-storage>

### **President Obama Awards \$2.3 Billion for New Clean-Tech Manufacturing Jobs**

Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy  
January 8, 2010

Today at the White House, President Obama announced the award of \$2.3 billion in Recovery Act Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credits for clean energy manufacturing projects across the United States. One hundred eighty three projects in 43 states will create tens of thousands of high quality clean energy jobs and the domestic manufacturing of advanced clean energy technologies including solar, wind, and efficiency and energy management technologies.

[http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress\\_alerts.cfm/pa\\_id=283](http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=283)

### **USDA, Navy Sign Agreement to Encourage the Development, Use of Renewable Energy**

United States Navy  
January 21, 2010

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of the Navy (DoN) announced Jan. 21 that leadership from the two departments have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to encourage the development of advanced biofuels and other renewable energy systems.

"This agreement is part of President Obama's vision of a coordinated federal effort to build a clean energy economy, create new jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign oil," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "USDA looks forward to working with the Navy and other public and private partners to advance the production of renewable energy by sharing technical, program management and financial expertise."

[http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story\\_id=50710](http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=50710)

### **Department of Energy: Actions Needed to Develop High-Quality Cost Estimates for Construction and Environmental Cleanup Projects**

Government Accountability Office

January 2010

The Department of Energy (DOE) has not had a policy that establishes standards for cost estimating in place for over a decade, and its guidance is outdated and incomplete, making it difficult for the department to oversee the development of high-quality cost estimates by its contractors. The report offers recommendations to DOE.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10199.pdf>

### **U.S. Agency Works to Transform the Global Energy Landscape**

America.gov

January 21, 2010

The U.S. Department of Energy is using the research and development model that led directly to the Internet to transform the landscape of clean energy.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.america.gov/st/energy-english/2010/January/20100120150510lcnirellep0.9983942.html&distid=ucs#ixzz0ef3g58yT>

### **Boosting Biofuels, Clean Coal Promotes U.S. Energy Independence**

America.gov

February 4, 2010

The United States is boosting the contribution of biofuels and clean coal to its strategy for increasing American energy independence and laying the foundation for a new clean-energy economy.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.america.gov/st/energy-english/2010/February/20100204164638lcnirellep0.2691876.html&distid=ucs#ixzz0ef8whGPd>

### **Renewable Fuel Standard Program**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

February 4, 2010

EPA, under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA), is responsible for revising and implementing regulations to ensure that transportation fuel sold in the United States contains a minimum volume of renewable fuel. The Renewable Fuel Standard program will increase the required volumes of renewable fuel to 36 billion gallons by 2022.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.epa.gov/OMS/renewablefuels/>

### **Displacing Coal with Generation from Existing Natural Gas-Fired Power Plants**

CRS Report to Congress

January 19, 2010

This report provides an overview of the issues involved in displacing coal-fired generation with electricity from existing natural gas plants. This is a complex subject and the report does not seek to provide definitive answers. The report aims to highlight the key issues that Congress may want to consider in deciding whether to rely on, and encourage, displacement of coal-fired electricity

with power from existing natural gas plants.

[http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R41027\\_20100119.pdf](http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R41027_20100119.pdf)

## **Department of Energy Announces Inaugural ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit**

Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

January 07, 2010

U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu announced today that the inaugural "ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit" will take place March 1-3, 2010 at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center in Washington, D.C. The event, hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E) and organized by the Clean Technology and Sustainable Industries Organization (CTSI), with key support from the National Venture Capital Association (NVCA) and the Kauffman Foundation, will serve as a forum for the nation's energy leaders to share ideas, collaborate, and identify key technology opportunities and challenges.

[http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress\\_alerts.cfm/pa\\_id=282](http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=282)



The U.S. Department of Energy's ARPA-E (Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy) invites you to the inaugural **ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit** in Washington DC, March 1-3

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://arpa-e.energy.gov/ConferencesEvents/tabid/69/vw/3/ItemID/12/d/20100301/Default.aspx>

## **THINK TANKS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Environmental Performance Index 2010**

Yale University and Columbia University

January 28, 2010

The Index ranks 163 countries on 25 performance indicators tracked across ten policy categories covering both environmental public health and ecosystem vitality. These indicators provide a gauge at a national government scale of how close countries are to established environmental policy goals. The Index's proximity-to-target methodology facilitates cross-country comparisons as well as analysis of how the global community is doing collectively on each particular policy issue.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://epi.yale.edu>

### **The Status Report: Obama and Energy Security**

Brookings Institution

January 5, 2010

One year ago, Brookings experts wrote a series of 12 memos to the incoming president on the most pressing policy issues facing the country. Now they assess the administration's progress on those issues in The Status Report , a daily series of commentary with video to be featured in POLITICO's Arena . William Antholis and Charles Ebinger give President Obama a composite score of B+ on

taking mostly positive steps internationally, but some missteps domestically, toward building a secure energy future for the United States.

[http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0105\\_energy\\_security.aspx](http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0105_energy_security.aspx)

### **As Climate Talks Stumble, U.N. Process in Question**

Worldwatch Institute

February 2, 2010

A key deadline for countries to submit emission reduction goals to the United Nations as part of the recently negotiated Copenhagen Accord passed last Sunday. The U.N. received commitments from 55 nations, but 139 countries remain unsupportive of the political statement, leading the international body to push back the commitment deadline indefinitely.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.worldwatch.org/node/6370>

### **The Climate of Belief: American Public Opinion on Climate Change**

Brookings Institution

January 2010

This report presents three sections on key findings from the 2009 survey. First, we examine whether Americans believe that global temperatures are increasing, and if so, what is causing this change. Second, we explore public views on a range of possible policy interventions and possible engagement by various levels of American government. Third, we consider a pair of policy options that have received considerable attention at the federal level in the past year, namely a carbon cap-and-trade program and taxation of the carbon content of fossil fuels.

[http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2010/01\\_climate\\_rabe\\_borick.aspx](http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2010/01_climate_rabe_borick.aspx)

### **U.S. Car Fleet Shrank by Four Million in 2009: After a Century of Growth, U.S. Fleet Entering Era of Decline**

Earth Policy Institute

January 6, 2010

The United States is entering a new era, evolving from a car-dominated transport system to one that is much more diversified. As noted, this transition is driven by market saturation, economic trends, environmental concerns, and by a cultural shift away from cars that is most pronounced among young people. As this evolution proceeds, it will affect virtually every facet of life.

[http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.earth-policy.org/index.php?/plan\\_b\\_updates/2010/update87](http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.earth-policy.org/index.php?/plan_b_updates/2010/update87)

## ARTICLES

### **Scientists Call for Regional Cooperation to Combat Climate Change**

America.gov

January 7, 2010

Climate scientists say regional governments need to include disaster management in their policies for coping with climate change. Governments are asking the scientific community to better advise them on reducing disaster risks.

<http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://www.america.gov/st/energy-english/2010/January/20100107143109ptellivremos0.3157617.html&distid=ucs#ixzz0cOXwCYtX>

## WEBCHATS

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Building Technologies Program is offering a Webinar on Tuesday, **February 16, 2010**, from 12:00-1:30 p.m. EST titled "**Going With the Flow: Designing High-Performance Buildings with EnergyPlus.**"

This Webinar will focus on the importance of precise energy simulations in the drive for high-performance buildings, and will provide an overview of the features and capabilities of EnergyPlus software and the OpenStudio plugin.

[http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress\\_alerts.cfm/pa\\_id=293](http://www.embusa.es/irc/rd.php?url=http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=293)

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