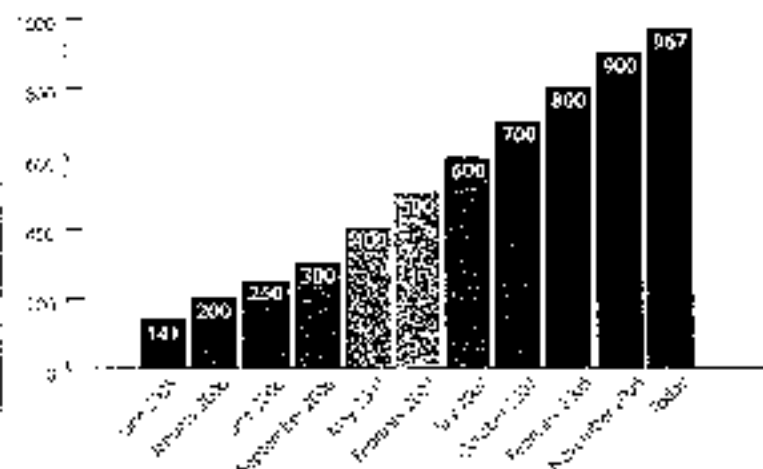


BY THE NUMBERS



Source: U.S. Conference of Mayors and City of Seattle

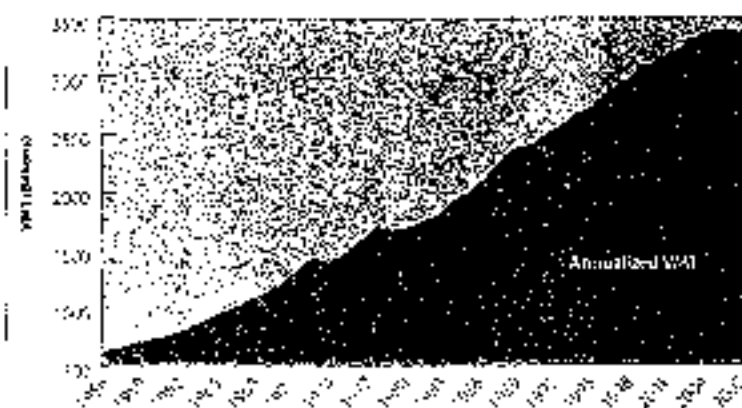
The number of mayors who have signed the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement continues to grow.



Source: Pew Center on Global Climate Change

Although state climate action plans have become almost ubiquitous, climate adaptation plans have taken hold more gradually.

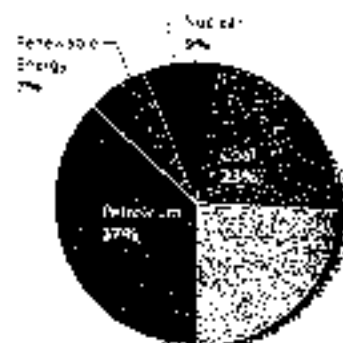
U.S. Vehicle Miles Traveled, Annualized, December 1956-September 2008



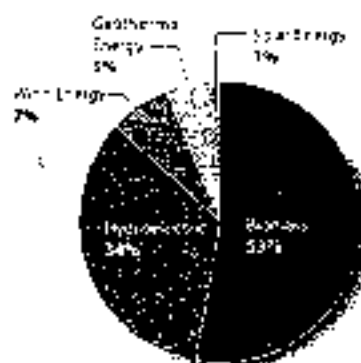
Source: FHWA, FHWA's National Highway Traffic Safety Board, "September 2008 Traffic Volume Trends"

While U.S. vehicles collectively were driven more than 3 trillion miles in 2008, there are signs of decline.

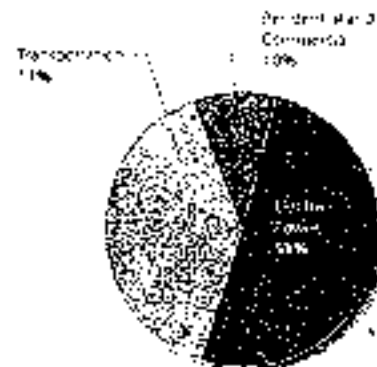
U.S. Energy Use



U.S. Renewable Energy Use



How Renewable Energy Is Used



Source: Energy Information Administration

In 2008, renewable sources of energy accounted for only 7% of the nation's supply. Of that, one-third came from biomass and more than half was used for electricity.

RESEARCH YOU CAN USE

What Planners Need to Know About Evaluating LEED

At this point, there's no one—or, at least, no one in planning—who doesn't know that the initials LEED stand for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. The green building certification system, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, has become a global phenomenon. The council's mission is a sweeping one: "to transform the way buildings and communities are designed, built, and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially

responsible, healthy, and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life." We learned in those courses that input evaluation (a bus stop is on the property) is less useful than output evaluation (buses come with reasonable frequency), and that, in turn, is less useful than outcome evaluation (bus ridership is up and cars are used down).

No I was interested to see two recent journal articles. In the September issue of the *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, Rebecca Ratzliff, AIAA, of Auburn University writes about "The Use of LEED in Planning and Development Regulation." Ratzliff surveyed jurisdictions with LEED requirements to come up with a primer for local governments

now writing systems. Among the strengths LEED-ND gives heavy emphasis to development on infill sites and at other sustainable locations. Among the limitations: Projects may be certified even if there are no green buildings or affordable housing on site.

These are the first evaluations of LEED in the planning literature, and they don't answer the big questions posed above: What difference does LEED make on the ground (in terms of outcomes)? Maybe it is too soon to say. My first exposure to LEED-ND was as a consultant on a brownfield redevelopment project in Napa, California, called Napa Pipe, one of the first projects to be certified under the program. Our traffic impact assessment, which was conducted independently of LEED-ND, suggested that a small number of trips generated by the mixed-use development—about seven percent—would not suggest the external street network or add to the region's vehicle miles traveled. That's because the trips would either remain within the development or would be transit or walking trips to outside destinations.

This is the kind of outcome information that should be central to the LEED

REGISTERED LEED PROJECTS FOR RATING SYSTEMS

Rating System	Approximate Number
New Construction (NC)	1,000
Core and Shell (CS)	1,000
Commercial Interiors (CI)	1,000
Retail (ND and CI)	1,000
School Buildings	1,000
Health Care and Maintenance	1,000
Schools	1,000
Homes	1,000
Neighborhood Development	1,000

Napa Pipe, a brownfield redevelopment project in Northern California (below), is one of the first projects to be certified under LEED-ND. A traffic impact assessment showed that it would not add to regional congestion.

responsible, healthy, and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life."

Since LEED was launched in 1998 as a single rating system for new construction, it has expanded to encompass more than 11,000 projects in all 50 states and in 91 countries. There are now eight rating systems covering all types of developments, from commercial interiors to homes and schools—with more systems to come. In the U.S., the ratings have been adopted by 126 cities, 36 counties, 28 towns, 36 state governments, 12 federal agencies, 16 public school districts, and 19 institutions of higher education.

There is no question that LEED has been a success in the number of registered projects. But is it leading to higher quality development?

In the 1970s, planning curricula included courses in evaluation research—most of which, I regret to



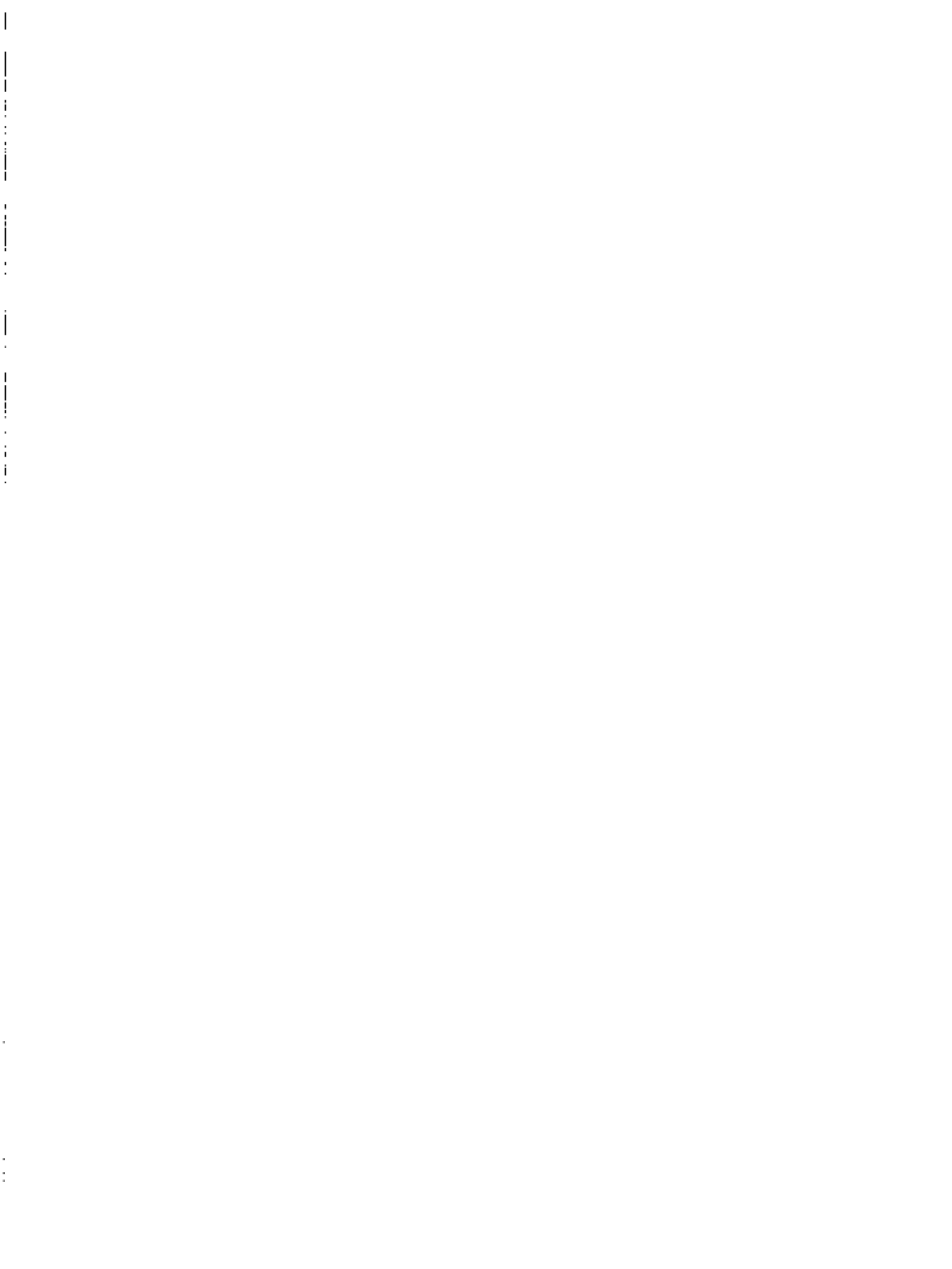
seeking to promote green building practices.

Ary Grade of the University of California at Irvine is more critical. His article, in the October issue of the *Journal of the American Planning Association*, "Sustainability Design: Insights From U.S. LEED-ND Pilot Projects," identifies the strengths and limitations of the

certification process. The program will be far stronger when it is built on verifiable good outcomes.

Reed King

King is a professor of urban and environmental planning at the University of California at Irvine. He is also a past president of the American Planning Association.



MarketWatch

Even when you're on top of
every fluctuation in the market**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.**

WSJ.com

enr.com | 10/1/2009 | 10:01 AM EDT

Green Ink: Who's To Regulate Emissions?



Crude oil futures fell below \$70 after yesterday's rally due to continued large stocks of oil around the world, [AP reports](#).

New York sets out rules for [natural-gas drilling](#) in parts of the Marcellus shale, though the new rules fall short of what environmentalists demanded, in the [NYT](#).

The Environmental Protection Agency said it won't wait for Congress to act, and outlined rules for regulating greenhouse-gas emissions from large emitters, a long-awaited though still controversial move, in the [WSJ](#) and the [NYT](#). But stop hyperventilating, says [Dave Roberts](#)—this just says how the EPA will act when it eventually does: it's not up to the starting gun in EPA regulation of emissions.

More reactions to the Senate energy and climate bill, with nifty breakdowns of some of the key differences between this bill and the one passed by the House at [ENR's The Vine](#) and [The York Room](#). Yeah, but does it [have the votes](#)? [Greenwire](#) figures there are 45 "yays," but the fence-sitters are getting cold feet.

Odd that another bill on climate change omits the word climate—a sign of a new, [semantic strategy](#) to move cap-and-trade forward, at [Out Earth](#). Or that might be because the Senate bill actually leaves the details of [the cap-and-trade system](#) totally blank, in the [WaPo](#).

One big difference between health care and the climate bill: Negotiated, less-than-perfect solutions might work for health care but not with global warming, says [Bill McKibbin](#). "A deal has to be struck with the climate itself, and the climate is unlikely to haggle."

George Will still isn't buying it. The recent cooling trend has given climate-change skeptics plenty of ammunition. "What makes skeptics skeptical is the accumulating evidence that theories predicting catastrophes from man-made climate change are impervious to evidence."

Sempra announces big plans for solar power, with the aim of building [500 megawatts](#) out West by 2012, in the [WSJ](#). That might get easier after the Interior Department approves seven renewable-energy [transmission projects](#), also in the [WSJ](#).

[Texas](#) is determined to stay the energy capital of the world, whether with "drill bits or windmills," in [FT's Energy Source](#).

MIT [Technology Review](#) has more on the [challenges facing aviation](#) as it aims to curb emissions while still growing.

Finally, an argument for more lawyers? The solar-power industry discovered too late that some solar gear is actually subject to tariffs, straining relations with China even more, in the [NYT](#).

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11/10/09

EPA Moves to Regulate Smokestack Greenhouse Gases

The EPA proposes to require polluters to reduce six greenhouse gases by installing the best available technology and improving energy efficiency whenever a facility is significantly changed or built.

AP

11/10/09 11:06 AM EST

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency took steps Wednesday to control the emissions blamed for global warming from power plants, factories and refineries for the first time.

The EPA proposal will require polluters to reduce six greenhouse gases by installing the best available technology and improving energy efficiency whenever a facility is significantly changed or built. The rule also will require polluters to install the best available technology to reduce greenhouse gases in other

large-scale sources. The rule is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 17 million tons a year, the EPA said.

By using the power and authority of the Clean Air Act, we can begin reducing emissions from the nation's largest greenhouse gas emitter without asking any single business or the business industry to make up the vast majority of our emissions, EPA Administrator Jackson said. "We know the common-sense approach is to place the burden on meaningful carbon reductions."

Earlier this year, the Obama administration announced that it would start developing the first-ever greenhouse gas emissions standards for cars and trucks. Those regulations, which would take effect in 2012, would force EPA to control greenhouse gases from large industrial sources, the agency said.

Industry groups immediately questioned the agency's argument. They charged that the EPA was flouting the law, since the Clean Air Act typically requires any facility releasing more than 250 tons a year of a regulated pollutant. That threshold would require more facilities to fall under the new regulations.

The proposal also effectively assumes that the United States emits more greenhouse gas emissions than others, said Charles T. Brown, president of the National Petroleum Council and Petri's Association.

But he added, a former top EPA air pollution official who is now a lobbyist for the energy industry said the agency was trying to "fill a square peg into a round hole."

Obama said Tuesday an effort by Congress to change the words of a statute created by his own administration would force EPA to regulate industrial facilities. "I'm not sure that's the best way to do it," he said.

Jackson, speaking at a news conference on a climate change summit being reported by CNN in a DC suburb, said the rule was "solidly defensible."

"The EPA would not propose a rule that we didn't believe in, made good legal sense," he said.

"EPA would not propose a rule that didn't make legal sense," he said.

The EPA's authority under the law came from after Sen. Joe Biden's Democratic amendment that would allow EPA to regulate greenhouse gases from large industrial sources. The Senate bill, set for the House later, would grant the EPA authority to regulate under the Clean Air Act.

Environmentalists said the rule is the best effort to date to do so.

"You can't have one without the other if we're going to do a serious, meaningful effort to clean energy," said Chris Light, director of the global warming program at Environment America, an advocacy group.

The EPA will seek to increase emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants, which would be more costly, to \$100 million. Supporters of the regulation have already used pending EPA rules as leverage to get Congress to act.

Senate Republicans have already attempted to block the EPA from issuing regulations to buy more time for Congress to work on a bill. At least one Republican lawmaker, Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma, said Wednesday that Congress would try to stop the EPA again.

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WSJ.com

U.S. NEWS | OCTOBER 1, 2009

EPA Proposes Tough Greenhouse-Gas Rules for Big Industries

By S. O'BRIAN HUGHES and IAN TALLEY

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency proposed requiring new power plants, factories and oil refiners to obtain permits to emit so-called greenhouse gases, ratcheting up pressure on Congress to pass comprehensive climate legislation.

The EPA's proposal would effectively require new, large industrial facilities and existing ones undergoing modification to use the most up-to-date technology to curb carbon-dioxide emissions. The announcement came as environmentally minded Senate Democrats vowed to bring a newly unveiled climate bill to a vote before a major international summit on climate change in December.

Other Democratic lawmakers from states dependent on coal and manufacturing jobs said they couldn't support the draft proposal, which calls for cutting U.S. emissions somewhat faster than a similar proposal narrowly approved by the House in June.

"The EPA's ready to work with Congress," EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said in announcing the proposal. "But we're not going to continue with business as usual while we wait for Congress to act."

Because the federal Clean Air Act limits the EPA's ability to weigh the costs of new regulations, many businesses worry that new EPA rules might be unduly burdensome. To address such concerns, the EPA's proposal would effectively exempt small businesses such as restaurants and farms, applying the rules only to facilities that emit 25,000 tons of greenhouse gases or more a year. A threshold of 25,000 tons of carbon dioxide is comparable to the emissions from the annual energy use of about 2,200 homes, according to the Environmental Defense Fund.

"The question is -- is this legal?" said Luke Popovich, a spokesman for the National Mining Association. He said his group is skeptical the EPA would be allowed under current law to distinguish between small and large emitters when setting new controls on greenhouse gases.

Under the EPA proposal, which officials said could take effect as early as next year, new power plants and other large smelters could be denied regulatory permits if they didn't use the most up-to-date technology to curb carbon-dioxide emissions. Similar technology would have to be incorporated into any major upgrades. The EPA is expected to spell out what kinds of controls would qualify in later guidance.

Meanwhile, several key senators said a draft bill designed to fight climate change, announced by Sens. Barbara Boxer (D., Calif.) and John Kerry (D., Mass.), lacked sufficient support to pass the chamber. Sen. John B. Rockefeller IV (D., W.Va.) said the bill's proposal to cut U.S. emissions 20% beneath 2005 levels by 2020 would be "unrealistic and harmful" for his coal-abundant state. Other lawmakers said the chamber's focus on health-care legislation was

straining their ability to examine the measure.

The climate-change issue also is dividing industry. Nike Inc. said Wednesday it was resigning a seat on the board of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, citing disagreement with the group's stance against proposed climate-change legislation. But the company said it planned to remain a member of the chamber. A chamber spokesman said its position "reflects the diversity of its membership and the broad business community."

—Stephen Power contributed to this article.

Write to Siobhan Hughes at siobhan.hughes@dowjones.com and Ian Talley at ian.talley@dowjones.com.

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OCTOBER 7, 2009, 12:41 PM ET

Gas Pains: Lots of Supply and Little Demand Spells Bearish Future for Natural Gas

The outlook for oil prices is anyone's guess. When it comes to natural gas, bears are coming fast and furious.

The picture is pretty clear. Gas supplies keep growing while demand keeps shrinking. That's kept gas a lot cheaper than it was last year—and makes the medium-term outlook for gas pretty bearish. (Natural gas futures were inching up about 1% in early trading today to about \$4.93 per million BTUs.)

Credit Suisse just slashed its price forecasts: For 2009, to \$4.09 per million BTUs to \$4.37, and for 2010, to \$5.75 from \$6.50. For the investment bank, that's mostly due to over-supply, especially in the U.S. Despite plunging prices this year, gas producers kept producing: Credit Suisse notes U.S. output has fallen just 1.6% from its peak in February.

What's more, natural-gas producers don't show any sign of quitting: "We see an industry that has the desire, near-term liquidity, and capital-market access to pursue volume growth," the bank writes.

Energy consultants Wood Mackenzie also see a fundamental shift in the global gas industry since before the economic crisis hit, driven by the sudden arrival of lots of U.S. domestic gas but also by demand destruction everywhere.

"Our global gas demand outlook is 200bcm per annum less in 2015 than it was eighteen months ago, pre-economic crisis. The new reality for the global gas industry is reduced demand and oversupply, the effects of which will be felt in the medium and long term," noted Neil Thomas, head of gas research for Wood Mac.

So what does this mean for the energy game? A little good and a little bad.

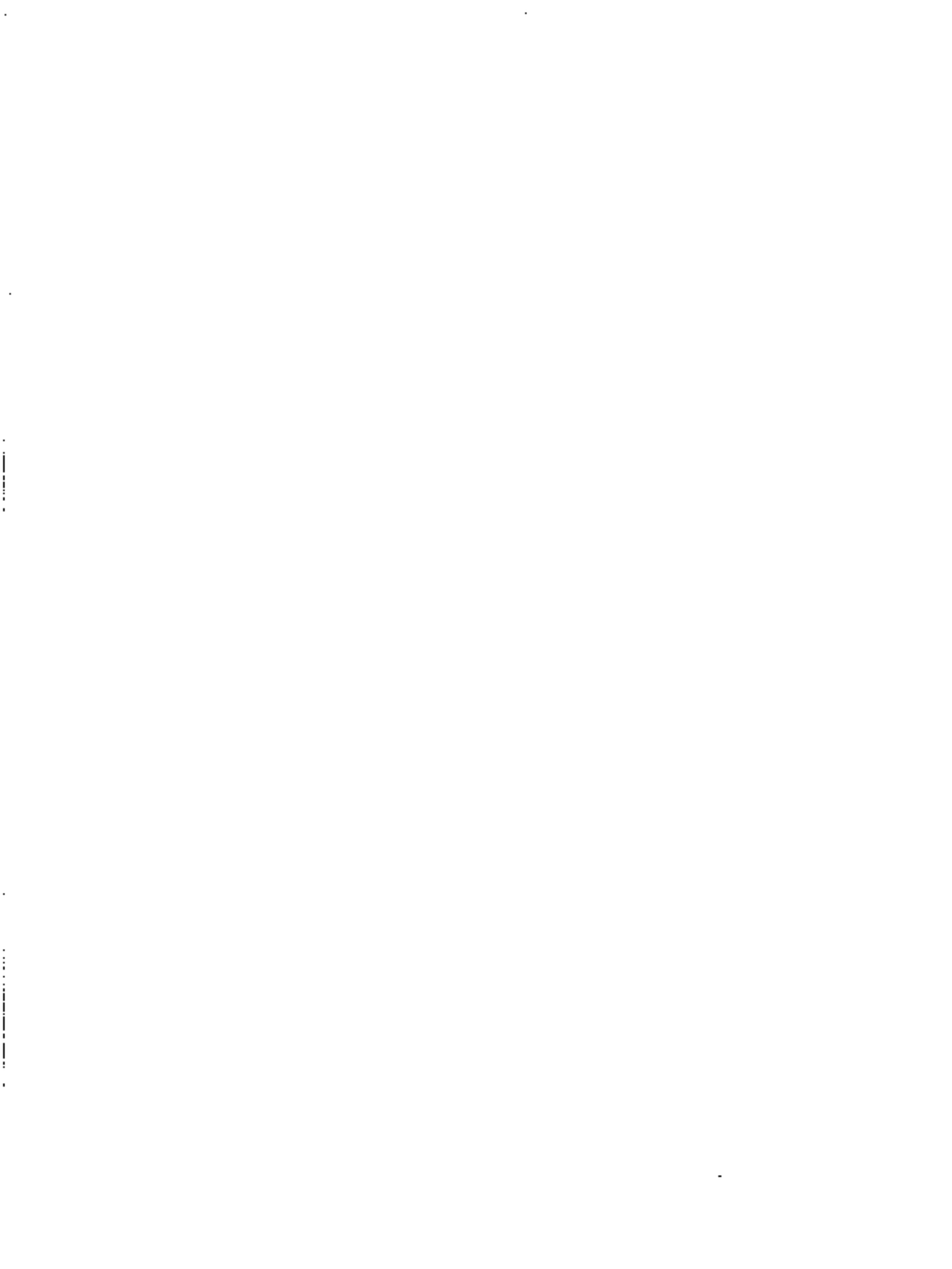
Cheapish natural gas could provide a quick and easy way to reduce U.S. greenhouse-gas emissions from power generation. Finding a way to boost the role of natural gas is a big part of the skullduggery over the Senate climate bill. On the other hand, too-cheap natural gas rivals other alternative energy sources such as wind and solar power.

One thing to watch for, as Credit Suisse points out. If natural gas prices do inch up over the next year, plenty of power companies could switch back to burning coal, which has gotten a lot cheaper.

That could spell a grim scenario where gas is too expensive to displace coal, and too cheap to make wind power's economics compelling.

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READ BY:

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WSJ.com

October 8, 2009 4:29 AM ET

Shadow Boxing: What's The Climate Bill's Real Goal?

At the risk of stating the blindingly obvious, it seems like the biggest problem with the Senate energy and climate bill is that nobody knows exactly what it's for.



Look again

What's really

Clean-tech executives that descended on Washington this week see it fundamentally as a jobs bill, meant to kickstart the U.S. clean-energy industry. That's a view shared by Energy Secretary Steven Chu. "The cost of not doing something is we will lose the chance to lead in this next Industrial Revolution," Dr. Chu said Wednesday.

Couldn't agree more, said Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown—jobs are indeed the key to passing any legislation. Not clean-energy jobs, though—existing manufacturing jobs in the heartland.

"This bill is written to deal with climate change and it's written as a jobs bill," he says, explaining why protectionism is the key to curbing greenhouse-gas emissions. Which happens to be almost exactly the opposite approach of

some big companies, such as General Electric.

Yes, it's a jobs bill, says Sen. John Kerry, the bill's title reflects that. But for the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and President Obama, it's about a lot more. "The message [Obama] wanted to get over is he's committed to moving forward," Sen. Kerry said. "He views it as a critical. It's a job creator. A national security priority."

What does that mean? Does that refer to the possible national-security implications of climate change? Or does that mean national security as in energy security?

Republicans certainly like the energy-security idea. That gives more room for natural gas, nuclear power, and offshore oil and gas drilling in the bill. That trifecta is shaping up as one way to actually broaden political support for the bill.

Unless it produces political support for the bill. "You're trying to solve a climate crisis and you are going to drill for more oil?" asked Jim Riccio of Greenpeace. "How does that make any sense whatsoever?" (To be fair, Greenpeace lambasted Congressional efforts even without extra support for oil, gas, or nuclear power.)

Granted, the whole point of wrapping the energy bill and the climate bill together is to sweeten the environmental pill and give the bill at least a fighting chance of passage.

But the Senate bill, which isn't even written yet, is turning into a Rorschach blot. Everybody's projecting their hopes, fears and phantoms. That may be good politics. It's not clear that's good policy.

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WSJ.com

October 19, 2009, 8:26 AM EDT

Green Ink: Goodbye, Copenhagen



Crude oil futures slipped under \$70 after the dollar strengthened in the wake of comments by Fed Chairman Bernanke. [Bloomberg reports.](#)

More on [Chevron's success](#) squeezing out more oil from old fields in California, in the [WSJ](#). And the Interior Department finally [halts leases](#) on 60 of the 77 parcels in the controversial Utah oil-and-gas lease program, in the [NYT](#).

Shell is bullish on the future of natural gas, unveiling a massive [floating LNG platform](#) larger than an aircraft carrier that offers access to remote natural-gas reserves, in the [WSJ](#).

So much for a climate bill in the Senate this year—[now the bill is unlikely to even hit the floor until November](#), virtually ensuring the debate is [pushed back to next year](#), in the [WSJ](#).

What's that mean for the prospects in Copenhagen? Top U.S. climate negotiator Jonathan Pershing, [in Bloomberg](#): "It will be extraordinarily difficult for the U.S. to commit to a specific number in the absence of action from Congress."

Balancing this energy and climate game is tricky business. The U.K. energy regulator says the country needs \$320 billion over 15 years to keep the lights on and clean up, [in the WSJ](#). "Britain faces a tough challenge in maintaining secure supplies whilst at the same time meeting its climate change targets," the regulator says.

New paleo-climate studies suggest there is in fact a relation between high levels of CO2 and rising temperatures, and rising sea levels, and melting ice caps, [in Scientific American](#).

So are exotic ideas like [air capture](#) the answer? While sucking CO2 out of the atmosphere sounds promising, it would require a storage infrastructure bigger than today's oil business, [at Yale's Environment 360](#).

Maybe something more modest: Timber companies and environmentalists make peace to promote forest conservation and carbon offsets, [in the WaPo](#).

Atlantic states are thinking of teaming up to [develop offshore wind](#) as a counterweight to Midwestern onshore wind, [in Climate Wire](#).

The Economist dives into the "smart grid" debate. Leaving aside that no one really agrees what the term means, "smart grids are not a substitute for a proper energy policy," the newspaper [says](#). More on the technological, regulatory and even consumer [hurdles](#) a new grid faces.

Big [Coal crises](#) at EPA regulations aimed at preventing companies from blowing off the tops of mountains, in the [WSJ](#): "They're trying to find a way to kill us a little bit at a time—death by a thousand cuts," says a Massey Energy executive.

A pilot project in Wyoming shows new techniques for carbon capture work, now we just need to figure out how to store the stuff, [in GreenTech Media](#).

Finally, carbon capture comes to the oil sands. The Canadian government awards \$600 million to Shell, Chevron, and Marathon to work out how to capture and store the greenhouse-gas emissions from oil-sands development, [in the WSJ](#).

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Fiddling on the Roof: Dow's Solar-Powered Shingles

Dow's announcement this week that it developed solar shingles is interesting not because it represents a big technological breakthrough—it doesn't.

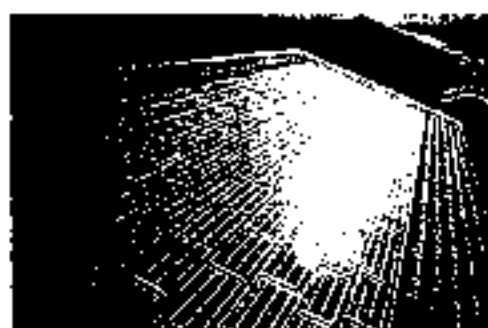


Photo: Dow

Dow's solar shingles are interesting precisely because they offer the prospect of turning something exotic, like solar power, into something mundane, like new shingles. That's the kind of thing that a -now energies—from biofuels to electric cars—need to do in order to escape their category as "niche" solutions and start becoming ubiquitous.

Dow, the big chemical company, said that after a couple of years of effort, it's ready to start production of asphalt shingles that incorporate a layer of thin-film solar panel. For now, Dow will get the thin-film solar from Global Solar, rather than trying to leverage any of the exotic solar-power solutions Dow is working on in-house. Dow will start limited production next year before ramping up in 2011.

Unlike many of the recent announcements in the solar sector—from breakthroughs in efficiency to new production techniques—the thrust of the Powerhouse shingles is simple. Since they can be nailed to a roof like regular shingles, they require no specialized labor or installation. That means lower installation costs, which—just like incremental technology improvements—means electricity generated from solar power will be a little bit cheaper.

Consult Jane Palmieri, the managing director of Dow Solar Solutions, says the new shingles should be 10% to 15% cheaper than a standard solar-power rack, and as much as 40% cheaper than a full, integrated solar-power installation.

Dow figures the new product could be a \$5 billion market by 2015. That's because the market for roofing shingles is huge, and if Dow can tap into just a fraction of that—places where sun shines, with roofs facing the right way, and the like—it could clean up.

To put that in perspective, Dow's estimate of the size solar-shingle market is bigger than many recent estimates of the market for advanced batteries meant to power electric cars.

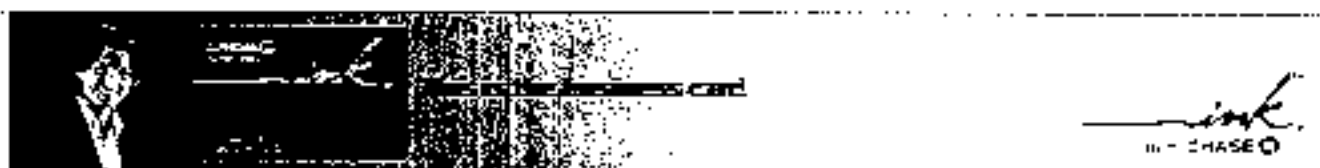
One potentially big driver? Last year's extension of government tax breaks for solar-power systems, which increased the amount of money homeowners could receive for installing new systems.

One state, in particular, will be watching Dow's shingles with bated breath: Michigan. The initial production will be done at Dow's Midland, Mich. factory. The full-scale production run has yet to find a home.

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Will Obama bypass Congress on climate rules?

How the president plans to use the EPA to control greenhouse gases, even if legislators can't get a new law together

By Maha Atal, reporter

Last Updated: October 9, 2009: 1:13 PM ET

NEW YORK (Fortune) -- If Congress won't get the job done on climate change, President Obama has a way to do it himself. But is he strong-arming the legislative branch?

It certainly looks that way as a series of new environmental regulations, released over the past two weeks by the EPA, are putting legislators on notice and executives on edge.

The rules are the federal government's broadest swipe yet at regulating greenhouse gasses. According to EPA chief Lisa Jackson, "We've taken the historic step of proposing the nation's first-ever greenhouse-gas emissions standards for vehicles, and moved substantially closer to an efficient, clean energy future."

The Environmental Protection Agency, which reports to the White House, is a new player in this arena. Before 2007, greenhouse gases were considered outside the EPA's purview because regulating them would have required cracking down on specific industrial practices that other agencies had under their charge.

But a 2007 Supreme Court decision ruled them to be an air pollutant, giving the EPA wide authority to regulate any industries that emit them under the 1970 Clean Air Act.

Test drive: auto emissions

The agency's first target as it moves towards that future? Detroit. Under the new guidelines, by 2016 automakers must reduce their fleet's average emissions-per-mile to 250 grams. This is in addition to the familiar fuel-mileage standards set by the National Highway Safety and Transportation Authority (NHTSA).

Since there are about 9,000 grams of CO2 produced by burning each gallon of gas, automakers will be able to hit the EPA's requirements in 2016 simply by raising fuel economy to the 55 miles per gallon levels NHTSA has already ordered for the same time period.

So meeting that 2016 deadline won't be too challenging. But after 2016 something interesting happens. With



conventional gasoline technology, improvements in fuel economy move in lockstep with drops in emissions.

But conventional technology maxes out 35 mpg, which means getting lower CO₂ emissions beyond that point will require new technologies like electrics, hydrogen fuel cells or biofuels.

With electrics and hydrogen, there are no "gallons" of fuel to measure, while biofuels produce fewer emissions than gasoline but also get fewer miles per gallon. So the EPA has come up with a solution to encourage carmakers to design for low emissions rather than miles per gallon.

Margo Oge, the EPA's air quality and transportation director, says carmakers can apply for fuel economy credits for flex-fuel vehicles that use biofuels. That means automakers will have an incentive to focus on low-emission vehicles. It's a small change, but it amounts to a substantial power grab by the EPA.

An activist executive

Environmentalists are celebrating the new rules, since the EPA has historically been stricter than NHTSA, which is overseen by Congress. But industry trade representatives whose jobs depend on lobbying Congress on behalf of business aren't thrilled by the developments.

"NHTSA has 35 years of experience with our technologies, for which the environmental agency doesn't have the knowledge. They ensure that fuel-economy increases are cost-effective and possible," says Charles Territo of the Automakers' Alliance. "If NHTSA started to lose its role, we would resist that."

While publicly White House officials say that both agencies are working in harmony, privately, they admit that it's the EPA that is taking the lead.

And by Spring 2010, the EPA is planning to expand its reach even further, issuing greenhouse-gas targets for all firms emitting more than 25,000 metric tons per year.

That might cover enough major emitters that a cap-and-trade scheme, where the government sells permits for emissions above a certain level that companies can trade, becomes unnecessary. Cap-and-trade legislation is currently awaiting consideration in Congress, somewhat stalled because of the focus on health-care legislation.

Not surprisingly, some legislators are calling this a classic case of executive branch overreach. Representative Peter Welch (D-Vermont), who helped draft the cap-and-trade bill, says, "I would prefer for this to be done legislatively, and my contacts in industry would prefer that, because when we write bills, we give them the opportunity to help us." Skeptics would argue that there are lucrative ties to lobbyists that Congress is loath to give up.

There are economic objections too. The Congressional bill has provisions to direct funds raised via cap-and-trade permits into green energy jobs, and takes into account the cost of emissions reductions.

Columbia Business School professor and noted energy economist Geoffrey Heal estimates that discretionary regulation will be twice as costly as cap-and-trade, up to 2% of GDP, since cap-and-trade allows reductions to be made wherever they are most efficient.

"That cost will get passed on to consumers, and it's not small change," he says.

Power Play

The timing of the EPA's moves also hint at political motives. Congressman Welch believes the new policies are intended to tell Congress, "that if we don't pass legislation, the President will not wait and will just go ahead and regulate."

Columbia's Heal agrees. "The EPA announcements are designed to put pressure on the Senate and on industry

representatives who are pushing senators, that if they don't act, [the EPA] will do ways industry won't like."

The administration is also certainly thinking ahead to December's international climate change conference in Copenhagen. Twelve years after President Clinton signed the Kyoto Protocol, and with both Republican and Democratic senates having failed to ratify the agreement, the last thing Obama wants to do is show up empty handed.

If Congress doesn't pass a bill before December, the EPA's moves give him some cover. As Obama well knows, the credibility of America's commitments is key to extracting similar promises from other nations like India and China.

In other words, Obama seems to be offering Congress a choice: Pass a bill, or be bypassed altogether. ■

First Published: October 9, 2009 9:39 AM ET

Find this article at:

http://money.com/2009/10/08/news/story/obama_emissions_regulation/08/index.htm

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WALL STREET JOURNAL

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WSJ.com

2009/11/14, 2:55 PM ET

Catch Me If You Can: Does the IEA's Carbon Capture Plan Make Any Sense?

Here's the good news: Much better world carbon capture and storage will cut the global bill for curbing greenhouse-gas emissions by 70%. Here's the bad news: Getting carbon capture and storage up to speed promises to be a mind-bogglingly expensive and complicated task.

The International Energy Agency just laid out in London its global "roadmap" for capturing and storing carbon emissions underground from power plants and big factories.

It's the logical follow-up to the 2008 G-8 meeting, in which the world's major economies basically placed their future in the hands of clean coal and carbon storage. U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu was at the carbon shindig in London taking up the prospects for American leadership in clean coal in the coming decade.

The IEA report makes clear why carbon capture and storage looks attractive on paper—and why it looks really tough to pull off in real life.

First off, an honest assessment of why carbon capture and storage has yet to take off today. "In the current regulatory and fiscal environment, commercial power plants and industrial facilities will not invest in CCS because it reduces efficiency, adds cost and lowers energy output."

Those are three pretty big strikes against it. Whatever changes are made to the regulatory and fiscal environment, they won't change physics—carbon capture will still be inefficient and require more, not less, energy consumption.

And those regulatory changes won't make it cost-effective, either. The report notes that existing ideas—cap and trade plans, carbon taxes, government support—are not enough to pay for carbon capture. Clean coal is expected to cost \$35 to \$50 a ton, cleaner natural gas with CCS, \$68-\$68 a ton, and industrial uses such as cement, as much as \$100 a ton.

That means that rich governments will have to pony up the money for themselves and for developing countries to cover the difference.

And these are not trifling sums. The report starts off talking of \$2.6 trillion to \$3 trillion in "additional investment" through 2050. But the report throws trillion-dollar figures around with such abandon, it's hard to measure the true cost. A few pages later, for instance, the report estimates the "additional cost" of all the carbon capture projects in the world at \$6.6 trillion.

Then there is the sheer physical difficulty of installing 3,400 carbon-capture projects around the world by 2050. That's an average of 85 projects per year, every year, till the middle of the century, or one every four days. Starting pitchers can't even keep up that pace to throw a few innings. Imagine trying to make, move, install, test, and commission large-scale carbon-capture projects at that pace. And then find a place to put all those millions of tons of carbon dioxide.

Because carbon capture without storage is meaningless. The carbon emissions that are caught have to get stuffed.



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

Ready for another generation?

underground via pipelines. The IEA figures 360,000 kilometers of pipeline should do the trick. That's nine trips around the earth. Somebody better look up steel futures if that's the case.

Plenty of countries—from the U.S. and the U.K. to China and India—are banking on carbon capture and storage to keep coal a part of the energy mix. It might just do the trick, if the world can afford it. The bigger question might be: Is there anything else to spend those billions on that might also do the trick?

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READ BY:
MURIEL PERLOFF

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WSJ.com

02/15/2009 10:15 AM EST

Bailing Out of the Chamber: Are Apple and Nike Smart or Shortsighted?

The Wall Street Journal edit page has leapt to the defense of the Chamber of Commerce—rattled in recent days by the high-profile defections of a few big companies at odds with the Chamber's stance on climate change.

The thrust of today's editorial, which centers on the recent departures of Apple (from the Chamber) and Nike (from the Chamber's Board of Directors), boils down to a single promise: "Apple and Nike are putting green political correctness above the long-term interests of their own shareholders."

Really?

The WSJ argues that both companies will suffer in the long run by bailing out of the Chamber now. By staying in, they could help fight against any legislation that would unduly raise the cost of doing business, in addition to counting on the Chamber's help on other issues in the future. But embracing action on climate change, the WSJ says, is short-sighted.

Or self-serving, since both Nike's and Apple's manufacturing is centered in countries that are refusing to curb their own emissions, such as China. That puts them outside the reach of any extra costs imposed by climate-change legislation in the U.S.

However, if a climate bill passes, both Apple and Nike could be subject to carbon tariffs on goods produced in countries, such as China, that don't curb their own emissions. Apple and Nike would be "especially vulnerable," the WSJ notes.

But since all imports from those countries would be subject to carbon tariffs, Apple and Nike's rivals' products would presumably be hit with the same duties, which would take the sting out a bit.

In other words, it's hard to see how Apple and Nike's embrace of climate legislation will necessarily hurt their shareholders.

Confusingly, explicitly looking out for shareholder interests doesn't always win the WSJ edit page endorsement.

The three utilities who left the Chamber before Nike and Apple—PG&E, PNM, and Exelon—stated to reap economic benefits from any climate-change legislation due to their investments in renewable energy and nuclear power. That's just "political rent-seeking," complained the edit page recently.

The broader question, as James Surowiecki noted, is whether the old debate over more or less business regulation is still valid when the issue in question is a potentially drastic change to the earth itself—and all its consumers:

But it may reflect a calculation that global warming is simply too big an issue to get wrong, both economically—few companies are really going to benefit from the melting of the polar ice caps—and from a public-relations point of view [...] We assume that lobbies always recognize what's best for their members. But they don't, and, in the case of climate change, they may

very well be missing what the companies that have resigned in protest have seen: global warming isn't just bad for the planet; it's bad for business.

In any event, the kerfuffle isn't going away anytime soon. Activist shareholders today sent a letter to 14 big companies—including Alcoa, Boeing, Ford, and GM. The letters ([here's one](#)) ask the companies to clarify this "starkly contradictory" message of staying in the Chamber while publicly advocating action on climate change.

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WSJ.com

U.S. NEWS AND WORLD NEWS

Survey Says: Americans Not Worried About Global Warming

A new pull-out today on Americans' attitudes about climate change presents sobering findings for those that favor aggressive action to curb U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases.

The survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press finds a sharp decline over the past year in the percentage of Americans who see solid evidence that global temperatures are rising. According to the survey, conducted between Sept. 30 and Oct. 4 among 1,500 adults reached on cell phones and landlines, fewer respondents also see global warming as a very serious problem. 35% say that today, down from 44% in April 2008.

The survey also points to a decline in the proportion of Americans who say global temperatures are rising as a result of human activity. Just 36% say that currently, down from 47% last year.

Not everything in the poll is bad news for those that favor capping U.S. emissions. According to the survey, a majority (56%) of Americans think the United States should join other countries in setting standards to address global climate change, while 32% say that the United States should set its own standards. And half of Americans favor setting limits on carbon emissions and making companies pay for their emissions, even if this may lead to higher energy prices.

On the other hand, more than half (55%) say they haven't heard about so-called "cap and trade" legislation being considered in Congress. (Then again, Sen. John Kerry says he doesn't know what "cap and trade" means either.)

The poll's findings come just days before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works is scheduled to hold hearings on legislation that calls for cutting U.S. emissions 20 percent beneath 2005 levels by 2020.

They also coincide with the release of a new Government Accountability Office study that says most federal, state and local officials have not yet taken steps to adapt to the impacts of global warming that America can expect.

Not surprisingly, opponents and supporters of carbon caps have very different takes on the poll's findings.

"Perhaps the most interesting finding in this poll, aside from the precipitous drop in the number of independents who believe global warming is a problem, is that the more Americans learn about cap-and-trade, the more they oppose cap-and-trade," says Sen. James Inhofe (R., Okla.), a longtime skeptic of climate-change warnings.

Daniel Weiss at the left-leaning Center for American Progress, says the findings point to the effectiveness of "right-wing media personalities" in "distorting science while the mainstream media remains trapped in its 'he said, she said' narrative" about the science.

Andrew Kohut, president of the Pew Research Center, says he's a little surprised by the decline in the percentage of respondents who see solid evidence of global warming. On the other hand, Mr. Kohut said, "we have since the onset of the recession seen people giving lower priority to environmental issues" in polls.

Overall, Mr. Kohut says the disposition of most Americans appears to be "to want to do something" about climate change, "but it's not as sharp as it would be in a different economic climate."





GUESS WHO DOESN'T HAVE
A PLAN FOR RETIREMENT?

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WSJ.com

October 22, 2009 11:24 AM ET

California Dreaming: Is Energy Efficiency Really That Easy?

So energy efficiency is again the talk of the town, with a number of states banking on the idea that using less electricity adds up to more power in the end. Rebecca Smith reports today in *The Wall Street Journal* on a spate of interest from states from California to Maine in starting or beefing up energy efficiency programs.



Proposals of state

boost efficiency further.

Energy Secretary Steven Chu, late of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, often points to California's efficiency efforts as a template for what the rest of the country can do. Last month, [The Atlantic highlighted](#) the "California Experiment" with energy.

But California's success with energy efficiency can't simply be translated to the rest of the country, as [The Atlantic noted](#). Researchers at Stanford University [set out to see](#) just why Californians use less electricity than the rest of the country.

The answer? All of California's policies to boost efficiency—from new standards, to higher electricity rates, to regulatory changes for utilities—explain less than one-quarter of the gap between California and the rest of the country.

The other three-quarters are best explained by factors such as a temperate climate (which requires less heating and cooling) and an industrial base that's not very heavy on heavy industry.

Which isn't to say that energy efficiency isn't a good investment. But it does suggest that electricity use—just like renewable energy and real estate—depends an awful lot on location, location, location.

[Photo credit:](#)

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WSJ.com

October 22, 2009 11:58 AM EDT

Why the Copenhagen Climate Talks Will Be a Bust

If computer models can predict changes to the global climate, why not ask computer models to predict the outcome of global climate negotiations?

That's what political scientist-cum-super-predictor Bruce Bueno de Mesquita did in his finding? The big climate showdown in Copenhagen will be a bust—and the rest of the century is only going to get worse. [From Foreign Policy.](#)

Despite the hoopla, the U.N. climate change conference in Copenhagen is destined to fail. Here's what will happen instead: Over the next several decades, world leaders will embrace tougher emissions standards than those proposed—and mostly ignored—in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. But real support for tougher regulations will fall. By midcentury, the mandatory emissions standards in place will be well below those set at Kyoto, a far cry from the targets for carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases set to be discussed by world leaders in Copenhagen. And by the time 2100 rolls around, the political will for tougher regulations will have dried up almost completely. The reasons are many, but come down to this: Today's emerging powerhouses like Brazil, India, and China simply won't stand for serious curbs on their emissions, and the pro-regulation crowd in the United States and Europe won't be strong enough to force their hands. How do I know all this? Because in 1979, I learned that I could predict the future.

Faithful viewers of Jon Stewart or readers of [this newspaper](#)—may already have heard of Mr. de Mesquita. He uses game theory to predict what will happen in business and foreign affairs and is showing his new book about his thirty years of uncanny accuracy at calling the unexpected.

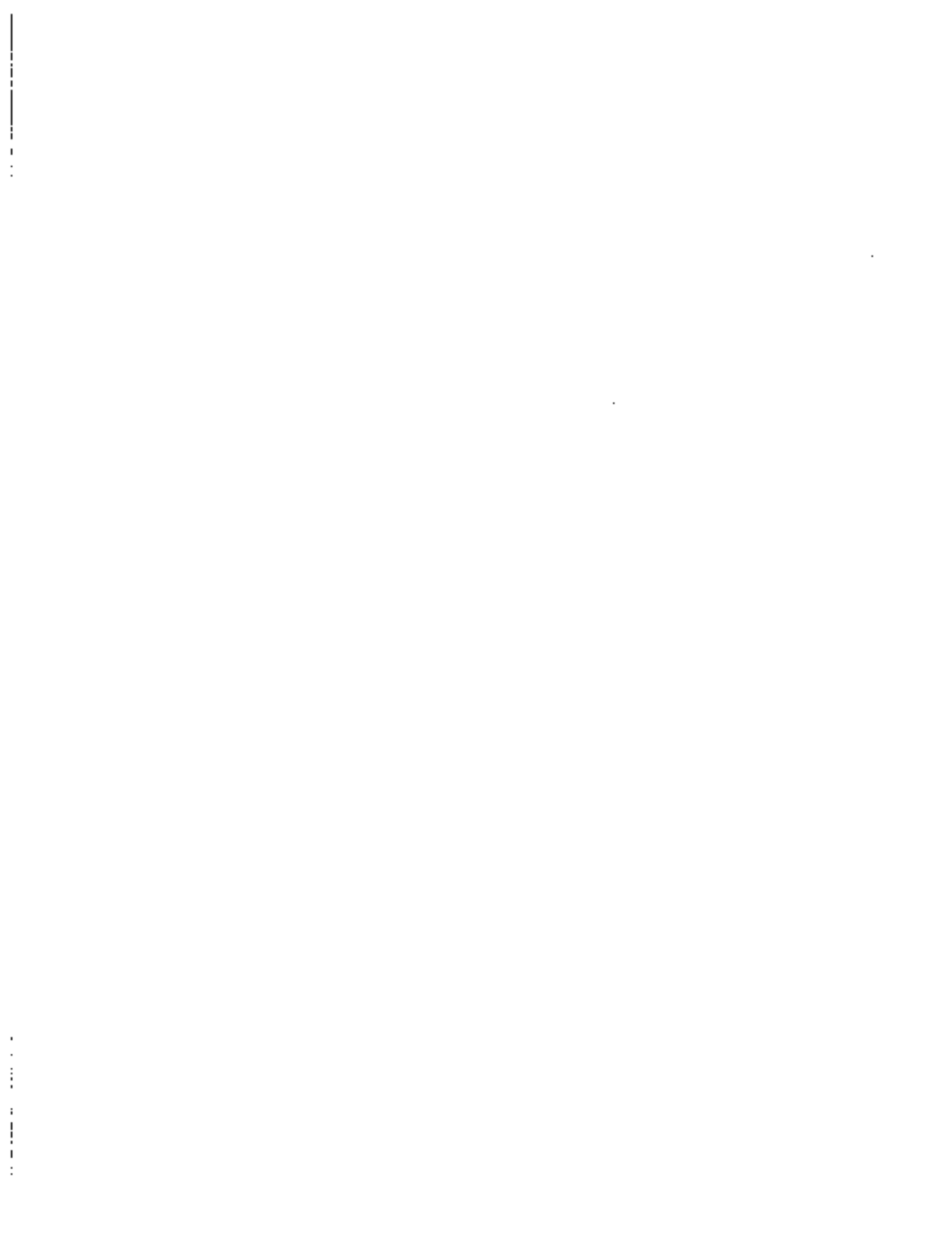
What's interesting about the climate prediction isn't that Copenhagen looks like a bust—everybody from the UN to male boss to Chinese negotiators has been hollering that all week. What's interesting is that, according to Mr. de Mesquita's model, this is pretty much the high-water mark for global green rhetoric.

And that's not necessarily a bad thing. Global climate crisis like the Kyoto Protocol and the Copenhagen talks try to herd more than 190 countries into agreement. That, he says, is an unhelpful race to the bottom: "To get everyone to agree to something potentially costly, the something they actually agree to must be neither very demanding nor very costly... Sacrificing self-interest for the greater good just doesn't happen very often. Governments don't throw themselves on hard grenades."

So what's the answer? "New technologies will solve this problem for us," he writes.

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year, and the idea that clean energy will drive new industries and spark job creation has been at the center of Mr. Obama's energy push since the campaign trail.

And just a day after a new [Pew poll](#) suggested that Americans are becoming less concerned about global warming, the President did not explicitly try to make the case for why a national cap-and-trade program to curb greenhouse-gas emissions—the centerpiece of the Senate legislation—is important.

That leaves the ball in the court of Senators John Kerry and Barbara Boxer. The big question facing both now is how to make the energy and climate bill attractive enough to garner Republican support without undermining all the clean-energy and climate provisions that motivated the bill in the first place.

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WSJ.com

October 23, 2009 10:46 AM ET

India Returns to Hardline Stance on Climate Change Talks

In a week in U.S. politics, it's an eternity in climate politics

Take India. On Monday, it seemed that a big country with an important geo-political position on climate talks was preparing for a sea change in its approach to global warming. A leaked, confidential letter from the environment minister hinted India could jettison the Kyoto Protocol and back off demands for cash and clean-tech gear, raising hopes for a breakthrough in global climate talks.

Then the Indian government moved quickly to squash any such talk. Then India and China signed a five-year pact on Wednesday to coordinate their stance on climate-change negotiations. "There is no difference between Indian and Chinese positions," India's chastened environment minister said.

Then just yesterday, India's prime minister ratcheted up the rhetoric again, reiterating the need for developed countries to provide developing countries with the wherewithal to clean up their economies—essentially for free. From the FT:

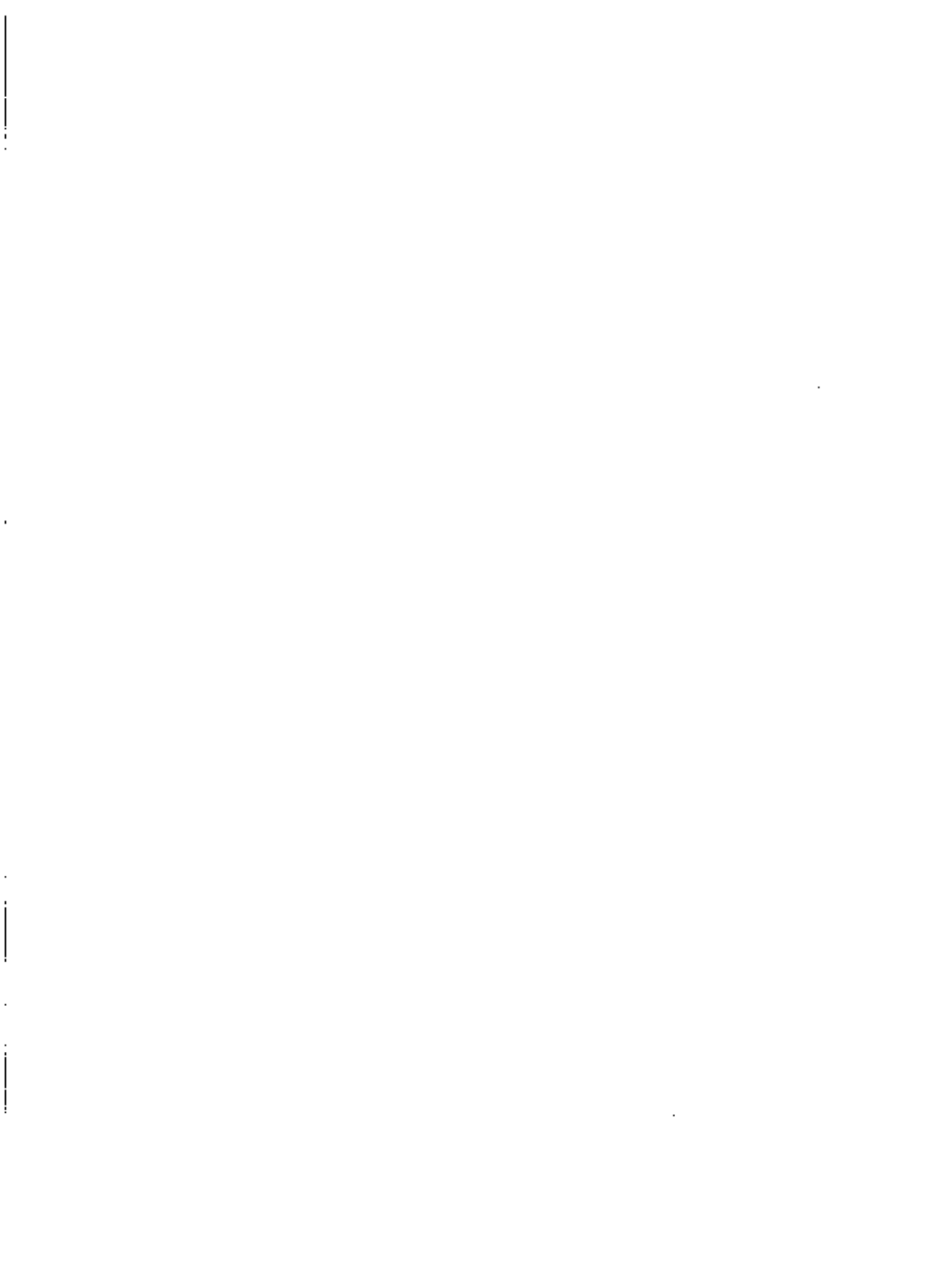
"Climate friendly and environmentally sound technologies should be viewed as global public good," [Prime Minister Manmohan] Singh told the United Nations-sponsored Delhi High Level Conference on Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer. "Such an approach has been adopted successfully in the case of pharmaceutical technologies for the benefit of HIV/AIDS victims in developing countries. The moral case of a similar approach for protecting our planet and its life support systems is equally compelling."

Chinese officials quickly echoed the call, saying that access to advanced technologies was "crucial" to the outcome of the Copenhagen climate summit. That repeated call for unfettered access to clean technology is the one thing that unsettles big companies (such as General Electric, Siemens and others) which are otherwise thrilled about the business prospects of a world dedicated to rebuilding its entire energy infrastructure.

With less than 50 days before the Copenhagen summit, it looks increasingly likely that the long-awaited confab will be the crucible of a death foretold. Whether that's a disaster or a blessing in disguise, only time will tell.

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Statisticians Reject 'Global Cooling': Earth IS Heating Up

Monday, October 26, 2009

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Have you heard that the world is now cooling, instead of warming? You may have seen some news reports on the Internet or heard about it from a provocative new book.

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Only one problem: It's not true, according to several independent statisticians who analyzed temperature data for The Associated Press.

The case that the Earth might be cooling partly stems from recent weather. Last year was cooler than previous years. It's been a while since the super-hot years of 1998 and 2005. So is this a longer climate trend or just weather's normal ups and downs?

In a blind test, the AP gave temperature data to four independent statisticians and asked them to look for trends, without telling them what the numbers represented. The experts found no true temperature declines over time.

"If you look at the data and sort of cherry-pick a micro-trend within a bigger trend, that technique is particularly suspect," said John Greig, a professor of statistics at the University of South Carolina.

Yet the idea that things are cooling has been repeated in opinion columns, a BBC news story posted on the Drudge Report and in a new book by the authors of the best-seller "Freakonomics." Last week, a poll by the Pew Research Center found that only 57 percent of Americans now believe there is strong scientific evidence for global warming, down from 77 percent in 2006.

Global warming skeptics base their claims on an unusually hot year in 1998. Since then, they say, temperatures have dropped — thus, a cooling trend. But it's not that simple.

Since 1998, temperatures have dipped, soared, fallen again and are now rising once more. Records kept by the British meteorological office and satellite data used by climate skeptics still show 1998 as the hottest year. However, data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and NASA show 2005 has topped 1998. Published peer-reviewed scientific research generally cites temperatures measured by ground sensors, which are from NOAA, NASA and the British, more than the satellite data.

The recent Internet chatter about cooling led NOAA's climate data center to re-examine its temperature data. It found no cooling trend.

"The last 10 years are the warmest 10-year period of the modern record," said NOAA climate monitoring chief Deke Arndt. "Even if you analyze the trend during that 10 years, the trend is actually positive, which means warming."

The AP sent expert statisticians NOAA's year-to-year ground temperature changes over 150 years and the 30 years of satellite-measured temperatures preferred by skeptics and gathered by scientists at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Statisticians who analyzed the data found a distinct decades-long upward trend in the numbers, but could not find a significant drop in the past 10 years in either data set. The ups and downs during the last decade reveal random variability in data as far back as 1850.

Saying there's a downward trend since 1998 is not scientifically legitimate, said David Peterson, a retired Duke University statistics professor and one of those analyzing the numbers.

Identifying a downward trend is a case of "people coming at the data with preconceived notions," said Peterson, author of

the book "Why Did They Do That? An Introduction to Forensic Decision Analysis."

One prominent skeptic said that to find the cooling trend, the 30 years of satellite temperatures must be used. The satellite data tends to be cooler than the ground data. And key is making sure 1998 is part of the trend, he added.

It's what happens within the past 10 years or so, not the overall average, that counts, contends Don Easterbrook, a Western Washington University geology professor and global warming skeptic.

"I don't argue with you that the 10-year average for the past 10 years is higher than the previous 10 years," said Easterbrook, who has self-published some of his research. "We started the cooling trend after 1998. You're going to get a different line depending on which year you choose."

"Shouldn't the actual temperature be higher now than it was in 1998?" Easterbrook asked. "We can play the numbers game."

That's the problem, some of the statisticians said.

Grego produced three charts to show how choosing a starting date can alter perceptions. Using the skeptics' satellite data beginning in 1998, there is a "mild downward trend," he said. But doing that is "deceptive."

The trend disappears if the analysis starts in 1997. And it trends upward if you begin in 1999, he said.

Apart from the conflicting data analyses is the eyebrow-raising new book title from Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, "Super-Freakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance."

A line in the book says, "Then there's this little-discussed fact about global warming: While the drumbeat of doom has grown louder over the past several years, the average global temperature during that time has in fact decreased."

That led to a sharp rebuke from the Union of Concerned Scientists, which said the book mischaracterizes climate science with "distorted statistics."

Levitt, a University of Chicago economist, said he does not believe there is a cooling trend. He said the line was just an attempt to note the irony of a cool couple of years at a time of intense discussion of global warming. Levitt said he did not do any statistical analysis of temperatures, but "cyberpated" the numbers and noticed 2005 was hotter than the last couple of years. Levitt said the "cooling" reference in the book title refers more to ideas about trying to cool the Earth artificially.

Statisticians say that in sizing up climate change, it's important to look at moving averages of about 10 years. They compare the average of 1999-2005 to the average of 2000-2009. In all data sets, 10-year moving averages have been higher in the last five years than in any previous years.

"To talk about global cooling at the end of the hottest decade the planet has experienced in many thousands of years is ridiculous," said Ken Caldeira, a climate scientist at the Carnegie Institution at Stanford.

Ben Santer, a climate scientist at the Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore National Lab, called the "a concerted strategy to obfuscate and generate confusion in the minds of the public and policy-makers" ahead of international climate talks in December in Copenhagen.

President Barack Obama weighed in on the topic Friday at MIT. He said some opponents "make cynical claims that contradict the overwhelming scientific evidence when it comes to climate change — claims whose only purpose is to defeat or delay the change that we know is necessary."

Earlier this year, climate scientists in two peer-reviewed publications statistically analyzed recent years' temperatures against claims of cooling and found them not valid.

Not all skeptical scientists make the fat-out cooling argument:

"I pretty much depends on when you start," wrote John Christy, the Alabama atmospheric scientist who collects the satellite data that skeptics use. He said in an e-mail that looking back 31 years, temperatures have gone up nearly three-quarters of a degree Fahrenheit (four-fifths of a degree Celsius). The last dozen years have been flat, and temperatures over the last eight years have declined a bit, he wrote.

Oceans, which take longer to heat up and longer to cool, greatly influence short-term weather, causing temperatures to rise and fall temporarily on top of the overall steady warming trend, scientists say. The biggest example of that is El Niño.

El Niño, a temporary warming of part of the Pacific Ocean, usually spikes global temperatures, scientists say. The two recent warm years, both 1998 and 2002, were El Niño years. The flip side of El Niño is La Niña, which lowers temperatures. A La Niña bloomed last year and temperatures slipped a bit, but 2008 was still the ninth hottest in 130 years of NOAA records.

Of the 10 hottest years recorded by NOAA, eight have occurred since 2000, and after this year it will be nine because this year is on track to be the sixth-warmest on record.

The current El Niño is forecast to get stronger, probably pushing global temperatures even higher next year, scientists say. NASA climate scientist Gavin Schmidt predicts 2010 may break a record, so a cooling trend "will be never taken back again."

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