



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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U.S. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS



Global Water Issues eJournal

U.S. Department of State
July 2011

Explores the political, social and economic challenges presented by threats to Earth's most vital natural resource. With a foreword by U.S. Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Maria Otero, Global Water Issues describes how this ecological emergency affects population centers, human health, climate and food security.

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/publication/2011/07/2011071>

8181221yeldnahc0.7118123.html#ixzz1Zotcj0Pf

Climate Goes Local

U.S. Department of State
August 2011

This issue of eJournal USA examines what it means to think globally about climate change — and to act locally. “Climate Action Goes Local” shows how communities and nongovernmental groups worldwide are initiating programs that counter climate change, and why leadership from local officials and buy-in from local populations and businesses are necessary for such programs to be effective. An excerpt from Local Action: The New Paradigm in Climate Change Policy by Tommy Linstroth and Ryan Bell outlines advantages local governments have over higher-level governments and institutions in developing, monitoring and adapting climate change programs to serve their constituencies.

<http://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/30145/publications-english/Climate%20Action%20Goes%20Local.pdf>



U.S. Pakistan Committed to Energy Solutions

Posted by Robert Raines
September 15, 2011

The United States and Pakistan reviewed progress on ongoing energy programs and recommitted themselves to pursuing practical solutions to Pakistan's energy needs during the latest Pakistan-United States Energy Dialogue this week. Ambassador Carlos Pascual, U.S. Department of State

Special Envoy for International Energy Affairs, joined Pakistani Minister of Water and Power Naveed Qamar to reaffirm the partnership. They met September 14-15 in Islamabad.

http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/us_pakistan_energy_solutions

The United States Commits up to \$55 Million in Additional Funding to Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC
September 22, 2011

Since its launch one year ago by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves has become an important U.S. diplomatic and development priority. The Obama Administration's unprecedented financial and whole-of-government commitment to the Alliance and its mission to create a thriving global market for clean and efficient household solutions has positioned the cookstoves sector to achieve unprecedented global progress.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2011/09/173773.htm>

Climate Change: Conceptual Approaches and Policy Tools

Congressional Research Service
August 29, 2011

Congress has, over the past three decades, authorized and funded federal programs to improve understanding of climate changes and their implications. Climate changes have potentially large economic and ecological consequences, both positive and negative, which depend on the rapidity, size, and predictability of change. Some of the impacts of past change are evident in shifting agricultural productivity, forest insect infestations and fires, shifts in water supply, recordbreaking summer high temperatures, and coastal erosion and inundation.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/174216.pdf>

ENERGY STAR - Providing Opportunities for Additional Review of EPA's Decisions Could Strengthen the Program

U.S. Government Accountability Office
September 2011

American consumers, businesses, utilities, and federal and state agencies rely on the Energy Star product labeling program to identify more efficient products that lower their energy costs. Even with the program's successes, several reports by GAO and others have identified weaknesses in the Energy Star program. The program, which began in 1992 and was reauthorized in 2005, has been jointly administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy (DOE). In 2009, the agencies signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that outlined changes to address these weaknesses. The changes included identifying EPA as the lead agency, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of each agency, as well as instituting third-party testing of products.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11888.pdf>

THINK TANKS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

U.S. Solar Market Insight™

Solar Energy Industries Association
2nd Quarter 2011

U.S. Solar Market Insight™ is a quarterly publication of the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) and GTM Research. Each quarter, we survey nearly 200 installers, manufacturers, utilities, and state agencies every quarter to collect granular data on photovoltaic (PV) and concentrating solar. These data provide the backbone of this Solar Market Insight™ report, in which we identify and analyze trends in U.S. solar demand, manufacturing, and pricing by state and market segment. We also use this analysis to look forward and forecast demand over the next five years. As the U.S. solar market expands, we hope that Solar Market Insight™ will provide an invaluable decision-making tool for installers, suppliers, investors, policymakers and advocates alike.

<http://www.seia.org/galleries/pdf/SMI-Q2-2011-ES.pdf>

Sizing the Clean Economy

Brookings Institution
September 21, 2011

According to a recent study by the Brookings Institution, today's clean economy employs some 2.7 million workers across a diverse array of industries. Sectors such as solar energy and green construction have seen strong job gains over the past few years.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/Programs/Metro/clean_economy/0713_clean_economy.pdf

ARTICLES

Award-Winning Chef José Andrés Joins Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

United Nations Foundation
September 13, 2011

The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves announced today that Chef José Andrés will serve as Culinary Ambassador, helping to raise awareness of the death, sickness and injury caused by toxic smoke from cooking stoves in developing countries. Two million people globally die each year from illnesses such as pneumonia, chronic lung disease and cancer – all due to exposure to smoke from harmful and inefficient cooking and heating practices. The vast majority of deaths are among women and children.

<http://cleancookstoves.org/blog/award-winning-chef-jose-andres-joins-global-alliance-for-clean-cookstoves/>

Is global warming causing severe storms?

CQ Researcher
September 9, 2011 • Volume 21, Issue 31

The United States has suffered record-breaking floods along the Mississippi River this year, plus giant snowstorms from the Midwest to the Northeast, massive wildfires in the West and South, deadly tornadoes in the South and Midwest and an extended drought in a quarter of the contiguous United States. A similar pattern of extreme weather occurred in 2010. And the U.S. is far from alone. Worldwide, weather- and climate-related disasters last year left nearly 70,000 people dead and inflicted nearly \$100 billion in damages. The reasons behind the surge in extreme weather are open to debate, but a scientific consensus is emerging that global warming is

the culprit. In some locales scientists are fighting back. In bone-dry Abu Dhabi, for example, they are trying to create summer rainstorms through a new version of cloud seeding. But experts say that as the planet warms, extreme weather — with its immense human and financial toll — is likely to continue.

Full text of this article sent by request

Going green, saving lives

The Washington Post

September 4, 2011

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/going-green-saving-lives/2011/09/28/gIQABvLFJL_story.html

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