



Alerta de Artículos Recientes 03-09

Medio Ambiente y Energía

NEW ENERGY FOR AMERICA PLAN. President Obama and Vice President Biden have a comprehensive plan to invest in alternative and renewable energy, end our addiction to foreign oil, address the global climate crisis and create millions of new jobs.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/energy_and_environment/

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY LEGISLATION IN THE 110TH CONGRESS. CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE. This report reviews the status of energy efficiency and renewable energy legislation introduced during the 110th Congress. Most action in the second session focused on the FY2009 budget request and legislation that would extend or modify selected renewable energy and energy efficiency tax incentives.

<http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33831.pdf>

RENEWABLE ENERGY DATA BOOK. This resource provides data on the use, growth, capacity, and costs of renewable technologies in the United States and globally from 2000 through 2007.

http://www1.eere.energy.gov/maps_data/pdfs/eere_databook_091208.pdf

ANNUAL ENERGY OUTLOOK 2009: OVERVIEW. Energy Information Administration. March 2009. The Annual Energy Outlook presents a midterm projection 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 *AEO2009* Early Release includes the reference case. The full publication, to be released in March 27, 2009, will include complete documentation and additional cases examining energy markets.

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

THIRSTY ENERGY: WATER AND ENERGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY. Energy Vision Update 2009, World Economic Forum. February 2009.

The report explores the risks and opportunities inherent in the ancient relationship between energy and water, which has taken on a new urgency as competition for finite freshwater resources rises. According to the report, water is critical to energy production, yet the water/energy nexus is often overlooked. "The importance of bringing water into the energy equation now cannot be underestimated as we are heading for a more water-scarce future," said Christoph Frei, Senior Director and Head of Energy Industry at the World Economic Forum.

Full Text :

<http://www.weforum.org/pdf/ip/energy/energyvision2009.pdf> [PDF format, 56

pages] .

Grunwald, Michael **WASTING OUR WATTS** (Time, vol. 173, no. 1, January 12, 2009, pp. 32-36)

The author notes that the U.S. “has a renewable-energy resource that is perfectly clean, remarkably cheap, surprisingly abundant and immediately available -- it has astounding potential to reduce the carbon emissions that threaten our planet, the dependence on foreign oil that threatens our security and the energy costs that threaten our wallets.” It is energy efficiency, and it's often ignored in the hubbub over alternative fuels, the nuclear renaissance, the T. Boone Pickens plan and the green-tech economy. Grunwald notes that major change is in the works when companies like IBM, GM, Wal-Mart and Chevron run ads touting their energy-saving commitments, and “when cities, universities, supermarkets and hospitals race to reduce their carbon footprints.” Experts have identified dozens of attractive targets for eliminating waste, from streetlights to servers. The Department of Energy predicts a 30-percent increase in power demand in America by 2030, and power companies “are keenly aware that the cheapest new plant is the one they don't have to build.” Duke Energy has proclaimed efficiency its "fifth fuel," unveiling ambitious plans to help its customers retrofit their homes and buildings and buy more efficient appliances and equipment.

Currently available online at <http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1869224,00.html>

SMART CHOICE FOR BIOFUELS. Sierra Club and Worldwatch Institute. Jane Earley and Alice McKeown. February 18, 2009.

The report highlights the need for policy reforms at this critical juncture in America's effort to increase the use of biofuels. It outlines the economic and environmental impacts of first-generation biofuels such as corn ethanol, proposes strategies to make the biofuels industry more sustainable, and offers specific policy recommendations.

Full Text:

<http://www.worldwatch.org/smartchoicesforbiofuels> [HTML format, with link to a PDF full text file].

WIND ENERGY GROWS BY RECORD 8,300 MW IN 2008. American Wind Energy Association. January 27, 2009.

The U.S. wind energy industry shattered all previous records in 2008 by installing 8,358 megawatts (MW) of new generating capacity, enough to serve over 2 million homes, reports the study. The massive growth in 2008 swelled the nation's total wind power generating capacity by 50% and channeled an investment of some \$17 billion into the economy, positioning wind power as one of the leading sources of new power generation in the country today along with natural gas. At year's end, however, financing for new projects and orders for turbine components slowed to a trickle and layoffs began to hit the wind turbine manufacturing sector.

Full Text:

http://www.awea.org/newsroom/releases/wind_energy_growth2008_27Jan09.html [HTML format, various paging].

LOW-CARBON ENERGY: A ROADMAP. Worldwatch Institute. Christopher Flavin. January 6, 2009.

New technologies will permit rapid de-carbonization of the world energy economy in the next two decades, according to the report. These new energy sources will make it possible to retire hundreds of coal-fired power plants that now provide 40 percent of the world's power by 2030, eliminating up to one-third of global carbon dioxide emissions while creating millions of new jobs. Reducing dependence on fossil fuels will diminish the climate crisis and will also act as an agent of recovery for an ailing global economy. Rebuilding the global energy system has the potential to create thousands of new businesses and millions of new jobs.

Full Text:

<http://www.worldwatch.org/press/prerelease/EWP178.pdf> [PDF format, 52 pages].

RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR FOSSIL FUELS. Testimonies, RAND Corporation. James T. Bartis. March 5, 2009.

This is the full text of testimony presented before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The author states that the U.S. energy policy needs to focus on developing greenhouse gas reduction technology.

Full Text:

http://www.rand.org/pubs/testimonies/2009/RAND_CT319.pdf [PDF format, 13 pages].

THE CLIMATE CHANGE LOBBY EXPLOSION. Center for Public Integrity. February 24, 2009.

The number of lobbyists seeking to influence federal policy on climate change has grown more than 300 percent in five years, with a slew of new interests from Main Street to Wall Street adding to the challenge of addressing global warming, according to the report. The report provides a first-of-its-kind look at the universe of special interests shaping debate in the United States and how it has sharply expanded between 2003, when Congress previously voted on climate change, and 2008.

Full Text:

http://www.publicintegrity.org/investigations/climate_change/articles/entry/1171/ [HTML format, various paging].

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEFS: INDIA. Energy Information Administration. March 2009. With high rates of economic growth and over 15 percent of the world's population, India has become a significant consumer of energy resources. In 2006, India was the sixth largest oil consumer in the world. The global financial crisis and credit crunch have slowed India's significant economic growth particularly in the manufacturing sector, and GDP growth rates have declined from 9.3 percent in 2007 to 5.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2008. Despite a recent slowing economy, India's energy demand continues to increase.

Full Text:

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/India/pdf.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].

25 CITIES WITH THE MOST ENERGY STAR QUALIFIED BUILDINGS IN 2008. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Web posted March 5, 2009.

The report presents a list of U.S. metropolitan areas with the largest number of energy efficient buildings in 2008 that have earned EPA's Energy Star. The list is headed by Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, Washington, D.C., Dallas-Fort Worth, Chicago, Denver, Minneapolis-St Paul, Atlanta and Seattle.

Full Text:

http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/downloads/2008_Top_25_cities_chart.pdf [PDF format, 1 page].

RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR FOSSIL FUELS. Testimonies, RAND Corporation. James T. Bartis. March 5, 2009.

This is the full text of testimony presented before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The author states that the U.S. energy policy needs to focus on developing greenhouse gas reduction technology.

Full Text:

http://www.rand.org/pubs/testimonies/2009/RAND_CT319.pdf [PDF format, 13 pages].

GREEN JOBS: A PATHWAY TO A STRONG MIDDLE CLASS. Middle Class Task Force, Vice President of the United States. March 4, 2009.

The White House Task Force on the Middle Class has a simple mandate: to find, highlight, and implement solutions to the economic challenges facing the American middle class. The Obama Administration is committed to reforming how we create and consume energy in America, and project of reform is the work of many different officials and agencies within the government. One part of that agenda is to promote the creation of green jobs.

Full Text:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/mctf_one_staff_report.pdf [PDF format, 33 pages].

RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR FOSSIL FUELS. Testimonies, RAND Corporation. James T. Bartis. March 5, 2009.

This is the full text of testimony presented before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The author states that the U.S. energy policy needs to focus on developing greenhouse gas reduction technology.

Full Text:

http://www.rand.org/pubs/testimonies/2009/RAND_CT319.pdf [PDF format, 13 pages].

OPEC OIL EXPORT REVENUES. Energy Information Administration. March 2009.

Based on projections from the report, members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could earn \$383 billion of net oil export revenues in 2009 and \$503 billion in 2010. Last year, OPEC earned \$970 billion in net oil export revenues, a 42 percent increase from 2007. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share of these earnings, \$287 billion, representing 30 percent of total OPEC revenues. On a per-capita basis, OPEC net oil export earnings reached \$2,686 in 2008, a 40 percent increase from 2007.

Full Text:

http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC_Revenues/Factsheet.html [HTML format, various paging].

ARCTIC NATIONS TAKE IMPORTANT FIRST STEP TOWARDS SAVING POLAR BEARS. World Wildlife Federation. March 19, 2009.

Five nations committed by treaty to conserve polar bears have come up with a resolution linking the future of the species to urgent global action on climate change. "We are very encouraged by the final declaration from this meeting," says Geoff York, polar bear coordinator for WWF International's Arctic Programme.

Full Text:

<http://www.panda.org/?159441/Arctic-nations-take-important-first-step-towards-saving-polar-bears> [HTML format, various paging].

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEF: MEXICO. Energy Information Administration. March 2009.

In 2008, Mexico was the seventh-largest oil producer in the world, and the third-largest in the Western Hemisphere. State-owned Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) holds a monopoly on oil production in the country and is one of the largest oil companies in the world. However, oil

production in the country has begun to decrease, as production at the giant Cantarell field declines. The oil sector is a crucial component of Mexico's economy: while its relative importance to the general Mexican economy has declined, the oil sector still generates over 15 percent of the country's export earnings.

Full text:

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Mexico/pdf.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].

CLIMATE LITERACY: THE ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF CLIMATE SCIENCE.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. March 2009.

The guide is to help individuals of all ages understand how climate influences them and how they influence climate. "As climate policy is being discussed, it is very important for the citizens of our nation to have an appreciation for some of the fundamental aspects of climate and climate change," said Tom Karl, director of NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C., and lead for NOAA's climate services. "This guide is a first step for people who want to know more about the essential principles of our climate system, how to better discern scientifically credible information about climate, and how to identify problems related to understanding climate and climate change."

Full Text:

<http://climate.noaa.gov/education/pdfs/ClimateLiteracyPoster-8.5x11-March09FinalLR.pdf> [PDF format, 17 pages].

THE STATE OF THE BIRDS: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 2009. North American Bird Conservation Initiative. Web posted March 19, 2009.

In an unprecedented partnership, government wildlife agencies and conservation groups have come together to produce the first comprehensive analysis of the state of the nation's birds. The results are sobering: bird populations in many habitats are declining, a warning signal of the failing health of our ecosystems. According to the analysis, in the areas where it has been negligent too long, such as in Hawaii, it is on the verge of losing entire suites of unique and beautiful birds and native plant communities.

Full Text:

http://www.stateofthebirds.org/pdf_files/State_of_the_Birds_2009.pdf [PDF format, 36 pages].

U.S. SOLAR INDUSTRY YEAR IN REVIEW 2008. Solar Energy Industries Association. March 2009.

The review highlights a third year of record growth. It notes that 1,265 megawatts (MW) of solar power of all types were installed in 2008, bringing total U.S. solar power capacity up 17 percent to 8,775 MW. The 2008 figure included 342 MW of solar photovoltaic (PV), 139 MWTh, thermal equivalent, of solar water heating, 762 MWTh of pool heating and an estimated 21 MW of solar space heating and cooling.

Full Text:

http://www.seia.org/galleries/pdf/2008_Year_in_Review-small.pdf [PDF format, 12 pages].

CLIMATE CHANGE: OBSERVATIONS ON FEDERAL EFFORTS TO ADAPT TO A CHANGING CLIMATE. Testimony, U.S. Government Accountability Office. John Stephenson. March 25, 2009.

Changes in the climate attributable to increased concentrations of greenhouse gases may have significant environmental and economic impacts in the United States. Federal, state, and local agencies are tasked with a wide array of responsibilities that will be affected by a changing climate, such as managing natural resources.

Full Text:

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09534t.pdf> [PDF format, 14 pages].