

**A SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES  
FOR REPORTS, DOCUMENTS, AND ARTICLES ON ENERGY,  
ENVIRONMENT, AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES**

*Compiled by the American Resource Center*

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*Views expressed in the articles and reports are those of the authors  
and do not necessarily reflect U.S. Government policies.*

## 1) ENVIRONMENTAL ARTICLES FROM U.S. JOURNALS

**Catching a Wave, Powering an Electrical Grid?** by Elizabeth Rusch. Smithsonian, July 2009, pp. 66-71.

In this article, Rusch profiles electrical engineer Annette von Jouanne, head of the Wallace Energy Systems and Renewables Facility at Oregon State University, and one of the driving forces in the development of wave energy. By some projections, tapping the energy of the tides could meet 6.5 percent of U.S. electric power needs. Many researchers over the years have attempted to build devices to transform the energy of waves into electricity, but von Jouanne advocates simplicity in design to achieve the most dependable energy flow. Her current design now being tested is shaped like a flying saucer with a generating coil and a sliding magnet assembly capable of generating a few kilowatts of electricity in a gentle wave. Building the device is only one design problem; a means to keep it anchored and consistently functioning in the tides is also challenging. The Oregon State researchers also need to avoid creating a device that could damage the seaside ecosystem.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/Catching-a-Wave.html#>

**Factoring People into Climate Change** by Barbara Crossette. The Nation, September 14, 2009.

When the climate-change summit of world leaders convenes on September 22, it is very likely that the subject of women will not come up, notes the author. Although many governments pay lip service to population growth, few make the link between population and the environment. The subject of family planning is also taboo in many circles; one participant country in the climate talks has already sounded a warning to keep population off the table. The U.N. and many global NGOs and activists agree on the necessity to accept that population and climate change need to be part of an integrated policy, although making inroads into political thinking is a slow process. The author notes that U.S. officials can go to the talks, knowing that American public opinion overwhelmingly supports family planning programs worldwide, despite the attempts of some American politicians to polarize the issue.

<http://www.thenation.com/doc/20090928/crossette>

**Habitat Saved** by Roger Di Silvestro. National Wildlife, August/September 2009, 6 p.

The author describes how a non-governmental organization and the publisher of this magazine, the National Wildlife Federation, has successfully challenged environmentally destructive government policies in court. One decision limiting the availability of federally-issued flood-plain insurance, that encourages development of habitat uninsurable by private companies, will help preserve endangered Key deer in Florida, killer whales in Washington State's Puget Sound, and black bears and cypress forests in Mississippi's Yazoo River Basin. Global warming, the author says, makes such areas more vulnerable to flooding, and "business as usual in floodplains is changing."

<http://www.nwf.org/NationalWildlife/article.cfm?issueID=130&articleID=1757>

**How to Prevent the Next Pandemic** by Nathan Wolfe. Scientific American, April 2009.

An international network for monitoring the flow of viruses from animals to humans might help scientists head off global epidemics. Most human infectious diseases originated in animals. Historically, epidemiologists have focused on domestic animals as the source of these scourges, But wild animals also have transmitted many diseases to us, including HIV. To address the threat posed by wild animals, researchers are studying the microbes of these creatures and the people who come into frequent contact with them. Such monitoring may enable scientists to spot emerging infectious diseases early enough to prevent them from becoming pandemics.

Preview available online at <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=preventing-next-pandemic>

**Is There a Place for Nuclear Waste?** by Matthew L. Wald. Scientific American, August 2009, 4 p.

Yucca Mountain was supposed to be the answer to the U.S. nuclear waste problem, but after 22 years and \$9 billion, that vision is dead. Now, some say that doing nothing in the near term may be the smartest solution. The Obama administration has effectively canceled the plan to store nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. Spent fuel will for the foreseeable future continue to be stored on-site at 131 locations around the country. The end of Yucca means that all options for waste disposal are now in play, including recycling, use in advanced reactors and burial at other sites.

Preview available online at: <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=is-there-a-place-for-nuclear-waste>

**The State of the Climate — and of Climate Science** by Corey Powell. Discover, June 2009, pp. 38-43.

Global warming is at once the most alarming challenge and the most controversial. Despite the potential for catastrophic environmental outcomes, a large segment of the U.S. public still doubts that climate change will cause major harm, or that it is occurring at all. Discover Magazine editor-in-chief Powell moderates a discussion between four prominent climate scientists, who discuss the evidence that climate change is occurring. For them, the number of different events that are all happening simultaneously would be very hard to explain if not for global warming -- such as the loss of ice mass in both polar regions, the increasing acidification of the oceans, and the potential for widespread crop failures in many equatorial regions where crops are already being raised at temperatures close to their photosynthetic limits. They fear that it may be too late to make the needed changes if humanity waits until there is international cooperation; what is needed is leadership by the U.S. and Europe, and other nations will follow.

<http://discovermagazine.com/2009/jun/30-state-of-the-climate-and-science>

**Wind Power's Weird Effect** by Jonathan Fahey. Forbes Magazine, September 7, 2009.

The news about wind power is mixed, notes the author. The good news is that, thanks to cheap wind energy, in some parts of the country when there is too much power on the grid, wholesale power prices are now dropping to zero or below at certain times of the day.

The bad news is that wind turbines spin the most at night when demand is low and least during afternoons when power is needed. Some power plants are hard pressed to power down when wind power is at its highest. In the long run, the wind power boom could push daytime prices higher. To balance out fickle wind turbines, utilities will need electricity during peak times from gas-fired plants; that intermittent power will be expensive.

<http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2009/0907/outfront-energy-exelon-wind-powers-weird-effect.html>

**The World's Largest Fossil Wilderness** by Guy Gugliotta. Smithsonian, July 2009, pp. 14-16.

Two abandoned coal mines in eastern Illinois contain the largest fossil forest ever discovered -- over four square miles of tropical wilderness preserved intact over 300 million years ago. This accident of nature occurred when an earthquake suddenly lowered the swamp, and sand and mud rushed in, covering everything. This site is so valuable to science because it provides a snapshot of life on Earth just prior to a period of great change, and most of the species found in the Riola and Vermilion Grove mines would later vanish. Researchers believe that the carbon-dioxide content of the atmosphere had suddenly grown; studying the relationship between this primordial atmospheric change and changes in vegetation may offer clues on how today's ecosystem could respond to increases in carbon-dioxide levels caused by the burning of fossil fuels.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Phenomena-Forest-Primeval.html>

## 2) U.S. ACTIONS

**Proposed Rulemaking: Light-Duty Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards and Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards.** EPA, September 15, 2009.

The combined EPA and NHTSA standards that make up this proposed National Program would apply to passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty passenger vehicles, covering model years 2012 through 2016. They require these vehicles to meet an estimated combined average emissions level of 250 grams of carbon dioxide per mile, equivalent to 35.5 miles per gallon (MPG) if the automobile industry were to meet this carbon dioxide level solely through fuel economy improvements. Together, these proposed standards would cut carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 950 million metric tons and 1.8 billion barrels of oil over the lifetime of the vehicles sold under the program (model years 2012-2016). Under this proposed National Program, automobile manufacturers would be able to build a single light-duty national fleet that satisfies all requirements under both the National Program and the standards of California and other states, while ensuring that consumers still have a full range of vehicle choices.

<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/climate/regulations.htm>

**Chesapeake Bay Compliance and Enforcement Strategy.** EPA, September 9, 2009.

The Chesapeake Bay is North American's largest and most biologically diverse estuary, home to more than 3,700 species of plants and animals. It is about 200 miles long, contains more than 11,000 miles of tidal shoreline, and is fed by 100,000 creeks, streams and rivers. The watershed spreads over 64,000 square miles and includes parts of six states – Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia – and all of the District of Columbia. As of 2007, approximately 17 million people lived within the Bay watershed. The Bay provides significant economic and recreational benefits, estimated to exceed \$33 billion annually, to the watershed's population.

The Bay's waters are threatened by pollution from a variety of sources. In order to address non-compliance with federal environmental laws and associated environmental impacts to this watershed, EPA has developed a draft Chesapeake Bay Compliance and Enforcement Strategy.

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/civil/initiatives/chesapeakebay-strategy-enforcement-090909.pdf>

**Sustainable Materials Management: The Road Ahead.** EPA, June 2009.

How our society uses materials is fundamental to many aspects of our economic and environmental future. If we want the US to be competitive in the world economy, the sustainable use of materials must be our goal. Sustainable Materials Management: The Road Ahead suggests a roadmap for the future based on materials management—fulfilling human needs and prospering, which using less materials, reducing toxics and recovering more of the materials used.

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/inforesources/pubs/vision2.pdf>

**Requirements and Procedures for Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Program.** U.S. Department of Transportation, July 2009.

The final rule sets forth requirements and procedures for the voluntary vehicle trade-in and purchase/lease program under the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Act of 2009. The program helps consumers pay for a new, more fuel efficient car or truck from a participating dealer when they trade in a less fuel efficient car or truck. The rule establishes a process by which dealers can register in order to participate in the program and establishes the criteria this agency will use to determine which disposal facilities are eligible to receive and either crush or shred the trade-in vehicles.

<http://www.gao.gov/decisions/majrule/d09981r.pdf>

**Fifty-Year Record of Glacier Change Reveals Shifting Climate in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, USA.** U.S. Geological Survey, August 2009.

The report shows that glaciers are dramatically changing in mass, length and thickness as a result of climate change. Over the past 50 years, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) scientists have monitored the melting of Alaska's Gulkana and Wolverine Glaciers and Washington's South Cascade Glacier, yielding the longest such records in North America.

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2009/3046/>

**Twentieth-Century Decline of Large-Diameter Trees in Yosemite National Park, California, USA.** J.A. Lutz et al, U.S. Geological Survey, July 29, 2009.

Large trees have declined in Yosemite National Park during the 20th century, and warmer climate conditions may play a role. A decline in large trees means habitat loss and possible reduction in species such as spotted owls, mosses, orchids and fishers, a carnivore related to weasels. Fewer new trees will grow in the landscape because large trees are a seed source for the surrounding landscape. Large-diameter trees generally resist fire more than small-diameter trees, so fewer large trees could also slow forest regeneration after fires.

[http://www.werc.usgs.gov/yosemite/pdfs/Lutz\\_vanWagtendonk\\_Franklin\\_Declining\\_Large\\_Trees\\_FEM\\_2009.pdf](http://www.werc.usgs.gov/yosemite/pdfs/Lutz_vanWagtendonk_Franklin_Declining_Large_Trees_FEM_2009.pdf)

**Taking Up the Security Challenge of Climate Change.** Rynn J. Parsons, Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Department of Defense, August 2009.

Climate change, in which man-made global warming is a major factor, will likely have dramatic and long lasting consequences with profound security implications, making it a challenge the United States must urgently take up. The security implications will be most pronounced in places where the effects of climate change are greatest, particularly affecting weak states already especially vulnerable to environmental destabilization.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdffiles/PUB932.pdf>

### **3) CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE REPORTS (CRS)**

**Biochar: Examination of an Emerging Concept to Mitigate Climate Change**  
(02/03/09)

This report briefly describes biochar, its potential advantages and disadvantages, legislative support, and research and development activities underway in the United States and abroad.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/117780.pdf>

**Carbon Tax and Greenhouse Gas Control: Options and Considerations for Congress** (02/23/09)

Market-based mechanisms that limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions can be divided into two types: quantity control (e.g., cap-and-trade) and price control (e.g., carbon tax or fee). To some extent, a carbon tax and a cap-and-trade program would produce similar effects: Both are estimated to increase the price of fossil fuels, which would ultimately be borne by consumers, particularly households. Although there are multiple tools available to policymakers that could control GHG emissions—including existing statutory authorities—this report focuses on a carbon tax approach and how it compares to its more frequently discussed counterpart: cap-and-trade.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/120592.pdf>

## **Clean Air Issues in the 111th Congress (01/16/09)**

Attention to clean air issues in the 111th Congress is expected to focus on climate change and the regulation of emissions from electric utilities. In the last Congress, at least half a dozen bills were introduced to address electric utility air emissions and about a dozen bills addressed the regulation of greenhouse gases (GHGs) economy-wide. None passed. The Lieberman-Warner bill to establish a cap-and-trade system for GHGs (S. 2191/S. 3036) was reported by the Environment and Public Works Committee and debated briefly on the Senate floor. Bills similar to this are expected to have a high priority in the new Congress.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/120611.pdf>

## **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): Status and Issues**

(02/05/09)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides farmers with financial and technical assistance to plan and implement soil and water conservation practices. EQIP is the largest agriculture conservation financial assistance program for working lands. EQIP was first authorized in 1996 and was most recently revised by Section 2501 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246, the 2008 farm bill). It is a mandatory spending program (i.e., not subject to annual appropriations) and is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Funding is currently authorized to grow to \$1.75 billion in FY2012. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pasture, non-industrial private forestland, and other land on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed through an EQIP contract.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/117782.pdf>

## **Fishery, Aquaculture, and Marine Mammal Issues in the 111th Congress**

(02/19/09)

Fish and marine mammals are important resources in open ocean and nearshore coastal areas; many federal laws and regulations guide their management as well as the management of their habitat.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/120573.pdf>

## **Issues in Green Building and the Federal Response: An Introduction**

(01/16/09)

The construction, characteristics, operation, and demolition of buildings are increasingly recognized as a major source of environmental impact. Without significant transformation of building construction and operations, such impacts are expected to increase with population growth and changes in other demographic and economic factors. One strategy for achieving that transformation is most widely known by the term green building. However, the term is used differently by different proponents and practitioners, denoting a continuum of practices, from those differing minimally from standard practices, to those aimed at providing buildings with a minimum of environmental impact.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/116696.pdf>

## **U.S. Global Climate Change Policy: Evolving Views on Cost, Competitiveness, and Comprehensiveness (01/29/09)**

U.S. policy toward global climate change evolved from a “study only” to a more “study and action” orientation in 1992 with ratification of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Convention committed developed countries to aim at returning their greenhouse gas emissions to their 1990 levels by the year 2000. The U.S. decision to ratify the UNFCCC reflected both the nonbinding nature of the accord and analyses that suggested that the United States could achieve the necessary reduction at little or no cost. Under the UNFCCC, developed countries were to adopt national plans and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The United States submitted such plans in 1992, 1994, 1997, 2002, and 2006.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/117784.pdf>

## **4) THINK TANKS**

### **BROOKINGS INSTITUTION**      **BROOKINGS**

**Climate Change Policy: Recommendations to Reach Consensus.** Brookings Institution, September 2009

As the financial crisis continues to take its toll on the global economy, another serious challenge looms large: preventing the planet from warming more than 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit. Policymakers are now faced with the daunting task of stimulating growth without using carbon-intensive practices and stabilizing the climate without dampening economic recovery. If the financial crisis has shown that the future is unpredictable and that the nations and people of the world are interconnected in ways we do not always perceive, the climate challenge reinforces these lessons and suggests the need for timely, global coordination.

[http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2009/09\\_climate\\_change\\_poverty.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2009/09_climate_change_poverty.aspx)

**Climate Change and Vulnerable Societies.** Kemal Derviş, Brookings Institution, July 23, 2009.

Kemal Derviş testifies before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on America’s critical role in supporting climate change adaptation in the world’s most vulnerable communities. Derviş recommends enacting globally accepted policies to effectively tackle climate change and protect those most affected.

[http://www.brookings.edu/testimony/2009/0723\\_climate\\_change\\_dervis.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/testimony/2009/0723_climate_change_dervis.aspx)



**North American Environmental Atlas.** Commission for Environmental Cooperation, September 2009.

An atlas that gathers and presents information designed to help us understand continental-scale environmental issues has been released by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). The North American Environmental Atlas is intended for use by both environmental scientists and the citizens of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Its maps and services are designed to help the public visualize environmental topics at a continental scale. An example of this is the pollutant mapping tool in Google Earth that allows you to explore information about more than 30,000 facilities across the United States of America, Mexico, and Canada. For users of geographic information, this Atlas offers basic cartographic and environmental data for the continent at no cost.

<http://www.cec.org/naatlas/index.cfm?varlan=english>

GREENPEACE



**Arctic Could Be Free of Summer Sea Ice by 2030.** Greenpeace, September 17, 2009.

Framm Strait, Arctic — As the minimum area of summer Arctic sea-ice extent was today reported to have plummeted to the third-lowest level ever in recorded history, the Greenpeace ship Arctic Sunrise is hosting world-class sea ice expert Dr. Peter Wadhams, on a mission to conduct research into sea-ice loss in the Arctic Ocean, off the northeast coast of Greenland. “We’re entering a new epoch of sea ice melt in the Arctic Ocean due to climate change,” said Dr. Peter Wadhams. “In five years’ time most of the sea-ice could be gone in summer with just an ‘Alamo of ice’ remaining north of Ellesmere Island. In 20 years’ time, that will also be gone, leaving the Arctic Ocean completely ice-free in summer. It’s clear we can’t rely on current models of prediction for sea-ice melt, as they have been constantly outpaced since the 1980s.”

<http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/press-center/releases2/arctic-could-be-free-of-summer#>

HERITAGE FOUNDATION



**Waxman-Markey’s Effect on Gas Prices in Your State.** Nicolas Loris and Ben Lieberman, Heritage Foundation WebMemo #2598, August 28, 2009.

The Waxman–Markey energy bill, which would restrict greenhouse gas emissions by creating a cap-and-trade system, was passed by the House in June and will likely be considered by the Senate soon. If this bill becomes law, gasoline prices would increase significantly in order to meet emissions limits imposed by the legislation.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/wm2598.cfm>

**Climate Change & National Park Wildlife: A Survival Guide for a Warming World.** National Parks Conservation Association, August 2009.

Wildlife and public lands need help surviving the conditions caused by climate change, such as droughts, warmer temperatures, and loss of habitat. The report recommends strategies to help wildlife adapt, including providing land corridors and reducing stress from pollution and invasive species.

[http://www.npca.org/climatechange/wildlife\\_survival/pdfs/00-NPCA-Wildlife.pdf](http://www.npca.org/climatechange/wildlife_survival/pdfs/00-NPCA-Wildlife.pdf)

**NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL**



**A Clear Blue Future: How Greening California Cities Can Address Water Resources And Climate Challenges in the 21st Century.** Noah Garrison et al, Natural Resources Defense Council, August 10, 2009.

The report highlights low impact development, or LID, as a land planning and engineering design approach for storm water management. LID enables cities, states, and individuals to increase access to safe and reliable sources of water while reducing the amount of energy consumed and global warming pollution generated when delivering water to residents.

<http://www.nrdc.org/water/lid/files/lid.pdf>

**PEW**



Pew  
Research  
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**A Copenhagen Climate Agreement.** Pew Center on Global Climate Change, September 2009.

The upcoming UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen presents an historic opportunity to strengthen the international response to global climate change. The aim in Copenhagen should be agreement on the fundamentals of a new multilateral framework ensuring that all major economies contribute equitably to the global climate effort. This interim agreement should establish the basic legal and institutional architecture of a post-2012 framework within which governments can then negotiate a final agreement containing specific national commitments.

<http://www.pewclimate.org/international/copenhagen-climate-agreement>

**Realities vs. Misconceptions About the Science of Climate Change.** Science FAQ, Pew Center on Global Climate Change, August 2009.

The issue of climate change has received so much attention in recent years that it has become difficult for interested citizens and policymakers to separate facts from fiction.

Climate change is one of the most cutting edge research fields in modern science, but the field has existed for more than a century and much knowledge has been established with high certainty and confidence. This page clears up some of the most common misconceptions about the science of climate change.

<http://www.pewclimate.org/science-impacts/realities-vs-misconceptions>

**National Security Implications of Global Climate Change.** Pew Center on Global Climate Change, August 2009.

Experts warn that climate change represents a real threat to American security. A new Pew Center memo looks at these national security implications.

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/national-security-implications-memo-august2009.pdf>

RAND



**Improving the Energy Performance of Buildings: Learning from the European Union and Australia.** Charles P. Ries, Joseph Jenkins, Oliver Wise RAND, September 21, 2009.

The United States can become more energy efficient and create more “green” jobs by adopting some of the strategies used by the European Union and Australia to rate and disclose the performance of commercial and government-owned buildings, according to a new RAND Corporation study issued today. The study finds that wealthier countries use more than a third of their energy to heat, cool and illuminate buildings, but not always efficiently. Recent steps taken by the European Union and Australia to inspect, rate and publicly disclose the energy efficiency of buildings indicate the buildings use less energy and are worth more when sold or leased.

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/2009/RAND\\_TR728.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2009/RAND_TR728.pdf)

REN21



**Renewables Global Status Report, 2009.** Ren21, August 25, 2009.

The update tracks renewable energy investment, deployment, and policy developments, among other useful data. It has been published by REN21 - Renewable Energy Networks for the 21st Century a partner of ICLEI. The report provides a useful overview on city and local government activities on renewable energy. Found on page 20, this municipal update indicates that hundreds of cities worldwide are actively pursuing renewable energy policies as part of their climate strategies.

[http://www.ren21.net/pdf/RE\\_GSR\\_2009\\_Update.pdf](http://www.ren21.net/pdf/RE_GSR_2009_Update.pdf)

**Workshop Report: Climate Change Mitigation: Considering Lifestyle Options in Europe and the U.S.** Falk Schuetzenmeister, Institute of European Studies, University of California, Berkeley, August 2009.

The report summarizes the presentations and outcomes of a European-American Workshop about lifestyle changes as a mitigation strategies for global warming. The conference was held on May 1, 2009 at the University of California, Berkeley and sponsored by the European Commission. The participants discussed various lifestyle approaches as a promising way to address environmental behavior and action within social and cultural contexts. The presenters and discussants acknowledged the theoretical and practical difficulties of this multi-faceted concept which relies on several sometimes virtually incommensurable traditions.

<http://repositories.cdlib.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1093&context=ies>

**WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE**



**Online Resource Puts Ecosystem Services Experts at Fingertips.** 15 September 2009.

The World Resources Institute (WRI) and other leading international environmental organizations today launched the Ecosystem Services Experts Directory, a public online directory that allows journalists, business and governments to locate and contact specialists in ecosystem services.

<http://www.wbcsd.org/Plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?DocTypeId=251&ObjectId=MzU2MzI>

**Climate Change Legislation: Myths and Reality.** Jessica Forres and Polly Ghazi, World Resources Institute, August 25, 2009.

The study shows quick “reality checks” on common misconceptions about climate change legislation in the United States.

<http://www.wri.org/stories/2009/08/climate-change-legislation-myths-and-reality>



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