



Newsletter

INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER
Embassy of the United States of America

Environmental Issues

April 2010

April 22—Earth Day 2010

Forty years after the first Earth Day, the world is in greater peril than ever. While climate change is the greatest challenge of our time, it also presents the greatest opportunity – an unprecedented opportunity to build a healthy, prosperous, clean energy economy now and for the future.

Earth Day 2010 can be a turning point to advance climate policy, energy efficiency, renewable energy and green jobs. Earth Day Network is galvanizing millions who make personal commitments to sustainability. Earth Day 2010 is a pivotal opportunity for individuals, corporations and governments to join together and create a global green economy. Join the more than one billion people in 190 countries that are taking action for Earth Day.

<http://www.earthday.org/earthday2010>



PRESIDENT OBAMA'S VIDEO MESSAGE ON 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY White House also launches new Earth Day resources page

"Forty one years ago, in the city of Cleveland, people watched in horror as the Cuyahoga River - choked with debris and covered in oil - caught on fire.

Images of the burning Cuyahoga shocked a nation, and it led one Wisconsin Senator the following year to organize the first Earth Day to call attention to the dangers of ignoring our environment.

In the four decades since, we have made remarkable progress. Today, our air and water are cleaner, pollution has been greatly reduced, and Americans everywhere are living in a healthier environment. We've passed the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and founded the Environmental Protection Agency. And in Cleveland, the Cuyahoga River is cleaner than it's been in 100 years.

But the true story of the environmental movement is not about the laws that have been passed. It's about the citizens who have come together time and time again to demand cleaner air, healthier drinking water and safer food - and who have demanded that their representatives in government hold polluters accountable.

That progress continues today, as individuals and entrepreneurs across the country help lay the foundation for a Clean Energy Economy - one solar panel, smart meter and energy efficient home at a time.

Since taking office, my Administration has been a partner in the fight for a healthier environment. Through the Recovery Act, we've invested in clean energy and clean water infrastructure across the country. We're taking the necessary steps to keep our children safe and hold polluters accountable. And we have rejected the notion that we have to choose between creating jobs and a healthy environment - because we know that the economy of the 21st century will be built on infrastructure powered by clean energy.

But even though we've made significant progress, there is much more to do. And as we continue to tackle our environmental challenges, it's clear that change won't come from Washington alone. It will come from Americans across the country who take steps in their own homes and their own communities to make that change happen.

That's why, as we get ready to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, I want to leave you with a challenge.

I want you to take action - in your home or your community; at your school or your business - to improve our environment. It can be as simple as riding the bus or the subway to work, making your home more energy efficient, or organizing your neighbors to clean up a nearby park.

Just go to whitehouse.gov/earthday to learn how you can help. And then tell us your story about what you're doing to make a difference.

In the end, it's people like you - the small business owners and community leaders; the teachers and the students; the young people and the grandparents - who have made Earth Day so successful. And it's going to be up to you to make an even bigger difference over the next 40 years.

So let's get to work. Together, we can continue to make progress towards a cleaner environment and a healthier planet."

(April 13, 2010)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.

Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)

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DOT, EPA SET AGGRESSIVE NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FUEL ECONOMY AND FIRST EVER GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION LEVELS FOR PASSENGER CARS AND LIGHT TRUCKS. Release date: 04/01/2010

WASHINGTON - Responding to one of the first major directives of the Obama Administration, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today jointly established historic new federal rules that set the first-ever national greenhouse gas emissions standards and will significantly increase the fuel economy of all new passenger cars and light trucks sold in the United States. The rules could potentially save the average buyer of a 2016 model year car \$3,000 over the life of the vehicle and, nationally, will conserve about 1.8 billion barrels of oil and reduce nearly a billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions over the lives of the vehicles covered. This action is one important step in fulfilling the Obama Administration's commitment to moving towards a clean energy, climate friendly economy.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/advpress.nsf/bd4379a92ceceac8525735900400c27/562b44f2588b871a852576f800544e01!OpenDocument>

SMALL BUSINESSES HELPING DRIVE ECONOMY: CLEAN ENERGY, CLEAN SITES. U.S. Department of Energy. March 17, 2010.

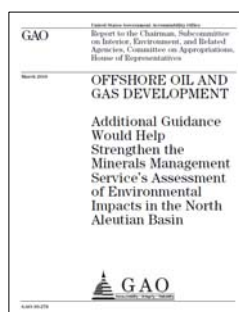
The report highlights the benefits of the Recovery Act to small businesses throughout the clean, renewable energy industry and environmental management sector. It finds that as of early March 2010, small businesses have been selected to receive nearly \$5.4 billion in funding across a number of Recovery Act and related programs, including loans, loan guarantees, grants, contracts and tax incentives, in partnership with the Department of Treasury. The report highlights 26 small businesses in a range of clean energy technologies, such as wind, solar, biofuels, along with critical new infrastructure, like Smart Grid, advanced batteries, energy storage, and energy efficiency tools.

http://www.energy.gov/news/documents/Small_Business_Memo_Mar2010.pdf

SUPERFUND NATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS: SUMMARY FISCAL YEAR 2009. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. March 4, 2010.

The report shows that the program continues to make significant progress in achieving its mission of cleaning up the country's most complex, uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites and protecting the health of nearby communities and ecosystems from harmful contaminants. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/accomp/numbers09.html>



OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT. U.S. Government Accountability Office. Web posted April 7, 2010.

Interest has re-emerged in developing oil and gas in the nation's offshore areas, such as the North Aleutian Basin. Located on the outer continental shelf (OCS) where the Aleutian Islands meet the Alaskan mainland around Bristol Bay, the basin may contain sizable oil and gas deposits, although the area's environmental and cultural sensitivity has made oil and gas development in the area controversial. GAO examines issues related to oil and gas development in the North Aleutian Basin.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10276.pdf>

CLIMATE CHANGE: PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON GEOENGINEERING SCIENCE, FEDERAL EFFORTS, AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES. U.S. Government Accountability Office. Frank Rusco. March 18, 2010.

Key scientific assessments have underscored the urgency of reducing emissions of carbon dioxide to help mitigate potentially negative effects of climate change. Recently, some policymakers have raised questions about geoengineering--large-scale deliberate interventions in the earth's climate system to diminish climate change or its potential impacts--and its role in a broader strategy of mitigating and adapting to climate change. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10546t.pdf> [PDF format, 19 pages].

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER FOCUS, DIRECTION, AND TOP-LEVEL COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH AT EPA. U.S. Government Accountability Office. March 17, 2010.

According to the report, EPA has developed policies and guidance to consider children, but it has not maintained attention to children through agency priorities and strategies. Specifically, EPA has not institutionalized the agency's commitment to children's health through, for example, an update to its National Agenda and an emphasis on protecting children in its forthcoming strategic plan.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10545t.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SATELLITE THAT "FOREVER CHANGED WEATHER FORECASTING"--NOAA-NASA Partnership Fostering Better Understanding Of Our Changing Planet. NATIONAL Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), April 1, 2010

"This satellite forever changed weather forecasting," said Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D., under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "Since TIROS-1, meteorologists have far greater information about severe weather and can issue more accurate forecasts and warnings that save lives and protect property."

"TIROS-1 started the satellite observations and interagency collaborations that produced vast improvements in weather forecasts," said NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden, Jr. "It also laid the foundation for our current global view of Earth that underlies all of climate research and the field of Earth system science."

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100401_tiros.html

CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS (HEARINGS, REPORTS, ETC.)



CHANGES IN THE ARCTIC: BACKGROUND AND ISSUES FOR CONGRESS. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Ronald O'Rourke. March 30, 2010.

The diminishment of Arctic sea ice has led to increased human activities in the Arctic, and has heightened concerns about the region's future. The five Arctic coastal states--the United States, Canada, Russia, Norway, and Denmark (of which Greenland is a territory)--are in the process of preparing Arctic territorial claims for submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. Arctic climate change is expected to affect the economies, subsistence, health, population, societies, and cultures of Arctic indigenous peoples.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41153.pdf> [PDF format, 65 pages].

DEFORESTATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Ross W. Gorte and Pervaze A. Sheikh. March 24, 2010.

Efforts to mitigate climate change have focused on reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions into the atmosphere. Policies aimed at reducing deforestation are central points of a strategy to decrease carbon emissions, reflected in pending legislation in Congress (e.g., H.R. 2454 and S. 1733) as well as in international discussions, such as the December 2009 negotiations in Copenhagen. The report provides basic information on forests and climate change. [PDF format, 45 pages].

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41144.pdf>

THE WHITE HOUSE**REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON ENERGY SECURITY AT ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE. The White House Office of the Press Secretary, 3/31/2010**

(...)today we're announcing the expansion of offshore oil and gas exploration, but in ways that balance the need to harness domestic energy resources and the need to protect America's natural resources. Under the leadership of Secretary Salazar, we'll employ new technologies that reduce the impact of oil exploration. We'll protect areas that are vital to tourism, the environment, and our national security. And we'll be guided not by political ideology, but by scientific evidence.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-energy-security-andrews-air-force-base-3312010>

THINK TANKS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE TALK IS JUST SO MUCH GAS. By Kevin A. Hassett of AEI. Published on Bloomberg.com , April 5, 2010

The lofty goal of energy independence gets a lot of publicity from politicians in both parties, but the concept makes no economic sense. It would do us good to approach the problem more rationally. <http://www.aei.org/article/101871>

THE NUCLEAR OPTION. Jon Entine of AEI. Ethical Corporation, April 5, 2010

Despite protests by antinuclear advocates, the president made the correct decision to offer federal loan guarantees for two nuclear power plants, supporting the best energy option as we move toward a carbon-limited future. <http://www.aei.org/article/101875>

THE SAME OLD DRILL. Jonah Goldberg of AEI. National Review Online, April 2, 2010

Too little, too late, too clever, and for the wrong reasons. That's a good way to describe President Obama's decision to allow a little offshore drilling. Of course, most of the environmentalist base of the Democratic party sees it the other way around: too much, too soon (since "never" is their preferred timeline), too dumb, but for the right reasons.

<http://www.aei.org/article/101866>

ARCTIC COUNCIL

HIGH ARCTIC SPECIES ON THIN ICE. Jesper Hansen. Arctic Council, 17 March 2010

A new assessment of the Arctic's biodiversity reports a 26 per cent decline in species populations in the high Arctic. Populations of lemmings, caribou and red knot are some of the species that have experienced declines over the past 34 years, according to the first

report from The Arctic Species Trend Index (ASTI), which provides crucial information on how the Arctic's ecosystems and wildlife are responding to environmental change. In contrast, population levels of species living in the sub-Arctic and low Arctic are relatively stable and in some cases, increasing. Populations of marine mammals, including bowhead whales found in the low Arctic, may have benefited from the recent tightening of hunting laws. Some fish species have also experienced population increases in response to rising sea temperatures.

http://arctic-council.org/article/2010/3/high_arctic_species_on_thin_ice

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

SMART POWER: CLIMATE CHANGE, SMART GRID AND THE FUTURE OF ELECTRIC UTILITIES-- A Discussion with Dr. Peter Fox-Penner. Brookings Institution, April 9, 2010.

Dr. Peter Fox-Penner, a leading expert on the electricity sector and the smart grid, examines strategies for the development of an energy efficient business model for the utility industry. In the book, Fox-Penner reviews the current prospects for long-term power generation alternatives, from solar panels attached to our homes and offices, to new coal-burning plants that will allow for the capture and sequestration of carbon emissions. Smart Power explains how and why the utility industry must adapt to the climate imperative by examining the industry's technology, cost characteristics, ability to function as a sustainable business, as well as the practical and political dimensions of making these dramatic changes. (summary, transcript, video)

http://www.brookings.edu/events/2010/0409_electric_utilities.aspx



DECARBONIZATION STRATEGIES: HOW MUCH, HOW, WHERE AND WHO PAYS FOR $\Delta \leq 2^{\circ}\text{C}$? Urjit R. Patel. Global Working Papers | No. 36. The Brookings Institution, March 2010

The paper has been motivated primarily to outline and delve into what is entailed—along key dimensions—in bringing about emissions reduction for climate stabilization. In some way, this tack, inter alia, may help to implicitly explain why it has been so difficult to agree on sharing responsibilities and confront other challenges.

http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2010/03_decarbonization_patel.aspx

CENTER FOR NEW AMERICAN SECURITY

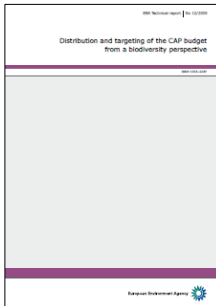


PROMOTING THE DIALOGUE: CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE MARITIME SERVICES. Center for New American Security. Christine Parthemore. March 11, 2010.

Climate change carries broad implications for U.S. interests. Scientists forecast, and in some regions are already observing, an increasingly accessible Arctic, sea level rise, melting glaciers and ice sheets, changing patterns of natural disasters and alterations to ocean conditions. These physical changes hold consequences for national security. They could affect military installations, generate new challenges for continued U.S. access to the global commons and contribute to economic and political instability abroad, with implications for U.S. maritime missions in particular. The author synthesizes how the maritime services are thinking about climate change and assesses potential policy implications. [PDF format, 18 pages].

http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/Promoting_Dialogue_ClimateChange_MaritimeServices_Parthemore_Mar2010_code408_workingpaper_0.pdf

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY


DISTRIBUTION AND TARGETING OF THE CAP BUDGET FROM A BIODIVERSITY PERSPECTIVE. 09 Mar 2010

The EU has highlighted the importance of using the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) to prevent the abandonment of high nature value farmland and its intensification as a key action to halt biodiversity decline. The present report sets out to assess whether the current distribution of CAP funds is likely to favour the maintenance of farmland with high nature value (HNV). And it explores the extent to which CAP funds are likely to support the long-term economic and ecological sustainability of these

HNV farming systems.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/distribution-and-targeting-of-the-cap-budget-from-a-biodiversity-perspective>


EEA SIGNALS 2010--BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND YOU. EEA. March 2010.

The European Environment Agency (EEA) publishes Signals each year, providing snapshot stories on issues of interest to the environmental policy debate and the wider public in the coming year. EEA monitors the environment across the 32 member countries in partnership with the network. From researchers up to their knees in water to satellite imaging from space, they work with a huge amount of environmental data. Signals respects the complexity of the underlying science and shows awareness of the uncertainties inherent in all of the issues we address.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/signals-2010>

HERITAGE FOUNDATION

EPA'S GLOBAL WARMING REGULATIONS: A THREAT TO AMERICAN AGRICULTURE. Ben Lieberman. Heritage foundation, April 1, 2010

There is little doubt that legislative measures designed to address global warming would greatly burden the agricultural sector. Farming is energy intensive, and cap-and-trade bills--namely the House Waxman-Markey bill, which passed in June, and the Boxer-Kerry bill pending in the Senate--are essentially a massive tax on energy.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Reports/2010/04/EPAs-Global-Warming-Regulations-A-Threat-to-American-Agriculture>

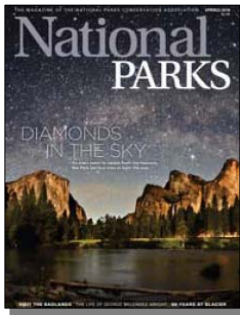
NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH

WATER MARKETS: AUSTRALIA'S MURRYA-DARLING BASIN AND THE U.S. SOUTHWEST. National Bureau of Economic Research. R. Quentin Grafton et al. March 2010.

Fresh water supplies increasingly are under stress in many parts of the world due to rising populations, higher per capita incomes and corresponding consumption, greater environmental concerns, and the effects of climate change. Water rights and markets are part of the institutional menus for responding to these problems. The report examines water markets in both Australia's MDB and the western US and their prospects for addressing water scarcity.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w15797.pdf> [PDF format, 37 pages].

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

**NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, Spring 2010**

Features:

Fading Fast, By Anne Minard

Every night, the heavens put on a show, and national parks remain one of the greatest stages—but for how much longer?

Call of the Wild, By Mike Thomas

In 1930, George Melendez Wright believed in the simple notion that national parks were set aside for wildlife, too. At the time, it was a radical idea.

The Running Country, By Jeff Rennie

The Badlands don't sound like a particularly inviting place, but its prairie dogs, buffalo, and wide expanses just might surprise you.

<http://www.npca.org/magazine/2010/spring/>

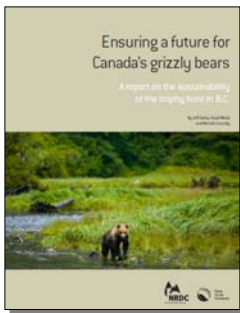
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL AND TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

TECHNOLOGIES AND APPROACHES TO REDUCING THE FUEL CONSUMPTION OF MEDIUM AND HEAVY DUTY VEHICLES. National Research Council and Transportation Research Board. March 31, 2010.

The study evaluates various technologies and methods that could improve the fuel economy of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, such as tractor-trailers, transit buses, and work trucks. The book also recommends approaches that federal agencies could use to regulate these vehicles' fuel consumption. Currently there are no fuel consumption standards for such vehicles, which account for about 26 percent of the transportation fuel used in the U.S. [HTML format with links].

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12845

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

**ENSURING A FUTURE FOR CANADA'S GRIZZLY BEARS. Natural Resources Defense Council. Jeff Gailus et al. April 2010.**

The number of grizzly bears killed in British Columbia is regularly exceeding the provincial government's own limits on bear kills, largely because of trophy hunting, according to the report. The report notes that the death toll affects populations on both sides of the national border, as many bears move between protected areas in the United States and parts of B.C., where bears are not protected from trophy hunters, even in provincial parks. [PDF format, 37 pages].

http://docs.nrdc.org/wildlife/files/wil_10040102a.pdf

**NATURE'S VOICE. NRDC, March/April 2010.**

<http://www.nrdc.org/naturesvoice/>

ONEARTH MAGAZINE, Spring 2010. NRDC

<http://www.onearth.org/10spr>



PEW CENTER ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE



COVERAGE OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM PETROLEUM USE UNDER CLIMATE POLICY. Joel Bluestein. Prepared for the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, April 2010

The petroleum sector, which includes the production, import, processing, transportation, and distribution of crude oil and refined products such as gasoline, heating oil, diesel, propane, and jet fuel, is a significant source of U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This paper provides an overview of the petroleum sector, identifying the key entities and associated facilities in the petroleum supply chain. There is also information on GHG emissions from the petroleum sector, a summary of which emission sources are currently subject to a fuel tax and which are not, and an evaluation of the implications of adopting an alternative point of regulation for GHG emissions from petroleum.

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/coverage-petroleum-sector-emissions.pdf>



WHO'S WINNING THE CLEAN ENERGY RACE?: GROWTH, COMPETITION AND OPPORTUNITY IN THE WORLD'S LARGEST ECONOMIES. Pew Charitable Trusts. March 24, 2010.

For the first time, China led the United States and other G-20 members in 2009 clean energy investments and finance, according to the data. China invested \$34.6 billion in the clean energy economy, nearly double the United States' total of \$18.6 billion. Over the last five years, the United States also trailed five G-20 members, Turkey, Brazil, China, the United Kingdom, and Italy, in the rate of clean energy investment growth. [PDF format, 44 pages].

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Global_warming/G-20%20Report.pdf

RAND

THREE ESSAYS IN TRANSPORTATION ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY. Sara Hajiamiri. RAND Dissertation, April 2010.

Concerns about climate change, dependence on oil, and unstable gasoline prices have led to significant efforts by policymakers to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and oil consumption. Within the transportation sector, light-duty vehicles (LDVs) are responsible for more than 65 percent of oil consumption and more than 60 percent of total GHG emissions, so meaningful reductions in oil consumption and GHG emissions can be achieved if a significant fraction the LDV fleet is replaced by more fuel-efficient technologies. This dissertation, consisting of three essays, investigates the potential benefits and impacts of deploying more fuel-efficient vehicles in the LDV fleet. The first essay uses data on 2003- and 2006-model gasoline-powered passenger cars, light trucks, and sport utility vehicles to investigate the implicit private cost of improving vehicle fuel efficiencies by reducing other desired attributes, such as horsepower. The second essay estimates the private benefits and societal impacts of electric vehicles, which have implications for efforts to incentivize the purchase and production of these vehicles. The third essay explores the implications of a large-scale adoption of electric vehicles, explaining that, although such an adoption is desirable with respect to goals for achieving energy security and environmental improvement, the decline fuel tax revenues that would result has adverse implications for the current system of transportation finance.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/rgs_dissertations/RGSD261/

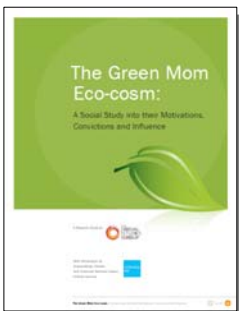
RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE



THE BIOECONOMICS OF CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE AND SOIL CARBON SEQUESTRATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. Wisdom Akpalu and Anders Ekbom. Resources for the Future Discussion Paper Series, March 2010

Improving soil carbon through conservation agriculture in developing countries may generate some private benefits to farmers, as well as sequester carbon emissions, which is a positive externality to society. Leaving crop residue on the farm has become an important option in conservation agriculture practice. However, in developing countries, using crop residue for conservation agriculture has the opportunity cost of feed for livestock. In this paper, we model and develop an expression for an optimum economic incentive that is necessary to internalize the positive externality. A crude value of the tax is calculated using data from Kenya. We also empirically investigated the determinants of the crop residue left on the farm and found that it depends on the cation exchange capacity (CEC) of the soil, the prices of maize, whether extension officers visit the plot or not, household size, the level of education of the household head, and alternative cost of soil conservation. <http://www.rff.org/RFF/Documents/EfD-DP-10-07.pdf>

THE SOCIAL STUDIES GROUP



THE GREEN MOM ECO-COSM: A SOCIAL STUDY INTO THEIR MOTIVATIONS, CONVICTIONS AND INFLUENCE. The Social Studies Group. March 2010.

The study focuses on the women who are really influencing "green mom" consumer behavior online. As with many other issues, women exploring more sustainable consumer practices each begin an engagement with "green" for their own unique reasons. The research finds that these women have a definite hunger for products and solutions to help their families live more sustainably, and they are enthusiastically pursuing "green products" that fit the lifestyles they want to achieve. http://learnedon.com/wp-content/uploads/FINALLOW_SocStudies_EcoMoms_FINAL_1.212.pdf

STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

CHINA PREPARES FOR AN ICE-FREE ARCTIC. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Linda Jakobson. March 2010.

The prospect of the Arctic being navigable during summer months as a result of climate change has impelled the Chinese Government to allocate more resources to research in the High North. Several Chinese academics have encouraged their government to be aware of the political, economic and military implications of shorter shipping routes and untapped energy resources. However, Chinese officials advocate cautious Arctic policies for fear of causing alarm and provoking countermeasures among the Arctic states.

<http://books.sipri.org/files/insight/SIPRIInsight1002.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

TOMAS RIVERA POLICY INSTITUTE

THE IMPACT OF "GOING GREEN" ON THE LATINO COMMUNITY. Tomas Rivera Policy Institute. Edward Flores and Miriam Ochoa. March 2010.

The media is brimming with coverage of environmental degradation and resource depletion that is taking place at a rate that is unsustainable and harmful to humans. What is not given enough attention is the fact that blacks and Latinos, predominately living in urban areas, are exposed to the negative effects of environmental degradation more than



any other group, says the report. [PDF format, 7 pages].

http://www.trpi.org/PDFs/TRPI_Boeing_Policy%20Brief.pdf

UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS



A BETTER CLIMATE BILL-- RAISING EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARDS INCREASES CONSUMER BENEFITS. UCS, 2010

This new analysis by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) builds on an August 2009 U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) study of the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES), a comprehensive climate and energy bill passed in June 2009 by the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition to a national cap on carbon emissions, ACES includes a combined energy efficiency and renewable electricity standard (RES) requiring large electric utilities to increase their use of

efficiency and renewable energy to a nominal target of 20 percent by 2025. While the EIA study showed that ACES is both achievable and affordable, it also found that the RES embedded in the bill does not contribute to any substantial growth of renewable energy because of loopholes that erode the required electricity generation to levels below the EIA's "Business as Usual" projections.

http://www.ucsusa.org/clean_energy/solutions/big_picture_solutions/a-better-climate-bill.html

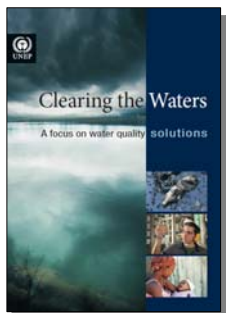
UNITED NATIONS



SICK WATER?: THE CENTRAL ROLE OF WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. U.N. Environment Programme. March 22, 2010.

Transforming wastewater from a major health and environmental hazard into a clean, safe and economically-attractive resource is emerging as a key challenge in the 21st century. It is a challenge that will continue to intensify as the world undergoes rapid urbanization, Industrialization and increasing demand for meat and other foods unless decisive action is taken says the report. [PDF format, 88pages].

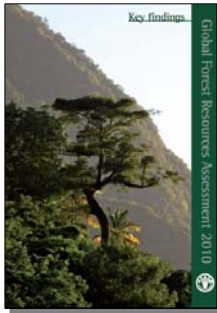
http://www.grida.no/_res/site/file/publications/sickwater/SickWater_screen.pdf



CLEARING THE WATERS: A FOCUS ON WATER QUALITY SOLUTIONS. U.N. Environment Programme, 2010.

The publication addresses the urgency of controlling pollution and preserving water quality around the world. The past few decades have focused on the importance of water quantity in meeting basic human and ecosystem needs for water. Water quality is as important as water quantity for satisfying human and environmental needs, and yet has received far less investment, scientific support, and public attention. An overview of water-quality challenges details the contaminants and human activities that affect water quality. Water quality impacts human health, water quantity, livelihood, and economic activity, and climate change. Emerging contaminants, population growth and urbanization also present additional stresses to water quality. This publication quantifies the issues and uses case studies to illustrate both problems and solutions. With an emphasis on water-quality solutions, strategies for water-quality institutions and data, pollution prevention, treatment, and ecological restoration are laid out, with mechanisms to further the goal of clean water for a healthy world. It concludes by highlighting the main findings and key policy recommendations.

http://www.unep.org/PDF/Clearing_the_Waters.pdf



GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT 2010 –Key Findings

The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 (FRA 2010) is the most comprehensive assessment of forests and forestry to date - not only in terms of the number of countries and people involved - but also in terms of scope. It examines the current status and recent trends for about 90 variables covering the extent, condition, uses and values of forests and other wooded land, with the aim of assessing all benefits from forest resources. Information has been collated from 233 countries and territories for four points in time: 1990, 2000, 2005 and 2010. The main report will be released in October 2010.

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/static/data/fra2010/KeyFindings-en.pdf>

WORLD FUTURE COUNCIL

100% RENEWABLE ENERGY – AND BEYOND – FOR CITIES. World Future Council. March 2010.

What does '100 percent renewable' really mean, and what does 'and beyond' signify? The paper provides strategies for cities to become 100% powered by renewable energy.

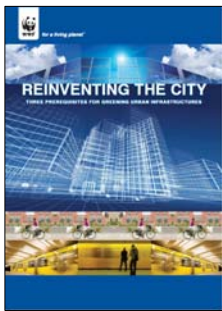
http://worldfuturecouncil.org/fileadmin/user_upload/PDF/100__renewable_energy_for_cities-for_web.pdf [PDF format, 29 pages].

WORLD WILDLIFE FEDERATION

REEF CRASH UNDERSCORES NEED FOR BETTER SHIPPING RULES. World Wildlife Fund. April 6, 2010.

The brief says that large vessels need to be in safe hands when transiting through the Great Barrier Reef, and this means local pilots with local knowledge. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://www.panda.org/?192586/Reef-disaster-undercores-need-for-better-shipping-rules>



REINVENTING THE CITY: THREE PREREQUISITES FOR GREENING URBAN INFRASTRUCTURES. WWF, March 2010.

Our cities hold the key to global ecological sustainability. They are the source of close to 80 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions, and depending on how we develop and manage our urban infrastructures during the next three decades, they could become either a force for environmental destruction or a primary source of ecological rejuvenation. To achieve the latter result, the US\$350 trillion to be spent on urban infrastructure and usage over the next 30 years will have to be directed towards low to zero carbon emissions, particularly in the world's small but fastest-growing cities and developing nations, where the largest impacts can be made.

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/climate/Publications/WWFBinaryitem15787.pdf>

YALE UNIVERSITY

CUTTING CLIMATE CHANGE'S GORDIAN KNOT: A NEW WAY TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND LOWER THE RISK OF FUTURE CLIMATE CHANGE. John C. Topping Jr., YaleGlobal , 2 April 2010

Black carbon, commonly known as soot, a byproduct of incomplete combustion, is a major contributor to global warming. It also can have significant, deleterious effects on one's health. Now, several environmental groups are asking the US Environmental Protection Agency to regulate black carbon under the Clean Water Act on the grounds that it affects sea ice and glaciers. While this proposal may have little chance of success, climate expert John C. Topping Jr. notes that it is only one of many efforts around the world to reduce black carbon. <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/cutting-climate-changes-gordian-knot>

ROOTS OF COPENHAGEN FAILURE: NATURE DOES NOT RECOGNIZE NATIONS--THE CURRENT WORLD ORDER IS INCAPABLE OF SOLVING GLOBAL PROBLEMS. Bo Ekman. YaleGlobal , 24 March 2010

The Copenhagen climate summit was not just a failure to achieve meaningful results to avert climate change, it was also a failure for national actors to find solutions to supranational problems, according to Tällberg Foundation Chairman Bo Ekman. Indeed, the summit was likely to fail from the beginning not simply because national self-interest often trumps global common interest, but because the structure of the world order is not designed to solve environmental problems that know no national boundary. Such a criticism could extend to other global problems as well, such as the financial crisis or biodiversity. What is missing is a world view that comprehends the interconnected nature of most problems plus an image of how the world should be structured to allow for peaceful co-existence amid relentless globalization. What is missing, according to Ekman, is an understanding of how humanity can live peacefully within nature.

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/roots-copenhagen-failure-nature-does-not-recognize-nations>

ADIEU, ATLANTIC BLUE FIN TUNA? YaleGlobal. Alex David Rogers. March 17, 2010.

The Atlantic blue fin tuna risks extinction thanks to overfishing and poor global governance, according to ocean expert Alex David Rogers. To add insult to injury, recent proposals to ban all international trade in the fish are being rejected by Japan, the largest consumer. Japan's decision could significantly undermine the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and deal a blow to conservation efforts globally. Still, Japanese fisheries do not catch many Atlantic blue fin tuna, so upholding the proposed ban will depend on other countries. The larger issue, then, is commitment to preventing over-fishing by CITES members. [HTML, various paging].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/adieu-atlantic-blue-fin-tuna>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE PUBLICATIONS**ABOUT THE EARTH DAY NETWORK WITH PRESIDENT KATHLEEN ROGERS. 13 April 2010**

Earth Day, celebrated on April 22 each year, marks the anniversary of the birth in 1970 of the modern environmental movement in the United States. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species acts. By April 22, 2000, 5,000 environmental groups around the world were on board, reaching out to hundreds of millions of people in 184 countries. Today more than 1 billion people participate in Earth Day activities, making it the largest secular civic event in the world. The Earth Day Network, founded by the organizers of the first Earth Day, promotes environmental citizenship and year-round action worldwide.

<http://www.america.gov/st/energy-english/2010/April/201004131005471cnirellep0.8370478.html?CP.rss=true#ixzz0IAilpNFc>

More about environmental issues:
<http://www.america.gov/global/environ.html>
