



Environmental Issues

August 2008



**WORLD WATER WEEK
AUGUST 17-AUGUST 23, 2008**

The aim of the World Water Week in Stockholm is to serve, on an annual basis, as the main arena for an exchange of views and experiences between members of the scientific, business, policy and civil society communities in order to advance efforts related to water, the environment, livelihoods and poverty reduction. The World Water Week is the leading annual global meeting place for capacity-building, partnership-building and follow-up on the implementation of international processes and programmes in water and development. The performance of policies and programmes in meeting challenges and capitalising on opportunities for progress will be examined during the World Water Week.

The contribution of all stakeholders, who should play a constructive role in governance towards sustainability, will be highlighted. Seminars and side events will feature invited speakers and participants will present their views and experiences. Special attention will be devoted to highlight concrete work that matters for the poor, for the environment and for our common future.

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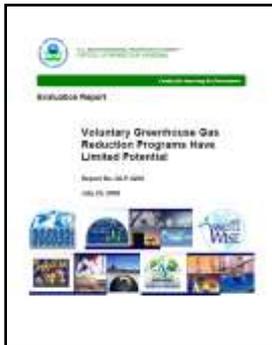
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DOE PURSUES ZERO-NET ENERGY COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS. U.S. Department of Energy, August 06, 2008

DOE launched the Zero-Net Energy Commercial Building Initiative (CBI) on August 5, with the goals of developing new commercial buildings that produce as much energy as they use and making these buildings marketable by 2025. Such zero-net energy commercial buildings will minimize their energy use through cutting-edge energy efficiency technologies and will meet their remaining energy needs through on-site renewable energy generation. To help with the CBI, DOE has also formed the National Laboratory Collaborative on Building Technologies (NLCBT), which will allow DOE and five of its national laboratories to work closely on the research, validation, and commercialization priorities that are critical to the success of zero-net energy buildings. Argonne National Laboratory, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory will be working together under the NLCBT.

http://www.eere.energy.gov/news/daily.cfm/hp_news_id=129

VOLUNTARY GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION PROGRAMS HAVE LIMITED POTENTIAL. Evaluation Report. Jill Ferguson, Jeffrey Harris, et.al. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Inspector General, July 23, 2008.



“The set of voluntary GHG programs we reviewed use outreach efforts to recruit program partners and reduce GHG emissions. We found the greatest barriers to participation were the perceived emission reduction costs and reporting requirements. We also found that it is unlikely these voluntary programs can reduce more than 19 percent of the projected 2010 GHG emissions for their industry sectors. From this, we determined that if EPA wishes to reduce GHG emissions beyond this point, it needs to consider additional policy options.”

(...)EPA has been a leader in developing protocols to produce estimates for greenhouse gas sources and sinks categories in the United States. However, data uncertainty has continued to be a concern the voluntary programs have struggled to address. As a result, the reported accomplishments of these voluntary programs may be based on unreliable data.”

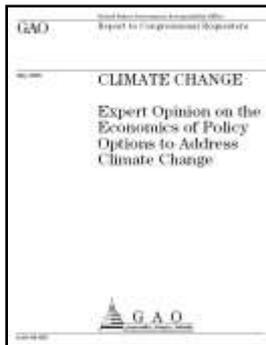
<http://www.epa.gov/oigearth/reports/2008/20080723-08-P-0206.pdf>

ANALYSES AND EFFECTS OF GLOBAL CHANGE ON HUMAN HEALTH AND WELFARE AND HUMAN SYSTEMS. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Janet L. Gamble et al. Web posted July 19, 2008. 08AD918

The report discusses the potential impacts of climate change on human health, human welfare, and communities. The factors include the elderly, the poor, children, and people with chronic medical conditions. The report also identifies adaptation strategies to help respond to the challenges of a changing climate and identifies near- and long-term research goals for addressing data and knowledge gaps.

<http://downloads.climate-science.gov/sap/sap4-6/sap4-6-final-all.pdf> [PDF format, 284 pages].

EXPERT OPINION ON THE ECONOMICS OF POLICY OPTIONS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE. U.S. Government Accountability Office. Web posted June 9, 2008. 08AD802



Elevated levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and the resulting effects on the earth's climate could have significant environmental and economic impacts in the United States and internationally. Potential impacts include rising sea levels and a shift in the intensity and frequency of floods and storms. Proposed responses to climate change include adapting to the possible impacts by planning and improving protective infrastructure, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions directly through regulation or the promotion of low-emissions technologies.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08605.pdf> [PDF format, 81 pages].

POLICY AND RISK PROCESSES OF TRADE-RELATED BIOLOGICAL INVASIONS. Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Michael Springborn et al. June 2008. 08AD843



The report summarizes the insights on the risk involved in trade-related introduction of non-indigenous species (NIS). The report analyzes the theoretical relationships between trade, trade policy, in the form of tariffs, and NIS-related damage. The authors characterize the optimal mix of tariffs and inspections and show how the balance depends on trading partner attributes, such as the infection rate of shipments and the marginal NIS damage level. Overall, this collection of research on trade-related NIS introductions highlights the welfare and biological implications of both broad and differentiated policy instruments, and the challenge of empirically supporting the latter.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/CCR41/CCR41.pdf> [PDF format, 24 pages].

ANNUAL ENERGY OUTLOOK 2008 WITH PROJECTIONS TO 2030. Department of Energy/Energy Information Administration.DOE/EIA-0383(2008) June 2008

The Annual Energy Outlook 2008 (AEO2008) presents projections and analysis of US energy supply, demand, and prices through 2030. The projections are based on results from the Energy Information Administration's National Energy Modeling System. The AEO2008 includes the reference case, additional cases examining energy markets, and complete documentation.

AEO2008 projections are based on Federal, State, and local laws and regulations in effect on or before December 31, 2007. The potential impacts of pending or proposed legislation, regulations, and standards (and sections of existing legislation that require implementing regulations or funds that have not been appropriated) are not reflected in the projections. In general, historical data used in the AEO2008 projections are based on EIA's Annual Energy Review 2006, published in June 2007. Other historical data, taken from multiple sources, are presented for comparative purposes; documents referenced in the source notes should be consulted for official data values.

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/aeo/index.html>

EPA'S REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENT 2008



The EPA 2008 ROE is an update of the draft ROE that was released in 2003 and it builds on the foundation of that draft report. EPA's first experience with the 2003 ROE resulted in a better understanding of which indicators are robust enough to include in the EPA 2008 ROE. EPA was committed to identifying the best available set of scientifically sound indicators for the EPA 2008 ROE in an open and transparent manner. Because of this commitment, the Agency took the extraordinary step of having all of the proposed indicators independently externally peer reviewed in a public forum to determine if each proposed indicator was supported by data that were technically sound, met the established indicator definition and criteria, and helped answer the questions posed in the EPA 2008 ROE. After that step, an external review draft of the full EPA ROE was subjected to an independent external peer review, as well as public review and comment. This level of thorough and rigorous for external review serves to reinforce EPA's commitment to obtaining independent expert input on this document and to an open and participatory public process for the development of this report.

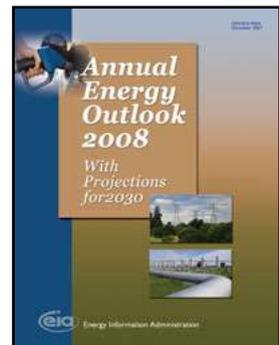
<http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=190806>

ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS: DETERMINATION OF THREATENED STATUS FOR THE POLAR BEAR (URSUS MARITIMUS) THROUGHOUT ITS RANGE. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior. Scott Schliebe and Kurt Johnson. May 14, 2008. 08AD727

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined threatened status for the polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as 2 amended (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Polar bears utilize the Arctic sea ice niche and are distributed throughout most ice-covered seas of the Northern Hemisphere. The Service finds that polar bear habitat, principally sea ice, is declining throughout the species' range. This decline is expected to continue for the foreseeable future, threatening the species throughout all of its range.

The special rule for the polar bear sets out the prohibitions and exceptions which apply to the threatened species.

http://www.doi.gov/issues/polar_bears/Polar%20Bear%20Final%20Rule_to%20FEDERAL%20REGISTE%20-Final_05-14-08.pdf [PDF format, 368 pages].



USEPA MTBE PILOT PROJECT REPORT: INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL SOURCES OF MTBE CONTAMINATION ON LONG ISLAND THAT COULD IMPACT WATER SUPPLIES OR ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS. Water Compliance Branch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Web posted April 27, 2008. 08AD698

Methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) was legally used in New York State from 1979 until its ban on January 1, 2004. The use of MTBE in gasoline during that period resulted in significant MTBE impacts to the groundwater resource of Long Island. Between December 2002 and December 2006, with funding provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) conducted a study to better define the extent of MTBE contamination in the Long

Island aquifer system. The report showed the presence of MTBE, a toxic fuel additive linked to cancer, saturating the soil beneath the stations. Some environmental experts and community activists are raising questions about the full extent of the pollution, its threat to public health, and how it will be cleaned up.

http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/mtbepilot1.pdf
[PDF format, 54 pages].

EPA PROGRESS REPORT 2008: PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION. Wayne Nastri. Environmental Protection Agency. Web posted April 15, 2008. 08AD627

Cutting tons of pollution from power plants, turning food waste into energy, preserving threatened waterways, and reducing exposure to toxics in beauty salons — just a few of the issues highlighted in the newly released 2008 environmental progress report. The report takes an in-depth look at many of the important environmental issues facing Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, 146 Indian tribes, and several Pacific Islands.

http://www.epa.gov/region09/annualreport/08/EPA_Reg9_PR_2008.pdf
[pdf format, 44 pages].

THE UNIFORM CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE RUPTURE FORECAST. U.S. Geological Survey; USGS Open File Report 2007-1437. Edward H. Field, et. al. Web posted April 15, 2008. 08AD632

This study determined the probabilities that different parts of California will experience earthquake ruptures of various magnitudes over the next 30 years. It used a model that comprehensively combines information from seismology, earthquake geology, and geodesy (measuring precise locations on the Earth's surface) and, for the first time, allows a statewide forecast. According to the forecast, California has more than a 46% chance of having a magnitude 7.5 or larger earthquake within the next 30.

http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2007/1437/of2007-1437_text.pdf [pdf format, 104 pages].

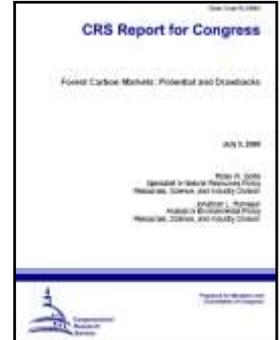


CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS (HEARINGS, REPORTS, ETC.)

FOREST CARBON MARKETS: POTENTIAL AND DRAWBACKS. Congressional Research Service, RL34560, Library of Congress. Ross W. Gorte and Jonathan L. Ramseur. Web posted July 29, 2008. 08AD949

Forests are major carbon storehouses and activities that alter forests can release or sequester carbon dioxide (CO₂), the most common greenhouse gas (GHG). Some carbon markets have been formed under mandatory GHG reduction regimes, such as the Kyoto Protocol and various regional and state initiatives in the United States. Other markets have formed for voluntary efforts to reduce GHG emissions. Forestry activities are among the largest-volume and lowest-cost opportunities for generating offsets. Afforestation, planting trees on open sites, and reforestation, planting trees on recently cleared sites, are the activities most commonly included for offsets.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34560_20080703.pdf
[PDF format, 22 pages].



TSUNAMI DETECTION AND WARNINGS FOR THE UNITED STATES. Congressional Research Service, RL34506, Library of Congress. Wayne A. Morrissey. Web posted June 22, 2008. 08AD877



Congress raised concerns about the possible vulnerability of U.S. coastal areas to tsunamis, and the adequacy of early warning for coastal areas, after a strong underwater earthquake struck off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, on December 26, 2004. Long before the tsunami disaster, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) envisioned “piggy backing” tsunami detection and warning instrumentation on existing marine buoys, tide gauges, and other ocean observation and monitoring systems. Proponents of the NOAA program also called for funding authorization to address long-term needs of the U.S. network, such as maintenance, and to support social programs aimed at disaster preparedness and adaptation to risk.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34506.pdf> [PDF format, 18 pages].

REVISING THE NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARD FOR LEAD. Congressional Research Service, RL34479, Library of Congress. James E. McCarthy. May 7, 2008. 08AD779

National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) are standards for outdoor, ambient, air that are intended to protect public health and welfare from harmful concentrations of pollution. When the lead standard is strengthened, protecting public health and welfare requires lower concentrations of lead pollution in ambient air than the level previously held to be safe. Lead particles can be inhaled or ingested, and, once in the body, can cause lower IQ and affect on learning, memory, and behavior in children. In adults, lead exposure is linked to increased blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, and decreased kidney function.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34479_20080507.pdf [PDF format, 16 pages].

THE “RED-DEAD” CANAL: ISRAELI-ARAB EFFORTS TO RESTORE THE DEAD SEA. Congressional Research Service, RS22876, Library of Congress. Jeremy M. Sharp. Web posted May 20, 2008. 08AD739



Regional cooperation in halting continued overuse of scarce water resources has been a casualty of the long-running Arab-Israeli conflict. The Dead Sea has been a victim of this neglect, and scientists estimate that it will decrease substantially in the coming decades due to overexploitation of the Jordan River. The governments of Israel and Jordan have been proponents of the “Peace Canal,” from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea, to pump sea water into the salt lake while generating hydroelectric power for use in desalination. However, opponents of the canal claim that it may do more environmental harm than good and suggest that the Dead Sea be naturally restored by allowing the Jordan River to flow southward unimpeded. The report investigates the proposed Red-Dead Canal and analyzes its political significance and the debate surrounding its possible construction. http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22876_20080513.pdf [PDF format, 6 pages].

THE WHITE HOUSE

COMMITTED TO CLEANER, MORE ABUNDANT DOMESTIC ENERGY. Fact Sheet. The White House, July 29, 2008

(President Bush And His Administration Are Working To Advance Energy On All Fronts And Call On Congress To Take Action)

Today, President Bush toured the Lincoln Electric Company in Cleveland, Ohio, and discussed his Administration's actions to address high gasoline prices. The President and his Administration are working to create greater energy security for our Nation. With the understanding that there is no short-term solution to high energy prices, President Bush is taking action to expand domestic production, increase vehicle efficiency, and promote alternative fuels to reduce the impact on American families. The President recognizes that we cannot rely on just one energy source; we need all of them. With only three days left before leaving for yet another recess, the Democrat-led Congress has failed to take action to improve our energy security.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/07/20080729-6.html>

THINK TANKS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

ETHANOL AND THE ENVIRONMENT. By **Kenneth P. Green.** *Environmental Policy Outlook No.3.* AEI Online, July 29, 2008



Contrary to popular belief, ethanol fuel will do little or nothing to increase our energy security or stabilize fuel prices. Instead, it will increase greenhouse gas emissions, local air pollutant emissions, fresh water scarcity, water pollution (both riparian and oceanic), land and ecosystem consumption, and food prices.

Ethanol has been a critically important chemical for a very long time. In fact, it has been used for eight thousand years or so--going back to the Paleolithic era--and some research suggests that Stone Age people recognized the value of a good tippie. As commentator George Will recently pointed out, some have even argued that ethanol, in the form

of beer and wine, was an evolutionary driver in helping humanity transcend its original hunter-gatherer lifestyle and begin living in denser population clusters.

http://www.aei.org/publications/filter.all,pubID.28396/pub_detail.asp

GORE'S CLIMATE CLAPTRAP. By **Samuel Thernstrom.** **AEI ARTICLES.** Published in the *Real Clear Politics.* July 25, 2008

The complexities and difficult realities facing U. S. policymakers in regard to global climate change are being exacerbated, not improved, by Al Gore's bold (and unrealistic) calls for drastically reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Gore's proposal that the United States produce the entirety of its electricity from renewable sources within ten years will have serious and destructive consequences on the American economy, especially given the cost of renewables and the value of the existing national energy infrastructure. The United States would do better to seek out a policy that achieves efficient and effective emissions reductions in the long-term.

http://www.aei.org/publications/filter.all,pubID.28381/pub_detail.asp

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

HUMAN RIGHTS AND NATURAL DISASTERS. **Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement, Brookings Institution.** Web posted May 12, 2008. 08AD701

Although disasters could happen suddenly, their consequences can be long to remedy and can linger on for months and years. The effects can increase inequalities in life and society. Therefore, it is important to review how governments and humanitarian efforts integrate human rights into their disaster preparedness and response. Human rights have to be the basis for all humanitarian work pertaining to natural disasters. If humanitarian assistance is not based on a human rights framework, there is a risk that the focus will be too narrow and the basic needs of the victims will not be integrated into a holistic planning process. In order to provide guidance on how to protect the rights of individuals affected by natural disasters, the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) adopted Operational Guidelines on Human

Rights and Natural Disasters and Human Rights and Natural Disasters is drafted as an accompaniment to the IASC guidelines.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2008/spring_natural_disasters/spring_natural_disasters.pdf [PDF format, 93 pages].

CATO

DOES RAIL TRANSIT SAVE ENERGY OR REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS? Cato Institute. Randal O'Toole. Web posted May 3, 2008. 08AD674

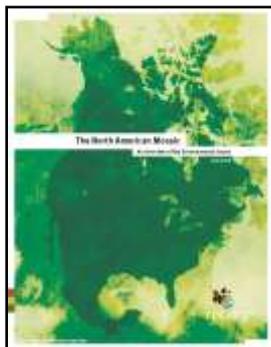


Even though most rail transit system uses less energy than buses, it is heavily supplemented by extensive feeder bus operations, with very low number of users. Therefore, most rail transit systems end up using more energy per passenger mile. Many decades of energy savings would be needed to repay the energy cost of rail transit system construction. Even with the attempts to improve the environment by changing people's behavior so that they drive less, such behavioral efforts have been far less successful than technical solutions to toxic air pollution associated with automobiles.

<http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa-615.pdf> [PDF format, 24 pages].

COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

THE NORTH AMERICAN MOSAIC: AN OVERVIEW OF KEY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. Commission for Environmental Cooperation. Tundi Agardy, et al. June 2008. 08AD870

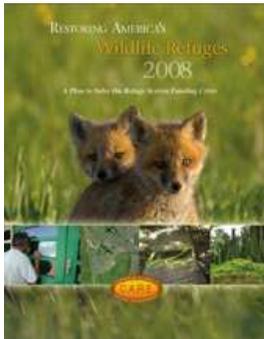


In its latest report, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) examines environmental issues facing the NAFTA partners. The report addresses issues related to air and atmosphere, biodiversity and ecosystems, pollutants, and water. Specific topics include climate change, species of concern, including the critically endangered vaquita porpoise, and the quality and quantity of water shared between the North American nations. With the advice of environmental reporting experts from the three countries, the report draws on information from national and international sources for a broad overview of North America's environment.

http://www.cec.org/files/PDF//Mosaic-2008_en.pdf [PDF format, 66 pages]

COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE FOR REFUGE ENHANCEMENT (CARE)

RESTORING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE REFUGES 2008; A PLAN TO SOLVE THE REFUGE SYSTEM FUNDING CRISIS. CARE 2008.



A new report released to Congress today finds the nation's 548 National Wildlife Refuges are vastly under-funded, leading to unstaffed refuges and closings; unsafe roads and trails; decreased safety; millions of acres of invasive species; unprotected at-risk species; and hundreds of layoffs.

America's National Wildlife Refuge System, comprising nearly 100 million acres, requires a minimum of \$765 million annually to operate adequately. However, the System is currently receiving \$434 million per year – an average of just \$4.34 per acre.

The Refuge System, created by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903, provides habitat for more than 250 at-risk animal and plant species. The 40 million people who visit refuges each year contribute an estimated \$1.7 billion in annual sales and over 27,000 jobs to local economies. Close to 800,000 Americans participated in environmental education programs last year, and more than half of the nation's refuges are available to anglers and hunters.

<http://www.refugenet.org/new-pdf-files/CAREreport2008.pdf>

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

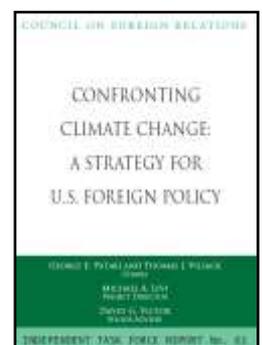
CHINA'S ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS. Carin Zissis; Jayshree Bajoria. Backgrounder. Council on Foreign Relations. Updated: August 4, 2008

China's heady economic growth continued to blossom in 2007, with the country's gross domestic product (GDP) hitting 11.4 percent. This booming economy, however, has come alongside an environmental crisis. Sixteen of the world's twenty most polluted cities are in China. To many, Beijing's pledge to host a "Green Olympics" in the summer of 2008 signaled the country's willingness to address its environmental problems. Experts say the Chinese government has made serious efforts to clean up and achieved many of the bid commitments. However, an environmentally sustainable growth rate remains a serious challenge for the country.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/12608/chinas_environmental_crisis.html?breadcrumb=%2Fissuue%2F22%2Fenvironmental_pollution

CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE: A STRATEGY FOR U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. Council on Foreign Relations. June 2008. 08AD841

The report recommends that the United States leverage ambitious, comprehensive, and equitable action at home to advance an effective policy abroad. It lays out a U.S. negotiating strategy for a global climate accord, outlining what the U.S. should be willing to offer and what it should expect others, including the rapidly emerging economies, to do in return. However, it also cautions that a comprehensive post-Kyoto climate deal will not be easy to conclude, noting: "Even as the United States pursues ambitious and mandatory policies at home, it should not sign on to an emissions cap as part of any global



deal that does not include strong commitments to actions from the major emerging economies.” It recommends creating a Partnership for Climate Cooperation that would focus the world’s largest emitters, including India and China, on implementing aggressive emissions reductions.

http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Climate_ChangeTF.pdf
[PDF format, 137 pages]

SMART COUNTRIES, FOOLISH CHOICES. Center for Goeconomic Studies, Council on Foreign Relations. Amity Shales and Gaurav Tiwari. April 8, 2008. 08AD640

It seems to be a common bellief that oil-rich countries are not friendly to the United States, and that entrepreneurial or “smart” countries are not endowed with oil. Shales and Gaurav find a triangular relationship between oil wealth, entrepreneurial spirit, and friendliness to the United States. They conclude that oil producing countries are not U.S.-friendly, in contrast to entrepreneurial countries, which are friendly to the United States, do not have oil. The authors recommend that it is in the U.S. interest to support education and economic diversification in oil producing countries so those countries can become entrepreneurial and friendly.

http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/CGS_WorkingPaper_1.pdf
[pdf format, 26 pages].

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

ANNUAL REPORT 2007 AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT 2008. EEA.17 Jun 2008 Corporate document No 1/2008

The EEA continued to deliver a major contribution to the European Community's Sixth Environment Action Programme (and its mid-term review) in 2007, at the same time as developing further its information systems and networks, providing support to the European Parliament and meetings of the Council of Ministers, and underpinning initiatives in the wider world.

http://reports.eea.europa.eu/corporate_document_2008_1/en/Annual-report-2007-final-web.pdf



AIR POLLUTION BY OZONE ACROSS EUROPE DURING SUMMER 2007. European Environment Agency. Web posted May 1, 2008. 08AD683

Ozone levels during the summer of 2007 in Europe were among the lowest in the past decade. The number and spatial extent of cases exceeding the targeted standards was lower than in any of the last ten summers. In contrast to the summer of 2006, no cases occurred in the northern part of Europe. The highest one-hour ozone concentration was observed in Italy on the island of Sicily, while the second highest level was observed in Romania. High hourly ozone concentrations were reported a total of six times in France, Greece, Italy and Romania.

http://reports.eea.europa.eu/technical_report_2008_5/en/technical_report_5_2008

[PDF format, 38 pages].



HERITAGE FOUNDATION

CONGRESSIONAL MORATORIUM ON OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO EXPIRE. By Ben Lieberman. Heritage Foundation. WebMemo #2016. August 8, 2008

The clock is ticking on the congressional moratorium on access to billions of barrels of domestic oil beneath American waters. President Bush already rescinded the White House prohibitions on access to this energy, so the congressional restrictions are the only thing standing between 19 billion barrels of additional domestic oil and the citizens who need it. If Congress does not act to renew these outdated, anti-energy, and anti-consumer restrictions, these areas will be opened to exploration and drilling beginning on October 1. Some are calling this Energy Freedom Day, and it would be a welcome and long overdue step toward dealing with high gasoline prices.



http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/upload/wm_2016.pdf

EPA SHOULD NOT IGNORE CONGRESS ON GLOBAL WARMING RESTRICTIONS. By Ben Lieberman. Heritage Foundation. WebMemo #1987. July 11, 2008



Today, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) detailing potentially devastating regulation of the economy in the name of fighting global warming. But several weeks ago, the Senate considered and wisely rejected global warming legislation that, as with EPA's proposal, would have done far more economic harm than environmental good. Apparently, the EPA bureaucracy is trying to circumvent Congress and regulate carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act. Fortunately, while allowing the ANPR to be released for comment, the Bush Administration expressed in clear terms its

objections to it. EPA Administrator Steve Johnson noted that the Clean Air Act was originally intended to regulate regional pollutants that caused health problems and is not the way to reduce greenhouse gases.

http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/upload/wm_1987.pdf

CRITICS OF NUCLEAR POWER'S COSTS MISS THE POINT. By Jack Spencer and Nicolas Loris. Heritage Foundation. WebMemo #1961. June 19, 2008



Carbon-capping legislation and recent studies that conclude that a massive build-up of nuclear power is needed to minimize the negative economic impact of CO2 caps have spurred several high-profile articles on the costs of nuclear energy. One such article notes that estimated construction costs for nuclear power plants and the overall costs of nuclear power have increased significantly since 2000 and espouses wind power, solar power, and energy efficiency as alternatives to new nuclear plants.

What these articles do not recognize is that energy prices are increasing broadly. When considered properly, nuclear power is the only available technology that is adequate, affordable, reliable, safe, and environmentally clean. If the nation wants to limit CO2 emissions, then it must turn to nuclear power.

http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/upload/wm_1961.pdf

INSTITUTE FOR POLICY INNOVATION

DON'T KILL THE GREEN GOOSE. Institute for Policy Innovation. Chris S. Israel. Web posted June 2, 2008. 08AD813

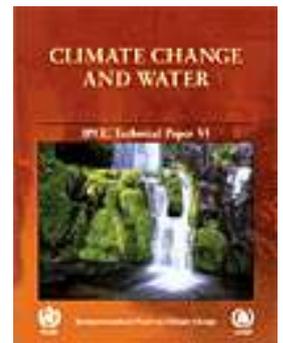
According to the analysis, the clean energy revolution will only reach its full potential in solving our energy needs worldwide if there is determination to promote and protect the intellectual property (IP) that makes green technology possible. The need to achieve technological breakthroughs to provide cleaner, more efficient, cheaper and more abundant sources of energy may be the race-to-the-moon for this generation of American inventors, scientists and entrepreneurs. It is noted that the “green tech” industry is today where the semiconductor industry was 35 years ago and where the biotech industry was 25 years ago. [http://www.ipi.org/ipi/IPIPublications.nsf/PublicationLookupFullTextPDF/B3E53F7E7905DEF18625745C0074EDEA/\\$File/GreenTech.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.ipi.org/ipi/IPIPublications.nsf/PublicationLookupFullTextPDF/B3E53F7E7905DEF18625745C0074EDEA/$File/GreenTech.pdf?OpenElement) [PDF format, 2 pages].

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER. Dr. Jean Palutikof, et. al. Technical Report. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. June 2008

The Technical Paper addresses the issue of freshwater. Sea-level rise is dealt with only insofar as it can lead to impacts on freshwater in coastal areas and beyond. Climate, freshwater, biophysical and socio-economic systems are interconnected in complex ways. Hence, a change in any one of these can induce a change in any other. Freshwater-related issues are critical in determining key regional and sectoral vulnerabilities. Therefore, the relationship between climate change and freshwater resources is of primary concern to human society and also has implications for all living species.

An interdisciplinary writing team of Lead Authors was selected by the three IPCC Working Group Bureaus with the aim of achieving a regional and topical balance. Like all IPCC Technical Papers, this product too is based on the material of previously approved/accepted/adopted IPCC reports and underwent a simultaneous expert and Government review, followed by a final Government review. The Bureau of the IPCC acted in the capacity of an editorial board to ensure that the review comments were adequately addressed by the Lead Authors in the finalization of the Technical Paper.



The Bureau met in its 37th Session in Budapest in April 2008 and considered the major comments received during the final Government review. In the light of its observations and requests, the Lead Authors finalised the Technical Paper, after which the Bureau authorised its release to the public.

<http://www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/tp-climate-change-water.htm>

NASA

FOR TOY-LIKE NASA ROBOTS IN ARCTIC, ICE RESEARCH IS CHILD'S PLAY. NASA, 07.15.08

Several snowmobiles navigated speedily over arctic ice and snow in Alaska's outback in late June. This scene might seem ordinary except that the recently unveiled snowmobiles are unmanned, autonomous, toy-size robots called SnoMotes – the first prototype network of their kind envisioned to rove treacherous areas of the Arctic and Antarctic capturing more accurate measurements that will help scientists better understand what is causing the well-documented melting of ice in those regions.

Project lead Ayanna Howard, a Georgia Tech engineering professor, poses with one of three SnoMote robots she co-designed in preparation for a field test in June on Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau, Alaska. Credit: University of Alaska Southeast/Alex Bogolepov

http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/arctic_robots.html



ARCTAS MISSION STATUS UPDATE, NASA. July 3, 2008



The chemical and particulate composition of the smoke plume from this boreal forest fire near Ft. McMurry in northern Alberta was the subject of an aerial study by ARCTAS mission scientists aboard NASA's DC-8 and P-3 science aircraft on July 1. NASA Photo.

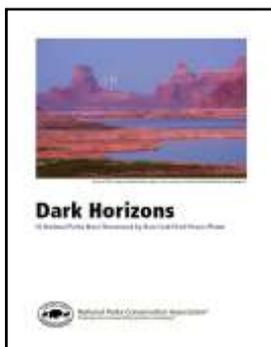
While most citizens of the United States are celebrating the nation's independence during the July 4th weekend, more than 100 scientists, flight crew and mission support personnel from NASA and a variety of universities and government research agencies are working in northern Canada, gathering data in the second phase of the Arctic Research of the Composition of the Troposphere from

Aircraft and Satellites – or ARCTAS – field campaign.

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/arctas/arctas_update20080703.html

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

DARK HORIZONS: 10 NATIONAL PARKS MOST THREATENED BY NEW COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS. National Parks Conservation Association. Web posted June 29, 2008. 08AD890



One in three national park sites have air pollution levels that exceed health standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Most of the air pollution marring the parks' scenic views, harming plants, and risking the health of wildlife and visitors, results from the burning of fossil fuels, especially by coal-fired power plants. Over the objections of its own scientists, and those at the National Park Service, the EPA has proposed regulatory changes that will make it easier to build new, polluting coal-fired power plants near national parks. The report highlights the ten national parks most at risk from air pollution from coal-fired power plants, and calls for action to protect and preserve the national parks.

http://www.npca.org/darkhorizons/pdf/Dark_Horizons_Report.pdf [PDF format, 33 pages].

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

ARCHEOLOGY FROM REEL TO REEL: A Special Report. NSF.

As illustrated in these pages, NSF-supported archaeologists like "Rip" Rapp and Dixie West and their colleagues do discover "lost cities"; they do try to figure out what happened to "vanished civilizations" and whether what caused their collapse may have relevance to contemporary problems; they do seek rare and precious artifacts that tell important stories about the past, even if those artifacts are minute snails and the scrapings of ancient teeth and not golden idols. They do "deal with Native peoples," though with respect, as partners in the process of learning about the past, rather than with weapons. And certainly, as is jokingly noted in the latest Indiana Jones adventure, teaching is an important part of what they do. http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/archaeology/index.jsp

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

HEAVY RAINFALL AND INCREASED FLOODING RISK: GLOBAL WARMING'S WAKE-UP CALL FOR THE CENTRAL UNITED STATES. National Wildlife Federation. July 2008. 08AD911

The last few decades have brought more heavy summer rainfalls along with increased likelihood of devastating floods to the Central United States. While no single storm or flood can be attributed directly to global warming, changing climate conditions are at least partly responsible for past trends. Because warmer air can hold more moisture, global warming is expected to bring more and heavier precipitation in the years to come, according to the report. http://www.nwf.org/nwfwebadmin/binaryVault/Flood_Report.pdf



NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

TROUT IN TROUBLE: THE IMPACTS OF GLOBAL WARMING ON TROUT IN THE INTERIOR WEST. Steven Kinsella; Theo Spencer; Bruce Farling. NRDC Issue Paper, July 2008.



The report is a comprehensive look by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Montana Trout Unlimited at the impacts of global warming on trout in the interior West.

The report found that loss of habitat is resulting in fewer opportunities for anglers to enjoy sportfishing and could cause more serious economic losses for those who depend on the fishing, recreation, and tourism industries for their livelihoods. In Colorado, sportfishing in 2002 contributed \$800 million to the state's economy and supported nearly 11,000 jobs. In Montana, angling generates \$300 million annually.

Scientists project that for trout and other cold-water aquatic species, a nearly five degree Fahrenheit temperature increase could reduce trout habitat throughout the Rocky Mountain region by 50 percent or more by the end of the century.

<http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/trout/trout.pdf>

BOOSTING THE BENEFITS: IMPROVING AIR QUALITY AND HEALTH BY REDUCING GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTION IN CALIFORNIA . Diane Bailey; Kim Knowlton; Miriam Rotkin-Ellman. NRDC Issue Paper, June 24, 2008



Thousands of Californians will be spared illness and death as a result of California’s Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32), according to a new analysis. The data reveals that AB 32 will do more than help fight climate change; it also will protect people’s health and improve air quality.

The report, by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Redefining Progress, estimates that all the measures necessary to meet AB 32, if designed well, could prevent more than 700 premature deaths, 18,000 cases of asthma and respiratory illnesses, and 1,500 cases of acute bronchitis. The savings in health costs were calculated between \$3.2 billion and \$5.0 billion for the year 2020 alone.

“Reducing global warming pollution can deliver cleaner air and better health for Californians,” said Diane Bailey, NRDC senior scientist and lead author of the report. “State regulators should prioritize measures that will reduce global warming pollution and protect communities that suffer from air pollution.”

<http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/boosting/boosting.pdf>

BENCHMARKING AIR EMISSIONS OF THE 100 LARGEST ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCERS IN THE UNITED STATES. Christopher Van Atten; Thomas Curry, M.J.; Amlan Saha. Inc.Ceres, NRDC, PSEG, and PG&E Corporation. May 2008



The new report shows that carbon allocation scenarios under Congressional legislative proposals to limit global warming pollution will have dramatically different financial impacts – with billions of dollars at stake – on power companies and consumers.

The report evaluates CO2 pollution data from the nation's 100 largest electric power companies, providing a first-of-its-kind analysis of the projected financial implications consumers and power companies would see from different carbon allowance scenarios in two existing Senate bills: the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act and the Bingaman-Specter Low Carbon Economy Act. The electric power sector accounts for about 40 percent of the nation's CO2 emissions. The report was released by the Ceres investor coalition, the Natural Resources Defense Council and two power companies, PG&E and PSEG.

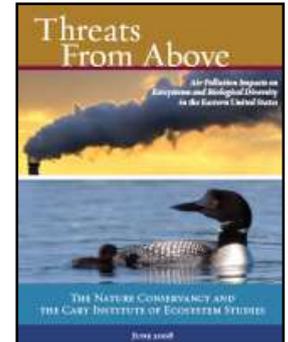
<http://www.nrdc.org/air/pollution/benchmarking/2006/benchmark2006.pdf>

NATURE CONSERVANCY AND CARY INSTITUTE OF ECOSYSTEM STUDIES

THREATS FROM ABOVE: AIR POLLUTION IMPACTS ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN THE EASTERN UNITED STATES. Nature Conservancy and Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. Gary M. Lovett and Timothy H. Tear. Web posted July 21, 2008. 08AD934

No ecosystem type in the eastern United States is free of the effects of air pollution, according to the report. From streams and rivers to forests and wetlands, air pollution reduces the benefits these ecosystems provide to society, and damages human health and economies. Sulfur, nitrogen, mercury and ground-level ozone not only contaminate the air we breathe, they also enter the soil and water, causing a complex set of problems, which is widespread.

http://www.ecostudies.org/Threats_from_Above.pdf [PDF format, 32 pages].

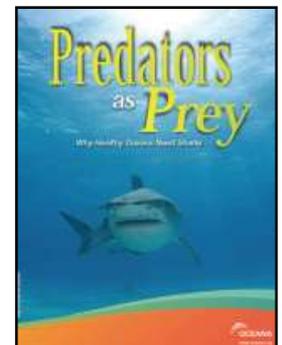


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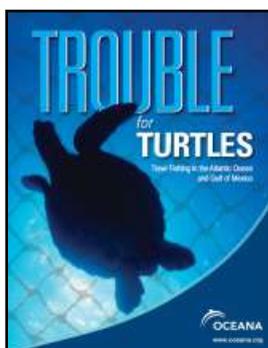
PREDATORS AS PREY: WHY HEALTHY OCEANS NEED SHARKS. Oceana. July 2008. 08AD920

The report concludes that sharks are invaluable to maintaining healthy ocean ecosystems. It shows that as shark populations decline, the oceans suffer unpredictable and devastating consequences. Sharks have unfortunately fallen victim to the man-hungry “Jaws” stereotype society has created for them. They now represent the largest group of threatened marine species on the World Conservation Union’s (IUCN) Red List of threatened species.

http://www.oceana.org/fileadmin/oceana/uploads/Sharks/Predators_as_Prey_FINAL_FINAL.pdf [PDF format, 20 pages].



TROUBLES FOR TURTLES: TRAWL FISHING IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AND GULF OF MEXICO. Oceana. E. Griffin et al. July 2008. 08AD909



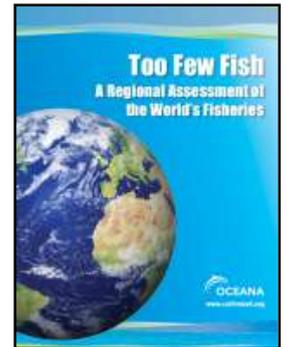
The report concludes that although sea turtles have survived mass extinctions, they are simply ill-equipped to withstand the threats posed by destructive fishing gear, especially in trawl fisheries. It shows that an estimated 770 sea turtles are caught annually in Mid-Atlantic trawl fisheries alone. Without an avenue for escape, sea turtles are likely to drown when captured in trawl gear. Although the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) developed Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) to help address this issue, NMFS does not require the use of TEDs in most trawl fisheries despite proof that they lead to a 97 percent reduction in sea turtle entrapment.

http://www.oceana.org/fileadmin/oceana/uploads/turtles/Trouble4Turtles_WebFinal.pdf [PDF format, 20 pages].

TOO FEW FISH: A REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF THE WORLD'S FISHERIES. OCEANA. B. Freitas et al. May 2008. 08AD785

The report concludes that more than 80 percent of the world's fisheries cannot withstand increased fishing activity. Only 17 percent of the world's fisheries should be considered capable of any growth in catch at all. Based on data from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), it finds 58 percent of the world's fish stocks are being fished at or beyond sustainable levels, 24 percent of the stocks have an unknown status and only 17 percent are considered underexploited or moderately exploited.

http://oceana.org/fileadmin/oceana/uploads/dirty_fishing/toofewfish4.pdf [PDF format, 30 pages].



ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT'S (OECD)

ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE: COSTS, BENEFITS AND POLICY INSTRUMENTS. Eds. Shardul Agrawala and Samuel Fankhauser. May 2008

This new book provides a critical assessment of adaptation costs and benefits in key climate sensitive sectors, as well as at national and global levels. It examines the potential and limits of economic and policy instruments - e.g. insurance and risk sharing, environmental markets and pricing, public private partnerships - that can motivate adaptation actions.

<http://www.oecd.org/env/cc/ecoadaptation>



RANKING PORT CITIES WITH HIGH EXPOSURE AND VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE EXTREMES. OECD Environment Working Papers. R. J. Nicholls et al. April 2008. 08AD702



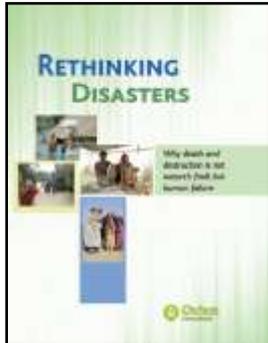
This global study makes a first estimate of the exposure of the world's large port cities to coastal flooding due to storm surge and damage due to high winds. This assessment also investigates how climate change is likely to impact each port city's exposure to coastal flooding by the 2070s. The study focuses on the 136 port cities around the world that have more than one million inhabitants in 2005. The analysis demonstrates that a large number of people are already exposed to coastal flooding in large port cities. Across all cities, about 40 million people are exposed to a 1 in 100 year coastal flood event. For present-day conditions (2005), the top ten cities in terms of exposed population

are estimated to be Mumbai, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Miami, Ho Chi Minh City, Kolkata, Greater New York, Osaka-Kobe, Alexandria and New Orleans. The top 10 cities in terms of assets exposed are Miami, Greater New York, New Orleans, Osaka-Kobe, Tokyo, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Nagoya, Tampa-St Petersburg and Virginia Beach.

<http://oberon.sourceoecd.org/vl=1705792/cl=11/nw=1/rpsv/cgi-bin/wppdf?file=5kzssgshj742.pdf> [PDF format, 63 pages].

OXFAM INTERNATIONAL

NATURE'S FAULT BUT HUMAN FAILURE. Oxfam International. Ian Bray et al. April 10, 2008. 08AD665

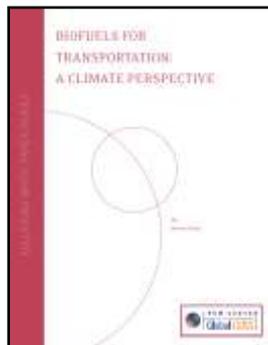


The combination of earthquakes, floods, droughts and other hazards make South Asia the world's most disaster-prone region. The effects are aggravated by climate change, unsuitable social and development policies, and environmental degradation. This results in slowing or blocking development, keeping millions in continuous poverty. The experience shows that successful disaster risk reduction policies, integrated into development work, save lives and money, making vulnerable communities more resilient and protecting development gains.

http://www.oxfam.org/en/files/oxfam_india_rethinking_disasters_apr08.pdf/download [PDF format, 60 pages].

PEW CENTER ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

BIOFUELS FOR TRANSPORTATION: A CLIMATE PERSPECTIVE. By Naomi Pena. Pew Center on Global Climate Change, June 2008



As the United States seeks to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from motor vehicles and to lessen its dependence on imported oil, biofuels are gaining increasing attention as one possible solution. This paper offers an introduction to the current state of play for biofuels: the technologies used in their production, their GHG emissions, and associated policy issues.

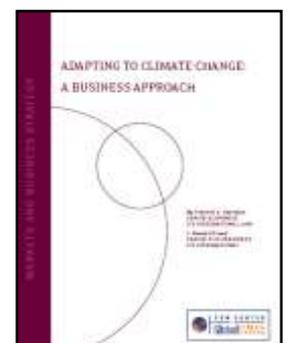
The amount of emission reductions that can be achieved through the use of biofuels varies widely, depending on choices made at each step from feedstock selection and production through final fuel use.

Technologies exist today to produce a wide variety of biofuels from a wide range of feedstocks. However, currently commercial options are limited to ethanol made from cornstarch or sugarcane, and biodiesel made from soybean or palm oil seeds. Current research and development focuses on lowering biofuel costs, GHG emissions, and land and water resource needs, and on improving compatibility with fuel distribution systems and vehicle engines. Policy priorities should be aligned with these R&D objectives as well as with other policies addressing climate, agriculture, forestlands and international trade.

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/BiofuelsFINAL.pdf>

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE: A BUSINESS APPROACH. Pew Center on Global Climate Change. Frances G. Sussman and J. Randall Freed. April 2008. 08AD636

The study describes framework which can be used to identify a company's potential risks from climate change. It contends that, while not all businesses need to follow with action, all need to be aware of the possible threats of climate change. The screening, that can be done easily, using currently



available information on climate trends and projections, can identify important risks and also possible opportunities for businesses.

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/Business-Adaptation.pdf> [pdf format, 40 pages]

POLITICAL ECONOMY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE GREEN ECONOMY. Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts. Robert Pollin and Jeannette Wicks-Lim. June 2008. 08AD815

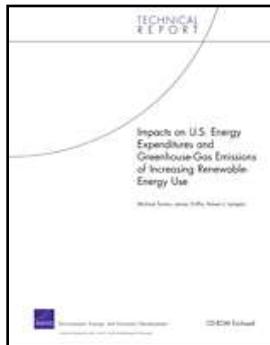
This report provides a snapshot of what kinds of jobs are needed to build a green economy in the United States. The six green strategies examined by the report are: building retrofitting, mass transit, energy-efficient automobiles, wind power, solar power, and cellulosic biomass fuels. The report shows that the vast majority of jobs associated with these six green strategies are in the same areas of employment that people already work in to-day, in every region and state of the country. It is clear that millions of U.S. workers will all benefit from the project of defeating global warming and transforming the United States into a green economy.

http://www.bluegreenalliance.org/atf/cf/%7B3637E5F0-D0EA-46E7-BB32-74D973EFF334%7D/NRDC_report_May28.pdf [PDF format, 15 pages].



RAND

IMPACTS ON U.S. ENERGY EXPENDITURES AND GREENHOUSE-GAS EMISSIONS OF INCREASING RENEWABLE-ENERGY USE. By: Michael Toman, James Griffin, Robert J. Lempert. RAND, June 2008.



The penetration of renewable energy into the marketplace has been small, held back principally by their higher cost relative to fossil energy. RAND assessed the potential impacts on U.S. consumer energy expenditures and national CO2 emissions of producing 25 percent of U.S. electric power and motor-vehicle transportation fuels from renewable resources by the year 2025. The baseline for the comparisons was expenditures and CO2 emissions in 2025 as drawn from the reference-case tables of the Energy Information Administration's 2006 Annual Energy Outlook. The report shows that increasing renewables use can reduce CO2 emissions and enhance energy security by lowering the cost of imported petroleum. However, a large, inexpensive, easily converted biomass supply is necessary for significantly increased renewable-energy use to have a relatively low impact on consumer energy expenditures. Rapid progress also is needed in the technologies converting biomass feedstock into transportation fuels, and producing power at marginal wind sites. Without progress in these areas, the renewable-energy requirement could substantially increase consumer energy expenditures.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2008/RAND_TR384-1.pdf

RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE

ISSUES IN DESIGNING U.S. CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY. Joseph E. Aldy, William A. Pizer. RFF Discussion Paper, June 2008



Over the coming decades, the cost of U.S. climate change policy likely will be comparable to the total cost of all existing environmental regulation—perhaps 1–2 percent of national income. In order to avoid higher costs, policy efforts should create incentives for firms and individuals to pursue the cheapest climate change mitigation options over time, among all sectors, across national borders, and in the face of significant uncertainty. Well-designed national greenhouse gas mitigation policies can serve as the foundation for global efforts and as an example for emerging and developing countries. We present six key policy design issues that will determine the costs, cost-effectiveness, and distributional impacts of domestic climate policy: program scope, cost containment, offsets, revenues and allowance allocation, competitiveness, and R&D policy. We synthesize the literature on these design features, review the implications for the ongoing policy debate, and identify outstanding research questions that can inform policy development.

<http://www.rff.org/RFF/Documents/RFF-DP-08-20.pdf>

CONSERVING THE CLIMATE: SCALING-UP GLOBAL MARKETS FOR FOREST CARBON. Nigel Purvis, Erin Myers. RFF Discussion Paper, June 2008



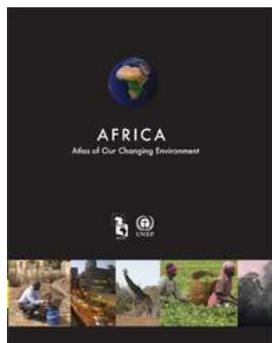
Market-based mechanisms lie at the heart of both the domestic and the international initiatives. Greenhouse gas emitters will receive regulatory and other credits for investing in tradable forest carbon assets generated by conservation activities. Today, the forest carbon market is less than \$100 million, only 0.16 percent of the \$64 billion worldwide market for carbon-denominated assets (Hamilton et al. 2008; Capoor and Ambrosi 2008). Scaling up these forest carbon markets is one of the greatest challenges facing new climate policies.

This paper recommends five concrete actions the international community should take now to accelerate the development of global markets for forest carbon assets. (Separate policy recommendations for how the United States should speed the development of domestic markets for global forest carbon assets are explained in a companion discussion paper.) Before considering what the international community could do now to conserve forests and reduce emissions from the forest sector, let us quickly review the role of forests in climate change and international climate change policy.

<http://www.rff.org/RFF/Documents/RFF-IB-08-02.pdf>

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

AFRICA: ATLAS OF OUR CHANGING ENVIRONMENT. UNEP 2008.



This Atlas underscores the importance of developing, harnessing and sharing technologies that help provide deeper understanding of the dynamics of the changes. The words and pictures within these pages also serve as a vivid reminder that Africa's environment is a source of livelihoods from many African communities. It contributes significantly to socio-economic development of the continent, and sound policy decisions and positive actions by societies and individuals are needed to sustain the environment and the well-being of its inhabitants. The information provided will not only be useful in the context of the selected locations, but will also underscore the intrinsic value of the harnessing, visualizing and communicating technologies to gain a deeper understanding of the dynamics and impacts of Africa's changing environment.

<http://www.unep.org/dewa/Africa/AfricaAtlas/>

KICK THE HABIT: A UN GUIDE TO CLIMATE NEUTRALITY. UNEP E-Book, June 2008



The UN guide to climate neutrality is written by experts from many disciplines and various countries, with leading research organizations involved in preparing and reviewing the publication. It is aimed at a broad audience, and it presents solutions for individuals, businesses, cities and countries plus other groups that have similar characteristics such as NGO and intergovernmental organizations. The book is rich in case studies, illustrations, maps and graphics and serves also as reference publication.

<http://www.unep.org/publications/ebooks/kick-the-habit/>

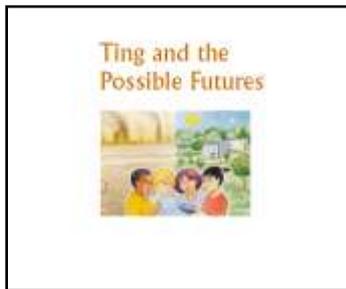
TRENDS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 2008-2009. Economics & Social Affairs, United Nations. June 2008. 08AD845



Efforts to reduce poverty and improve food security in developing countries are hampered by declining support for strong agricultural growth, long considered a hallmark of successful poverty reduction strategies, according to the study. The report highlights recent trends in agriculture, rural development, land, desertification and drought – five of the six themes being considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development. Strong agricultural growth is four times more effective than growth in other sectors in benefiting the poorest half of the population, the report finds. However, while many developing countries have posted gains in agricultural production, distribution and exports, people living in areas of high inequality and in isolation from the broader economy typically benefit little from them.

[Http://Www.Un.Org/Esa/Sustdev/Publications/Trends2008/Fullreport.Pdf](http://Www.Un.Org/Esa/Sustdev/Publications/Trends2008/Fullreport.Pdf)
[PDF format, 42 pages].

TING AND THE POSSIBLE FUTURES. UNEP, May 2008



This science fiction story brings to life the frightening but real possibilities of an out-of-control climate crisis. It also introduces the positive, creative—and very doable—steps we can all take to save our climate, and in so doing build a greener, more humane and beautiful future. Ting and her three best friends have worked all year on a project for the science fair. It's a Possible Futures Transporter—a time machine that carries you to different scenarios in the same place and time. The first future Ting

explores is one of drought, submerged seaside cities, and refugee shantytowns. Ting's best friends—now 60 years old—show her around and explain how this grim world came about. People had continued “business as usual”—using lots of oil and coal, ignoring the signs of global climate crisis. Now the polar ice caps are melting, raising sea levels by many metres, while extremes of heat, drought and flood are routine. In the second possible future, Ting sees a huge change in attitude as well as landscape. Because people acted in time, the polar ice caps have been saved, and the worst effects of climate change averted. Ting's friends show her creative sources of energy, the power of planting trees and urban gardens, and the attractions of a transport system that relies more on trains, trams, bikes, and walking than on cars. While framed in fiction, the climate and energy facts presented in Ting and the Possible Futures are accurate, and the scenarios are based on widely accepted projections of climate scientists.

http://www.unep.org/pdf/Ting_Book_Layout.pdf

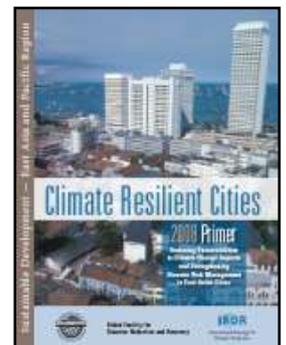
WORLD BANK

CLIMATE RESILIENT CITIES: Reducing Vulnerabilities to Climate Change Impacts and Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in East Asian Cities. 2008 Primer. World Bank, July 2008

Climate change is no longer a distant possibility but a current reality. Global temperatures have recorded unprecedented increases. The length and timing of seasons are changing. The frequency and severity of floods and cyclones accompanied by rising sea levels are increasing. In short, climate change has become one of the defining challenges for policymakers, industry, and civil society in this century, and is a development, investment, economic, and social issue, which affects most sectors.

The East Asia Region will face the brunt of climate change impacts. A stark example of the future is the timing and intensity of the May 2008 Myanmar cyclone that left around 80,000

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EASTASIAPACIFICEXT/Resources/climatecities_fullreport.pdf



STATE AND TRENDS OF THE CARBON MARKET 2008. World Bank. Karan Capoor and Philippe Ambrosi. May 2008. 08AD703

The global carbon market grew to a US\$64 billion in 2007, more than doubling over 2006, according to this World Bank report. The European Union Emission Trading Scheme (EU ETS) also saw a doubling of both value and number of



allowances transacted to a US\$50 billion. The report's data shows that the global carbon market doubled or tripled in value for all segments, except for projects in developing countries. It cautions that market momentum may be at a crossroads for many developing countries just as they are beginning to reap the benefits of carbon finance and are stepping forward to show that they are making efforts to mitigate climate change through advancing clean energy technology.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/NEWS/Resources/State&Trendsformatted06May10pm.pdf> [PDF format, 78 pages].

WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

AGRICULTURAL ECOSYSTEMS: FACTS & TRENDS. World Business Council for Sustainable Development and IUCN, July 2008

Agriculture is suffering from a growing dilemma: it needs to feed a fast growing world population, and conserve biodiversity and manage natural resources of an increasingly depleted planet. How to understand this crisis, and the rapid increase in food prices in many countries, is the purpose of Agricultural Ecosystems: Facts & Trends, a report by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature

<http://www.wbcSD.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=d&id=MzA4NTM>



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

SAFER WATER FOR BETTER HEALTH. World Health Organization, United Nations. Annette Pruss-Ostun et al. Web posted June 29, 2008. 08AD861



The study, which is the first-ever report depicting country-by-country estimates of the burden of disease due to water, sanitation and hygiene, highlights how much disease could be prevented through increased access to safe water and better hygiene. The overview provides the epidemiological evidence and economic arguments for fully integrating water, sanitation and hygiene in countries' disease reduction strategies. It also provides the basis for preventive action by all relevant sectors managing critical water resources and services in support of public health efforts. Lack of safe water, sanitation and hygiene remains one of the world's most urgent health issues.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

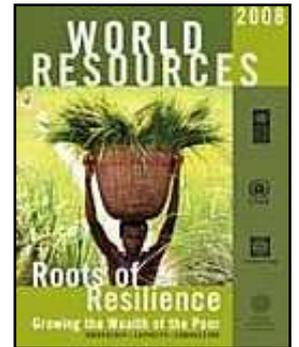
http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2008/9789241596435_eng.pdf [PDF format, 60 pages].

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

WORLD RESOURCES REPORT 2008: Roots of Resilience. WRI, July 28, 2008

The newly-released World Resources Report 2008 charts a path for how sustainable, nature-based enterprise can help the world's 2 billion rural poor escape the cycle of poverty.

Today, 2.6 billion people live on less than \$2 a day. 75 percent of people at the bottom of the economic pyramid live in rural areas and are dependent on natural resources for some or all of their subsistence. The rural poor face even tougher challenges ahead, as climate change threatens to destroy the ecosystems and natural resources on which they depend.

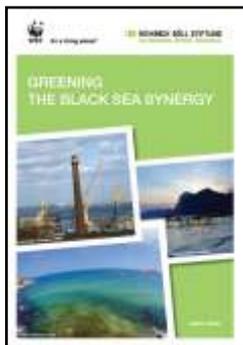


But the World Resources Report 2008 finds that well-designed, community-based sustainable enterprises can improve the way the rural poor draw from their area's natural resources. Ultimately, these programs can make their communities more resilient against climate change and the other economic, social, environmental challenges they will face.

<http://www.wri.org/publication/world-resources-2008-roots-of-resilience>

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

GREENING THE BLACK SEA SYNERGY. World Wildlife Fund and Heinrich Boll Foundation, 2008. 08AD828



The Black Sea Synergy (BSS) was initiated by the European Union (EU) in 2007. It brings attention on the environmental threats and challenges which the countries of the region are facing. Developing and implementing a sustainable BSS is a major challenge in a context of rapid development of energy and transport infrastructures. Mass industrial development, uncontrolled infrastructure construction, overexploitation of resources like oil and gas, connected to the strong impact of climate change are some of the main problems that threaten the sustainable development of the populations of Romania and Bulgaria, Georgia, Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine, Turkey,

Greece, Belarus and Republic of Moldova. The study provides detailed and concrete proposals addressed to the countries and the EU in the fields of environmental protection, climate change, energy, transport and security

http://assets.panda.org/downloads/black_sea_full_report.pdf [PDF format, 82 pages].

SQUARING THE DIAMOND MESH: HOW SQUARE-MESHED TRAWL NETS WILL BENEFIT FISH AND FISHERMEN IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. World Wildlife Fund. 08AD766

The report is based on new ecosystem-based management analyses that use computer models to assess the effects of square-mesh nets on marine ecosystems and fishing fleets.

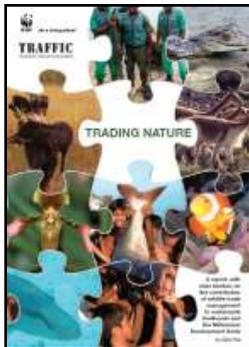
It concludes that square-mesh nets will make trawling more selective. The capture of less immature juveniles and non-target species will be reduced. This in turn will allow the Mediterranean's fragile marine life, damaged by years of indiscriminate trawling, to begin recovery. The proposed square mesh nets are also easy to phase in and do not reduce catches of most target species. It may even increase the yield in the long term.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://assets.panda.org/downloads/square_mesh_brochure_final_1.pdf [PDF format, 6 pages].



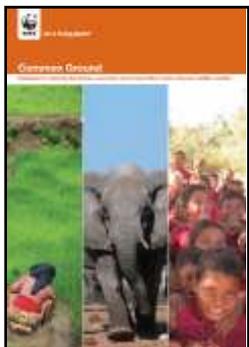
TRADING NATURE. World Wildlife Fund. Dilys Roe. May 2008. 08AD786



The report finds that well-managed, legal and sustainable trade can have a significant impact on all eight of the Millennium Development Goals, the globally agreed roadmap which targets development assistance and poverty reduction. The wildlife products covered in the report include medicines, food, clothing, ornaments, furnishings, pets, ornamental plants, zoological and botanical display, research, manufacturing and construction materials. However, many of the benefits are threatened when illegal trade is allowed to flourish.

http://assets.panda.org/downloads/trading_nature_full_report.pdf

COMMON GROUND: SOLUTIONS FOR REDUCING THE HUMAN, ECONOMIC AND CONSERVATION COSTS OF HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT. World Wildlife Fund. Wendy Elliott et al. May 2008. 08AD755



As the world's human population steadily expands, there is no place left on Earth that humans haven't touched. The reasons can be voluntary departure, people driven from other places by armed conflicts, loss of traditional land rights, environmental catastrophes, or simply due to human population increases. This leads to a growing number of confrontations around the world between humans and wild animals, a phenomenon also known as Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC). When wildlife lose their natural habitats and have reduced access to natural food sources, they eat agricultural crops, livestock, they can destroy property and injure or kill people. Animals are usually captured or killed

by humans in retaliation. The report focuses on two species that compete with people for land, food and water: the African and the Asian Elephant. The case studies were conducted in Namibia, Nepal and Indonesia. The conclusions are drawn from the analysis of the three areas, and sustainable, feasible solutions have been identified.

http://assets.panda.org/downloads/hwc_final_web.pdf [PDF format, 68 pages]

**THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET IN EU DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION.
World Wildlife Fund. Web posted April 29, 2008. 08AD679**



The paper strives to provide a brief analysis of the progress made by the European Union (EU) towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target in its external development co-operation policy. The focus is on policies and programs for Africa Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and Asia and Latin America (ALA) countries. Progress made is assessed in light of the political commitments and instruments adopted and their implementations.

http://assets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_biodiversity_final.pdf [PDF format, 8 pages].

ARTICLES FROM U.S. JOURNALS

**THE ETHICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE: PAY NOW OR PAY MORE LATER?
Broome, John. *Scientific American*. vol. 298, no. 5, May 2008. AA08243**

Summary: The author notes that future generations will suffer most of the harmful effects of global climate change; yet if the world economy grows, they will be richer than we are. The present generation must decide, with the help of expert advice from economists, whether to aggressively reduce the chances of future harm or to let our descendants largely fend for themselves. Economists cannot avoid making ethical choices in formulating their advice; even the small chance of utter catastrophe from global warming raises special problems for ethical discussion. <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=the-ethics-of-climate-change>

**CAN A MILLION TONS OF SULFUR DIOXIDE COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE?
Mooney, Chris. *Wired*, vol. 16, no. 7, July 2008, pp. 128-133 AA08246**

Summary: Reducing greenhouse gases is the strategy most discussed in political circles as means to address climate change. In scientific circles, however, cooling the planet by “salting” the oceans or the atmosphere with substances that might change the chemistry of global warming is gaining increasing attention. These methods are called geoengineering and might involve a vast dispersal of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere to reflect the sun’s rays away from Earth. Setting tiny reflectors afloat in the oceans is another planet-cooling strategy that has received some study. Though these ideas sound almost like comic-book plans, serious scientists are weighing the data in the face of the likelihood that humankind can not wean itself from fossil fuels rapidly enough to stop the melting of the glaciers. Mooney focuses on a scientist who has become an unlikely advocate of such strategies. Ken Caldeira was an anti-nuclear activist in the 1980s, but the winding path of his scientific career has led him to the creation of models indicating that spewing millions of tons of sulfur dioxide would deflect enough heat to prevent the melting of ice caps and the resulting sea level rise. http://www.wired.com/science/planetearth/magazine/16-07/ff_geoengineering

NO-TILL: HOW FARMERS ARE SAVING THE SOIL BY PARKING THEIR PLOWS
Reganold, John; Huggins, David. *Scientific American*, vol. 299, no. 1, July 2008 AA08228

Summary: The age-old practice of turning the soil before planting a new crop is a leading cause of farmland degradation. Many farmers are looking to make plowing a thing of the past. Conventional plow-based farming leaves soil vulnerable to erosion and promotes agricultural runoff. Growers in some parts of the world are turning to a sustainable approach called no-till that minimizes soil disturbance. High equipment costs and a steep learning curve are two factors hindering widespread adoption of no-till practices.

<http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=no-till>

TRIALS OF A PRIMATOLOGIST. Hammer, Joshua. *Smithsonian* vol. 38, no. 11, February 2008, pp. 82-95 AA08082

Summary: Primatologist Marc Van Roosmalen has been a pioneer in understanding the delicate ecology of the Amazon rainforest. In 2000, Time magazine designated him a “hero of the planet.” A Dutch native, and a naturalized Brazilian citizen, Van Roosmalen had a long history of cooperative working relationships with Brazil’s environmental agencies. Hammer’s article describes how this relationship fractured as the Brazilian government is now attempting to prosecute Van Roosmalen for illegal trafficking in rare animals and the theft of government property. The son of the 60-year-old Van Roosmalen finds all sides at fault in the dispute: “We’re talking hubris on his side. He really thinks that he’s some kind of savior. And on the other side, he’s being made out to be an enormous villain. And both versions are exaggerated.” Whatever the truth, the case is worrisome for the international community of scientists who work in many countries. The New York Times quoted a scientist emerging from a recent meeting, “If they can get him on trumped-up charges, they can get any of us.”

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/roosmalen-200802.html>

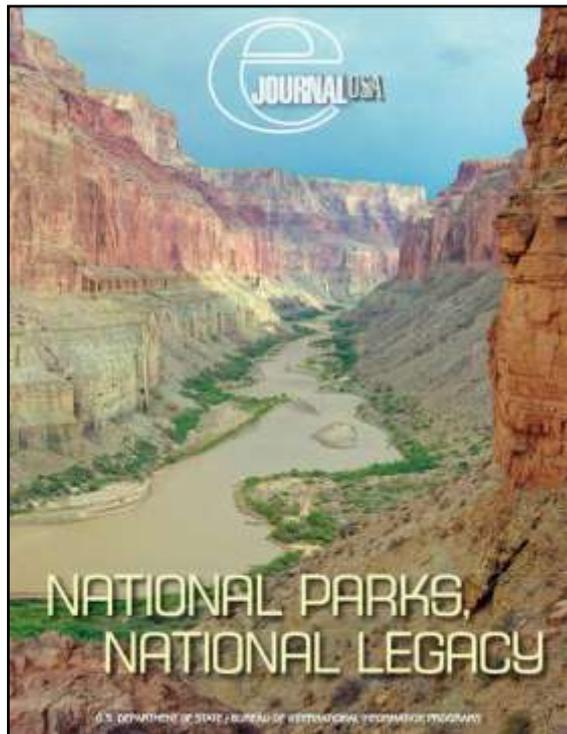
TO SLEEP OR NOT TO SLEEP: THE ECOLOGY OF SLEEP IN ARTIFICIAL ORGANISMS. Alberto Acerbi et al. *BMC Ecology*. May 14, 2008. 08AD732

The authors, based on their study, suggest that ecological factors can have striking effects on sleep patterns. They used a simple model to produce clear and sensible patterns, allowing it to be used to investigate a wide range of questions concerning the ecology of sleep. They found the patterns to be consistent with evidences from different types of species.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1472-6785-8-10.pdf> [PDF format, 39 pages].

NATIONAL PARKS, NATIONAL LEGACY. *eJournalUSA* . Vol. 13. No. 3. An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State. July 2008



The people of the United States own and protect a sprawling system of national parks, including seashores, trails, monuments, and battlefields. All American citizens are, in a sense, stewards of sites where history unfolded, where mountains soar, and where rivers run. They keep these parks for the future, and they treasure them today. As former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, “There is nothing so American as our national parks. The scenery and wildlife are native. The fundamental idea behind the parks is native. It is, in brief, that the country belongs to the people.” This edition of eJournalUSA presents glorious views of the national parks, the history of this vast system, and its mission of conservation and public access.

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0708.html>

For additional articles on the environment please, go to

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Environmental Issues

August 2008

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