



DrumBeat: January 24, 2007

Posted by [threadbot](#) on January 24, 2007 - 10:05am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[U.S. wind power seen growing by a quarter in 2007](#)

Wind power generation in the United States will grow 26 percent in 2007, after increasing by 27 percent in 2006, the American Wind Energy Association said on Tuesday.

In 2006, 2,454 megawatts of new wind generating capacity was installed, with \$4 billion invested, the AWEA said. Only natural gas generating plants accounted for more new power generation capacity last year.

[The state of our energy is dangerous](#)

Gas prices may be coming down to earth, but for how long? Unfortunately, America's economic and energy security is more vulnerable than ever. Incredibly, our reliance on foreign oil is now at a dangerous all-time high of 60 percent, almost double what it was during the 1970s energy crisis.

The inconvenient truth is that we continue to pay a high price for decades of no-growth environmentalism. Special interests' ongoing obstructionist lawsuits, restrictive environmental regulations and unreasonable laws all undermine America's energy independence.

[America \(finally!\) begins to embrace alternative energy](#)

PROVO, UTAH - Well hallelujah!

Are we Americans at last awakening to the probability that unless we change our ways, at some uncertain time in the future, there will be an energy crisis?

[Put the brakes on anti-car drive](#)

Let's hope Mayor Dave Cieslewicz and Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk summon the good sense to take the report they have received from the Peak Oil Task Force and

file it under "T."

For twaddle.

[Uganda: Government Lists 71 Power Sites](#)

In a strategic move to solve the energy crisis that has crippled the economy, the government has identified and assessed at least 71 potential small-scale hydropower sites across the country.

[Dam Development: Murder, Repression and Environmental Destruction in Honduras](#)

It would appear that the preferred tactic when it comes to mega-projects is to obtain financing first and deal with the environmental permit later. So the whole process becomes merely a bureaucratic one, involving political, not environmental decisions.

[European Union announces new energy strategy](#)

The European Commission published a white paper on the future of energy policy within the European Union on January 11. Although largely presented by the EU and in many media commentaries as an attempt to cut greenhouse gas emissions, the new energy strategy is driven primarily by the need for the European powers to reduce their dependence on unstable oil and gas imports.

[The business of climate change: Why some firms want caps on emissions](#)

FOR a country that is often cast as evil incarnate when it comes to the environment, America has amassed an impressive array of green credentials of late. Even the National Football League plans to offset the greenhouse gases generated by this year's Super Bowl in February.

[Contradictions seen in alternative energy plan](#)

President Bush's proposals to reduce U.S. gasoline consumption by 20% in 10 years include more specific and ambitious new goals than in previous White House statements, but they also appear to rely on assumptions about energy markets, politics and technology that some experts say are debatable, and include some apparent contradictions.

[Global environment fund gives money to dirty fuel](#)

The world's biggest fund for environmental projects is investing for the first time in a non-renewable, polluting fuel -- coal -- in what it says is a new pragmatic approach to the energy needs of the developing world.

[Biofueled Global Warming](#)

In West Africa the biggest new cause of deforestation in many regions is to grow biofuel. The land rush to establish biofuel plantations in developing nations is one of the most intense the world has ever seen. Literally millions of square miles could be turned into biofuel plantations in the tropics, and the impact this will have on global rainfall and global temperatures is incalculable - it is surely comparable to anything caused by anthropogenic CO₂.

[Minister wants debate on biofuel ethics](#)

The rapid global expansion in biofuel production from agricultural feedstocks means that the world will soon need to start debating the ethics of burning food crops, according to Swedish farm minister Eskil Erlandsson.

[Australia should lead the energy revolution](#)

Australia is at the forefront of the devastating impact of climate change and must undergo an energy revolution to survive, says Australian scientist and author Tim Flannery.

[New energy bill could put steam in geothermal plans](#)

In northern Nevada, the hard work of pulling scalding water from 4,000 feet below ground and turning it into power for Las Vegas could become a little easier with the help of a new energy bill in Congress.

[The heroes and villains of fuel economy](#): *ForbesAutos.com details the most, least fuel-efficient vehicles*

[Vinod Khosla's Marshall Plan for rural India](#)

The daily drumbeat of biofuel headlines has made Vinod Khosla -- co-founder of Sun Microsystems, former Kleiner-Perkins venture capitalist, and ethanol evangelist/entrepreneur extraordinaire -- a hard man to ignore of late. But Khosla's massive bet on renewable energy as the answer to climate change and peak oil (and big profits) may not even be his most ambitious scheme to remake the world. In 2002,

Khosla co-wrote a paper with development economist Atanu Dey sketching out a plan to boost economic growth in rural India. It's hard to think bigger than a bid to upgrade the living standards of some 700 million people -- as the paper notes, one out of 10 people on this planet is a rural Indian.

[If Tesco and Wal-Mart are friends of the earth, are there any enemies left?](#)

The superstores compete to convince us they are greener than their rivals, but they are locked into unsustainable growth.

[Oil chief emerges with climate warning](#)

FORMER fossil fuel mogul John Schubert says the nation has reached a "tipping point" on climate change, with overwhelming public acceptance of the problem making it impossible for business and government to ignore it any longer.

[Power & Energy](#)

There is an assumption made here that we have never fully defended, but simply taken for granted, and I have noted it in some of the criticism we've recently received, so it's high time to address the topic in a straight-forward fashion. The assumption is: *Political power is a type of complexity, and thus it is a function of energy.*

[Automakers cool to Bush plans to cut gas consumption](#)

...Bush has also called for a five percent improvement in overall fuel economy, a move that could require heavy investments in research and development and threaten popular but gasoline-guzzling vehicles like General Motor's Hummer.

[Biggest threat to drinking water? Rust](#)

More than 170,000 public water systems are at work to keep tap water flowing into American homes and meeting the standards of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974.

But after the extensive purifying process, water ends up in your glass after traveling through pipes laid under city streets 50, 60 or 100 years ago.

[Internal Rifts Cloud Democrats' Opportunity on Warming](#)

The House Democrats had not quite finished their "100 hours" agenda when they met in

the Capitol basement Thursday morning, but Speaker Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) was already looking ahead. As her colleagues ate bagels and turkey sausage, she warned that their next challenge would be a lot tougher than popular issues such as student loans and ethics reforms. For her next act, she planned to take on global warming.

[Bush focus on oil imports marks failure on climate, say greens](#)

"He remains delusional," was the view of Greenpeace's Steve Sawyer after Bush called for production of domestic oil and crop-made ethanol fuel to be ramped up to ease US dependence on energy imports.

[Washington's sudden climate change](#)

Proposals to cut greenhouse gases are flying around Washington like confetti in a hurricane, with President Bush tossing out his ideas in Tuesday night's State of the Union message. What's needed in this debate is full disclosure on the difficulty of the task.

[Tokyo climate change meeting eyes post-Kyoto rules](#)

Senior officials from advanced and developing countries met in Tokyo on Wednesday to start work on a follow-up agreement to the Kyoto Protocol on climate change.

[Ethanol Production Booming on Demand](#)

The energy agenda in Washington has been long dominated by oil interests, but in a reversal of political fortunes, these days it is Big Oil fighting to preserve its tax incentives and the ethanol industry that is adding new ones.

[Blindness on Biofuels](#)

Suppose we reach the administration's ultimate target of 60 billion *gallons* in 2030. That would offset less than half of the projected increase in annual oil use. Here's why. First, it's necessary to convert the 60 billion gallons into *barrels*. Because there are 42 gallons in a barrel, that means dividing by 42. Further: Ethanol has only about two-thirds of the energy value of an equal volume of gasoline. When you do all the arithmetic, 60 billion gallons of ethanol displace just under 1 billion barrels of gasoline. If that merely offsets increases in oil use, it won't cut existing import dependence or greenhouse gases.

[Lack of Budget Could Hurt Nuclear Energy Revival, Official Says](#)

[Blair accused of nuclear waste 'cover-up'](#)

Scientists claim committee's conclusions were manipulated for political gain.

[Honour the Elders](#)

[Are Saudis waging an oil-price war on Iran?: Falling fuel costs probably not a coincidence, oil traders say](#)

Oil traders and others believe that the Saudi decision to let the price of oil tumble has more to do with Iran than economics.

Their belief has been reinforced in recent days as the Saudi oil minister has steadfastly refused calls for a special meeting of OPEC and announced that the nation is going to increase its production, which will send the price down even farther.

[Oil surges on U.S. plan to boost emergency stockpile](#)

Oil jumped over 4 percent to \$55 a barrel on Tuesday as the United States announced plans to build up its emergency crude reserves and as colder weather pushed up demand in the world's top consumer.

[Efforts to lower Hawaii gas prices snarl](#)

More than eight months after Hawaii suspended its first-in-the-nation cap on gas prices, the latest attempt to lower motorists' bills is stuck in neutral.

[Cheated by the Heat](#)

The weekly trip to your local gas station may be costing you more than you think. In fact, so-called "hot gas" is costing consumers like you and I billions of dollars every year. Is this just an oversight, or a scheme devised by gas stations to milk consumers of more money?

[Belarus to demand Russia pay rent for land under gas, oil pipes](#)

Belarus will demand that Russia pay rent for land under pipelines that it uses to pump its oil and gas to Europe, the country's president said at a government meeting Tuesday.

The ex-Soviet state tried to instate a transit levy on Russian oil passing through its

territory at the beginning of the year, in retaliation for new charges imposed by Moscow, but relented after Russia halted crude supplies.

Alexander Lukashenko said, "Without fuss or ambitions, we will take corresponding measures in line with international law, and will demand that they pay us."

[EU gets cold feet on capping car emissions](#)

A Commission proposal on reducing cars' carbon-dioxide releases has been delayed because commissioners are unable to agree on whether targets should be binding for manufacturers.

[The tipping point](#)

Industry leaders and lawmakers are collaborating to curb emissions. Is the logjam over global warming finally starting to break?

[Automakers highlight fuel-efficient cars](#)

Automakers highlighted their work to develop clean and fuel-efficient technologies at the Washington Auto Show on Tuesday, hours before President Bush outlined an energy agenda that could shape the industry's future.

[Berlin told it faces triple threat if nuclear energy phase-out continues](#)

Germany will miss its CO2 emission targets, face rising electricity prices and become "dramatically" more reliant on Russian gas if it keeps to its policy of phasing out nuclear energy, a new study warns.

[Devon Energy to Exit West Africa](#)

"The significant growth opportunities we have developed onshore in North America and in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico are providing compelling rationale for redeploying our financial and intellectual capital in these areas," commented Devon's president, John Richels. "As a result of the West African divestitures, we will sharpen our focus in North America. At the same time we will be concentrating our international operations in Brazil and China, where we have established competitive advantages."

[Indonesian mud volcano caused by drilling, say scientists](#)

A mud volcano that has erupted in Indonesia, forcing the evacuation of thousands of villagers, was most probably caused by drilling for gas, according to the first published scientific study into the phenomenon.



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