



### **No one can do everything. Everyone can do something.**

A clean house is often associated with a "fresh" smell, so it's ironic that synthetic air fresheners could be contaminating homes with phthalates or formaldehyde. To really freshen up a room, try opening the windows first. Next, invest in houseplants. NASA has been studying the pollution-reducing abilities of plants for years. Some of the plants tested by NASA and shown to remove benzene, trichloroethylene, and formaldehyde from the air include the peace lily, spider plant, golden pothos, mother-in-law's tongue, bamboo palm, ficus, pot mum, and gerbera daisy. *From Sierra Club's "The Green Life"*

### **The Chuckle of the Week...**

...comes from Yvo de Boer, head of the U.N. Climate Change Secretariat: "If I was walking my trolley through the supermarket about to buy a power station and knew that governments of the world are aiming for minus 50 percent by 2050 I know that it would influence my purchasing choice," he said. [Ummmm....don't put that power station on top of the bread!]

Thanks to Rene Cochise, Mark Buccowich, Phillip Rodbell, Joni Packard, Al Todd, Scott Stewart, Gina Childs, and anyone I might have missed for contributing great content to this update!

### **News:**

[carbon & general]

#### *EPA Presses Obama to Regulate Warming Under Clean Air Act*

The Environmental Protection Agency's new leadership, in a step toward confronting global warming, submitted a finding that will force the White House to decide whether to limit greenhouse gas emissions under the nearly 40-year-old Clean Air Act.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/23/AR2009032301068.html?hpid=topnews>

#### *Obama Makes Bold Climate Prediction: We'll Get it Done*

President Obama struck an optimistic note last night on the prospects for signing a major global warming law, pledging also to craft a bill that takes into account economic concerns and the country's regional differences over energy production.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2009/03/25/25climatewire-obama-makes-bold-capandtrade-prediction-well-10277.html>

#### *What to Expect When You're Expecting a Climate Treaty*

Climate leaders in both Congress and the United Nations are optimistic about making landmark progress on an international climate accord this year, but hopes that an agreement will be *finalized* in 2009 seem to be dimming.

<http://gristmill.grist.org/story/2009/3/26/144318/521?source=daily>

#### *Melting of Antarctic Ice Becoming Unstoppable*

The good news is that it would take more than 1,000 years to melt the massive ice sheet in west Antarctica that could raise sea levels by 16 feet.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change/melting-of-antarctic-ice-becoming-unstoppable-1648405.html>

#### *Global Carbon Price Unlikely for 10-15 Years*

A single global price for carbon emissions is not likely for another 10 to 15 years because governments are dragging their heels on legislation, market analysts said on Wednesday.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE52H4S920090318?feedType=RSS&feedName=environmentNews>

#### *Seeing the Forest for the Carbon... from Space*

Brazil may lead the world in deforestation, but it's also a leader in using technology to try and reverse the process. The next step is measuring the amount of carbon captured in trees – and making sure it stays there. **Ecosystem Marketplace** examines the latest developments.

[http://ecosystemmarketplace.com/pages/article.news.php?component\\_id=6617&component\\_version\\_id=9912&language\\_id=12](http://ecosystemmarketplace.com/pages/article.news.php?component_id=6617&component_version_id=9912&language_id=12)

#### *Three VCS Registries Open...on their own*

The three carbon registries supporting the Voluntary Carbon Standard's "meta-registry" have begun listing Voluntary Carbon Units, but they aren't yet communicating with each other as planned.

[http://ecosystemmarketplace.com/pages/article.news.php?component\\_id=6615&component\\_version\\_id=9900&language\\_id=12](http://ecosystemmarketplace.com/pages/article.news.php?component_id=6615&component_version_id=9900&language_id=12)

#### *The First Green Step: Fighting Global Warming Starts with a Greenhouse Gas Registry*

The lack of concrete data on which facilities were emitting greenhouse gases and how much they were spewing into the atmosphere led to a major flaw in the European Union's cap-and-trade system: the over-allocation of pollution permits to industry. This mistake led to the collapse of the carbon market. Thanks to action taken by the Environmental Protection Agency this month, the United States will not make the same mistake.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/26/AR2009032603469.html>

#### *Danish Pension Giant Launches \$900m Clean Energy, Forestry Bet*

Danish pension fund ATP has announced a \$400 million investment in renewable energy private equity firm Hudson Clean Energy, and has made its first investment out of a \$500 million pot for sustainable forestry.

<http://www.environmental-finance.com/onlinews/0326atp.html>

#### *Idled US Farmland May be a Large Carbon Sink: USDA*

The Conservation Reserve, which pays owners to idle fragile U.S. farmland, could become one of the largest carbon sequestration programs on private land, an Agriculture Department official said on Wednesday.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE52O5H020090325?feedType=RSS&feedName=environmentNews>

#### *Farmers Want Obama to Make Carbon a Cash Crop Under Climate Law*

Rex Woollen grows corn and soybeans. In 2007, the Wilcox, Nebraska, farmer started cultivating a new commodity: carbon. By not tilling his 800 acres, Woollen by some estimates keeps 470 tons of carbon per year in the ground and out of the atmosphere. Because of that, Woollen gets carbon credits he can sell on the Chicago Climate Exchange.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=aFYk4zlrQRms&refer=us>

*RGGI's Latest Carbon Auction Raises \$117 Million*

<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2009/03/20/rggis-latest-carbon-auction-raises-117m/>

*Electric Cooperatives to Announce Forest Carbon Offset Option*

A group of electric cooperatives will be soon be offering their customers the option to offset their "carbon footprint" by protecting Georgia forests, using a surcharge on their monthly power bills.

<http://www.macon.com/news/local/story/656226.html>

*More Trouble Ahead for Australia's Carbon Trading Scheme*

The Australian government faces increased opposition to its carbon trading scheme after it released legislation it hopes to pass by mid-year, reports the [Voice of America](#). The carbon pollution reduction scheme or CPRS calls for a reduction of carbon emissions by five percent of 2000 levels by 2020.

<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2009/03/19/more-trouble-ahead-for-australias-carbon-trading-scheme/>

*Google to Roll Out Free Tool to Help Save Energy*

Google Inc is soon to roll out free software which allows consumers to track their home electricity use and improve energy efficiency in a bid to help mitigate global warming.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE52G52O20090317?feedType=RSS&feedName=environmentNews>

*Earth Hour to Take Place This Saturday to Call for Action on Climate Change*

Earth Hour is an event led by the World Wildlife Fund that will take place Saturday, March 28, at 8:30 p.m. when hundreds of millions of people around the world turn off their lights in a global "vote" for action on climate change.

<http://www.earthhour.org/home/>

[water]

*Investors Urge Better Disclosure of Water Risk*

Companies are largely unaware of water-related risks, or how climate change will likely exacerbate them, says a report from investor and environmentalist coalition Ceres, which urges businesses to report their 'water footprint'.

<http://www.environmental-finance.com/onlinews/0305cer.html>

*Water Quality Trading Likely to Grow: WRI*

Growing problems over water quality means more trading programmes are likely to be introduced, according to a [study](#) from the World Resources Institute. But, to be effective, they must have strong drivers to create demand for credits.

<http://www.environmental-finance.com/onlinews/0326wat.html>

*2010 to be Pivotal Year for Nutrient Credit Trading in PA to hit the (nutrient) trading tables*

According to the Lancaster Farming Newspaper, if you are in the business of selling nitrogen or phosphorus credits, 2010 next year may see a boom in the market. What's so special about 2010? That's when many water and sewer authorities must come into compliance with new nutrient regulations for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

<http://lancasterfarming.com/node/1246>

*As Climate Changes, is Water the New Oil?*

If water is now the kind of precious commodity that oil became in the 20th century, can delivery of clean water to those who need it be the same sort of powerful force as the environmental movement in an age of climate change?

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE52L0TC20090322?feedType=RSS&feedName=environmentNews>

*Drought Turns Water into a Cash Crop*

As Don Bransford prepares for his spring planting season, he is debating which is worth more: the rice he grows on his 700-acre farm north of Sacramento, or the water he uses to cultivate it. After three years of drought in California, water is now a potential cash crop.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123785079745319125.html>

*Roundup from the World Water Forum*

<http://www.iisd.ca/ymb/water/worldwater5/>

<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2009/03/18/streaming-live-from-world-water-forum-nations-businesses-consider-the-way-forward/>

Ok, more of a geographical issue than a water issue, but worth taking note of how melting glaciers no permafrost landslides impact water quality...

*Melting Snow Prompts Border Change Between Switzerland and Italy*

Global warming is dissolving the Alpine glaciers so rapidly that Italy and Switzerland have decided they must re-draw their national borders to take account of the new realities.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/melting-snow-prompts-border-change-between-switzerland-and-italy-1653181.html>

[biodiversity, biomass, other]:

*Forestry Decline Threatens BC's Biomass Plants*

The largest biomass power plant in North America is running short of fuel. In the past few weeks, EPCOR Power's Williams Lake facility watched as the town's six forestry mills halted production, drying up their source for cheap, local wood waste that has fed their operation for 15 years.

<http://www.forestrycenter.org/headlines.cfm?refID=105591>

*Want the Money, Learn the Language*

Financial markets aren't getting the glory these days, but they still control access to the green – and if payment for ecosystem services schemes and other conservation projects are going to

attract the trillions needed to halt environmental degradation, ecosystem project developers will have to get better at packaging their assets to resemble traditional investment products.  
[http://ecosystemmarketplace.com/pages/article.opinion.php?component\\_id=6652&component\\_version\\_id=9951&language\\_id=12](http://ecosystemmarketplace.com/pages/article.opinion.php?component_id=6652&component_version_id=9951&language_id=12)

### **Blogs:**

*Sub-prime Carbon: Environmentalists Worry About the Next Big Bubble*

President Obama and Congress are nowhere near drafting a climate bill, but the angst over the future carbon market is in full bloom. There are two good reasons for that: The recent financial meltdown in the U.S., and the recent carbon-market meltdown in Europe.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/environmentalcapital/2009/03/26/subprime-carbon-environmentalists-warn-about-the-next-big-bubble/>

### **Reports:**

*GAO Report, released 3/25/09:*

Climate Change: Observations on Federal Efforts to Adapt to a Changing Climate

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09534t.pdf?source=ra>

*WRI Issue Brief: Water Quality Trading Programs – An International Overview*

[http://pdf.wri.org/water\\_trading\\_quality\\_programs\\_international\\_overview.pdf](http://pdf.wri.org/water_trading_quality_programs_international_overview.pdf)

*Climate Literacy: “The Essential Principles of Climate Sciences”*

<http://www.climatescience.gov/>

*Friends of the Earth Releases a Report: Subprime Carbon*

<http://www.foe.org/subprime-carbon>

### **Journal Articles:**

Norris, C.E.; Quideau, S.A.; Bhatti, J.S.; Wasylishen, R.E.; MacKenzie, M.D. 2009. Influence of fire and harvest on soil organic carbon in jack pine sites. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* 39, 642-654.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1139/x08-207>

### **Online events:**

U.S. EPA ECOSYSTEM SERVICES RESEARCH PROGRAM SEMINAR SERIES PRESENTS:

INVEST: A Tool for Mapping and Valuing Hydrological and Other Ecosystem Services

Taylor H. Ricketts, and Driss Ennaanay, WWF & Stanford University

Thursday, April 2, 2009

3:00-4:30 pm EST

Seminar Audio Feed: Call 866-299-3188 then enter Conference Code “919-541-4909#”

Powerpoint Slides: A file containing the presentation slides will be available on the EPA Environmental Science Connector (<http://portal.epa.gov/ESC>) Look for the file under either the "Ecosystem Services Research Program" Project or "Ecosystem Services Seminar Series" Project

**Events:**

Wall Street Green Trading Summit VIII  
April 01, 2009 - April 02, 2009  
New York, New York  
<http://www.wsgts.com/>

PointCarbon: Navigating the Carbon World  
April 1-3, 2009  
San Diego  
<http://www.pointcarbon.com/events/conferences/navigating09/1.1007782>

Water Resources Research Conference  
Amherst, MA  
[www.WRRConference.com](http://www.WRRConference.com)

Carbon TradeEx America 2009  
April 7-8, 2009  
Washington , DC  
<http://www.carbontradeexamerica.com/>

"Watershed Central: A New Gateway to Watershed Information"  
April 15, 2009  
Eastern Time: 1-3 p.m.  
Webinar, to join EPA for this exciting webcast to learn about Watershed Central visit web site:  
[www.epa.gov/watershedcentral](http://www.epa.gov/watershedcentral).

Bioenergy North America 2009  
April 17, 2009  
Chicago, Illinois  
<http://www.environmental-finance.com/conferences/2009/BioNam09/intro.htm>

One Day Workshop on Carbon Sequestration at the 33rd Annual Inter-Tribal Council Symposium  
April 20, 2009  
Lewiston, Idaho  
[www.itcnet.org/includes/downloads/2009symposiumagenda.pdf](http://www.itcnet.org/includes/downloads/2009symposiumagenda.pdf)

Carbon Expo 2009: New Momentum for the Global Carbon Market  
May 27-29, 2009

Barcelona

[www.ieta.org/ieta/www/pages/index.php](http://www.ieta.org/ieta/www/pages/index.php)

10th National Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment

January 21-22, 2010

Washington, DC

<http://ncseonline.org/conference/greeneconomy/>

2009 Water Quality Standards Academy - Basic Course

May 11-15, 2009

Arlington, Crystal City, VA

[www.epa.gov/watershedcentral](http://www.epa.gov/watershedcentral).