

Hi folks! Happy 09. Happy 01/09/09 for that matter. I want to let you know about some fun-loving changes you'll soon be seeing... our good friends Carbon and Biofuels have generously decided to move over and make room for Ecosystem Services. So don't panic! don't be alarmed! if one day in the near future the name morphs into something slightly different. An "NA/NRS Carbon & Biofuels Update" by any other name...would still be as wildly entertaining?!? We'll see...

This week, thanks to Maria Janowiak, Al Steele, Sally Claggett, and Phillip Rodbell for contributing articles!

No one can do everything. Everyone can do something. A Dutch creative communications company has recently "created a font that can cut the use of ink by about 20%....The type style, Ecofont, has little holes in the letters" which are "barely visible at at size 10" and are perfect for draft printouts. Check it out and/or download the Ecofont:

<http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/latest/ecofont-50123008?kw=ist>

Featured:

The **Climate Change Continuing Education Spring Semester Webinar Series** begins next Wednesday, January 14 2pm EST with a presentation on "Interactions Between Carbon, Climate, and Forests" by Chris Swanston of the Northern Research Station. Additional presentations and webinar login information are listed below:

January 14, 2009 | Wed | 2pm EST:

Interactions Between Carbon, Climate, and Forests

Presenter: Chris Swanston (Research Ecologist, Northern Research Station, USFS)

February 11, 2009 | Wed | 2pm EST:

Forest Management During Climate Change

Presenter: Maria Janowiak (Outreach Scientist, Northern Institute of Applied Carbon Science)

March 18, 2009 | Wed | 2pm EST:

CVal: A Carbon Valuation Tool for Foresters and Private Forest Landowners

Presenter: Sarah Hines (Ecosystems Services Specialist, USFS)

April 15, 2009 | Wed | 2pm EST:

TBA

May 13, 2009 | Wed | 2pm EST:

TBA

Website: <http://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=747085393&p=&t=c>

Meeting Number: 747085393

(No web password required)

Phone number: 1.866.581.6894

Passcode: 8623725

News:

New US Federal Office Puts Ecosystem Markets at Forefront of Resource Management

It took the formation of the Securities and Exchange Commission to create a trustworthy market for securities in the United States, and it took the formation of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to legitimize futures and options trading by offering clear regulations backed by the rule of law.

http://ecosystemmarketplace.com/pages/article.news.php?component_id=6356&component_version_id=9502&language_id=12

Ten Northeast States hold 2nd Carbon Auction

A coalition of 10 northeastern states put 31.5 million tons of carbon on the block Wednesday in the second of a series of auctions that could lay the groundwork for a national "cap and trade" program to curb global warming.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9557EG00.htm>

The Nation's First Cap and Trade System Could Expand to Cars

Eleven Eastern states support the reduction of carbon emissions from cars and trucks, indicating that the nation's first regional cap on power plant pollution could be vastly expanded to target a primary source of greenhouse gases.

Full text at end of email, or by subscription here: <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2009/01/06/2/>
<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gW0utrheENAN76jxnEwSbz00J-oQD95H7R000>

Pelosi Says House Can Pass Cap and Trade, but Timetable is Uncertain

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) said yesterday that she has enough votes to pass cap-and-trade legislation aimed at curbing the effects of global warming but would not commit to holding a vote in 2009. Speaking to reporters in the Capitol, Pelosi said she has sufficient backing in the Democratic-controlled House to move a cap-and-trade bill, but will not force the issue. "I'm not sure this year, because I don't know if we'll be ready," Pelosi said. "We won't go before we're ready."

Full text at end of email, or by subscription here:

<http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/rss/2009/01/06/4>

Canada's Forests, Once Huge Help on Greenhouse Gases, Now Contribute to Climate Change

As relentlessly bad as the news about global warming seems to be, with ice at the poles melting faster than scientists had predicted and world temperatures rising higher than expected, there was at least a reservoir of hope stored here in Canada's vast forests.

http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-canada-trees_wittjan02,0,539661.story

US Agriculture Carbon Credit Market Evolving

Beginning on January 30, the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCE) announced that it will limit its sale of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions "offset" initiatives to those occurring in the current year or future years. Current rules allow companies to purchase offsets from ranchers for practices reducing GHG emissions that were implemented as far back as 2003, leading some to question the efficacy of the CCE's ability to reduce emissions.

NOTE: Ditto for forestry and XFO credits – no backdating soon!

<http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/01/05/ap5881686.html>

Department of Energy Announces \$200 Million for Advanced Biorefineries

The U.S. Department of Energy said it was making available up to \$200 million for advanced biofuel pilot refineries, expecting to award five to a dozen projects over the next six years.

<http://www.timberbuysell.com/Community/DisplayNews.asp?id=4013>

UN Climate Conference: Countdown to Copenhagen

In 331 days' time, 15,000 officials from 200 countries will gather in the Danish capital with 1 goal: to find a solution to global warming. Michael McCarthy, Environment Editor, presents the first in a series of dispatches on the crucial summit.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change/un-climate-conference-the-countdown-to-copenhagen-1242601.html>

First World Bank Green Bonds Launched

The World Bank has this week announced that it has raised approximately \$350m through the issuance of its first wave of "green bonds" specifically designed to invest in low carbon projects in developing economies.

<http://www.businessgreen.com/business-green/news/2233386/world-bank-raises-350m-green>

What We've Learned in 2008: How our understanding of climate change has evolved in the past 12 months

http://www.nature.com/climate/2009/0901/full/climate.2008.142.html?utm_source=GHG+Management+Institute&utm_campaign=37094f62f2-Jan_2009_Mailer1_1_2009&utm_medium=email

Paying for Nature's Services

John Campagna believes that the key to saving the Chesapeake Bay isn't a water scrubbing gizmo or new breed of super oyster. It's the free market.

Scroll down to the article:

<http://www.urbanitebaltimore.com/sub.cfm?ArticleID=1124&IssueID=68&SectionID=4>

Exxon CEO Calls for Carbon Tax Over Cap-and-Trade Program

On January 8, Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson called on Congress to enact a national carbon tax in a speech given at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC. In contrast to a cap-and-trade program, Tillerson called a carbon tax "more direct, a more transparent and a more effective approach."

<http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/01/08/ap5896946.html>

Higher Temperatures Seen Reducing Global Harvests

Thousands of people died from the heat that baked western Europe in the summer of 2003. The heat wave also devastated the region's agricultural sector: In France, where temperatures were 3.6°C above normal, the country's corn and fruit harvests fell more than 25%. Thirty-one years earlier, another very hot summer shrank harvests in southwest Russia and Ukraine and led to a tripling in world grain prices.

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/323/5911/193?rss=1>

On a related note:

Green Revolution: Still Possible Amid Deep Recession?

In 2008, oil prices spiked then collapsed, climate-change talks stuttered, and nuclear power reemerged. Europe banned incandescent light bulbs, Britain made cutting emissions legally binding, and US President-elect Barack Obama appointed the greenest US cabinet ever. But what does this augur for 2009?

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/0107/p05s01-wogn.html>

And in this week's Carbon Market North America Newsletter from PointCarbon:

- Climate Policy to battle economic downturn in 2009
- RGGI prices and market commentary
- Canada's green groups doubtful of progress on GHG regulations
- US carbon company buys Canadian verifier
- Lieberman said to be readying cap-and-trade legislation
- EPA should not regulate carbon: US Chamber of Commerce
- Deadline nears for US ranchers to receive carbon credits
- RGGI states roll out transportation plans
- Global carbon market news

http://www.pointcarbon.com/polopoly_fs/1.1033448!CMNA20000109.pdf

Blogs:

Real Climate's 2008 Year in Review

<http://www.realclimate.org/index.php/archives/2008/12/2008-year-in-review/>

See the reforest from the trees

As of 2007, the shrinking forests in the tropical regions were releasing 2.2 billion tons of carbon per year. Meanwhile, expanding forests in the temperate regions were absorbing 0.7 billion tons of carbon annually. On balance, a net of some 1.5 billion tons of carbon were being released into the atmosphere each year, contributing to global warming.

<http://gristmill.grist.org/story/2008/12/30/113934/55?source=rss>

Reports:

Best Practices for Including Carbon Sinks in Greenhouse Gas Inventories

Recent developments in U.S. GHG reporting programs are critical for considering if and how to include forest carbon sinks in an organizational level emissions inventory. This paper includes a review of the latest emissions inventory guidance in the IPCC *Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry*, the GHG Protocol's *Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) Guidance for GHG Project Accounting*, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability's *Urban Forestry Toolkit*, and the California Climate Action Registry and Chicago Climate Exchange requirements for emissions reduction forestry projects.

<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/conference/ei16/session3/ravin.pdf>

Journal Articles:

Johnson, E. Goodbye to carbon neutral: Getting biomass footprints right. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*.

Most guidance for carbon footprinting, and most published carbon footprints or LCAs, presume that biomass heating fuels are carbon neutral. However, it is recognised increasingly that this is incorrect: biomass fuels are not always carbon neutral. Indeed, they can in some cases be far more carbon positive than fossil fuels. This flaw in carbon footprinting guidance and practice can be remedied. In carbon footprints (not just of biomass or heating fuels, but all carbon footprints), rather than applying sequestration credits and combustion debits, a 'carbon-stock change' line item could be applied instead. Not only would this make carbon footprints more accurate, it would make them consistent with UNFCCC reporting requirements and national reporting practice. There is a strong precedent for this change. This same flaw has already been recognised and partly remedied in standards for and studies of liquid biofuels (e.g. biodiesel and bioethanol), which now account for land-use change, i.e. deforestation. But it is partially or completely missing from other studies and from standards for footprinting and LCA of solid fuels. Carbon-stock changes can be estimated from currently available data. Accuracy of estimates will increase as Kyoto compliant countries report more land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) data. © 2008.

<http://www.scopus.com/scopus/inward/record.url?eid=2-s2.0-57749204170&partnerID=40>

Liu, X.H.; Lu, X.G.; Jiang, M.; Shang, L.N.; Wang, X.G. 2008. Research on the valuation of wetland ecosystem services. *Shengtai Xuebao/ Acta Ecologica Sinica* 28, 5625-5631.

Ecological economics is increasingly concerned to find appropriate ways to value wetland ecosystem. This paper examines evaluation methods and values estimation of wetland ecosystem services. The characteristics of different methods are discussed. A wetland ecosystem services value sequence is described, and value coefficients, value changes are discussed. It then describes possible future developments in the field of wetland ecosystem services valuation, which includes confirming the main services, considering assessing the influence of various other factors, developing the dynamic models for values, the establishment of an ecological compensation mechanism and investigating the flow change of the constructed wetland service values. It strengthens understanding of wetland ecosystem services values and provides theoretical support for a sustainable balance between human and wetland environments.

<http://www.scopus.com/scopus/inward/record.url?eid=2-s2.0-57349190308&partnerID=40>

Ovando, P.; Caparro?s, A. Land use and carbon mitigation in Europe: A survey of the potentials of different alternatives. Energy Policy.

This paper surveys studies applied to Europe that analyse carbon emission mitigation alternatives involving the use of land. We analyse a variety of alternatives that include land-use changes, forest management and bioenergy production. Our aim is to approximate the aggregate amount of carbon offsets that can be achieved through these alternatives and to show to what extent the results of the different studies are compatible and take into account the fact that land is a finite resource. Finally, based on the surveyed studies, we estimate the potential contribution of these alternatives to the goals of emission reduction proposed by the European Union for the years 2020 and 2050. Taking into account the results of the different studies analysed in this survey, land-based alternatives can contribute from 13% to 52% of the European proposed target by 2020.

<http://www.scopus.com/scopus/inward/record.url?eid=2-s2.0-57549115430&partnerID=40>

Events:

Climate Change: A Threat to Life and a New Energy Future
Ongoing Exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History. NYC. Oct 18, 2008 – August 16, 2009.
<http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/climatechange/>

Carbon Markets North America 2009. Environmental Finance. Jan 15-16, 2009. Coral Gables, FL.
<http://www.environmental-finance.com/conferences/2009/Miami09/intro.htm>

Voluntary Carbon Markets USA. Green Power Conferences. Jan 22-23, 2009. NYC.
http://www.greenpowerconferences.com/carbonmarkets/vcm_us09.html

Carbon Trading: Investment Opportunities across the Carbon Credit Markets. Finance IQ. January 26-28, 2009. NYC. <http://www.iqpc.com/ShowEvent.aspx?id=146222>

Woody Biomass Workshop. January 28, 2009. Live Oak, FL.
<http://www.timberbuysell.com/Community/DisplayEvent.asp?id=283>

The Climate Registry Climate Policy Forum: "Charting the Path Ahead."
(<http://www.theclimateregistry.org/>)
Southeast (Tampa, FL) – Feb 3
Western (Denver, CO) – Feb 26
Midwest (Columbus, OH) – Mar 11

Ecosystem Services: Marketing Environmental Solutions. Virginia Tech. March 12-13, 2009.
Charlottesville, VA. <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/esmes/index.html>
National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference: Banking Under the New Rule. May 5-8, 2009.
Salt Lake City, UT. <http://www.mitigationbankingconference.com/>

Avoiding Deforestation in the Amazon through PES Markets. 2009 Katoomba Meeting. Mato Grosso, Brazil. April 1-2, 2009. http://www.katoombagroup.org/event_details.php?id=26

Carbon in Northern Forests: Integration of Research and Management. June 10-11, 2009. Traverse City, MI. <http://forest.mtu.edu/cinf/>

Full Text of Selected Articles:

STATES: The nation's first cap-and-trade system could expand to cars (01/06/2009)

Evan Lehmann, E&E reporter

Eleven Eastern states support the reduction of carbon emissions from cars and trucks, indicating that the nation's first regional cap on power plant pollution could be vastly expanded to target a primary source of greenhouse gases.

Every state in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative committed to a low carbon fuel standard by signing a letter of intent released yesterday. The plan would regulate gasoline burned by vehicles, as well as fuel used to heat homes and businesses and for industrial processes. Pennsylvania, a top polluter observing the 10-state cap-and-trade program, also signed the letter.

The new cost on traditional fuel could spur the development of alternative energy sources and electric cars, Ian Bowles, Massachusetts' secretary of energy and environment, said in a statement. Massachusetts was a key state in promoting the fuel standard.

The move comes days after the regional initiative began regulating 233 power plants from Maine to Maryland. The plan, launched on Jan. 1, seeks a 10 percent reduction in carbon dioxide from those facilities by 2018. Regulating fuel is a "natural outgrowth" of the initiative, according to the press release distributed by Bowles' office.

'The next logical target for reduction'

"After power generation, transportation is the next logical target for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and a Low Carbon Fuel Standard gives us a market-based mechanism to get the environmental results we need," Laurie Burt, a commissioner in the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, said in the release.

The move to clean up cars could soften criticism of the initiative's modest pollution requirements, which call for annual emission reductions of 2.5 percent between 2015 and 2018.

In signing the letter, the states committed to developing a memorandum of understanding regarding the development of a low-carbon fuel standard by Dec. 31, 2009. They will also work on a framework for the standard "in order to ensure sustainable use of renewable fuels in the region," according to the release.

Iowa, meanwhile, is considering a separate plan that could reduce emissions 90 percent by midcentury through energy efficiency, low-carbon agricultural practices and renewable energy projects.

A committee created by the governor is recommending 56 steps at a cost of \$4.8 billion to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide expelled from the state's utilities, businesses, cars and other sources. The recommendations include a cap-and-trade program and an array of other steps intended to reduce electricity use.

State lawmakers will consider two paths laid out by the Iowa Climate Change Advisory Council. The first would reduce emissions 50 percent by 2050, compared to 2005 levels. The other would cut emissions 90 percent over the same time period.

Chopping carbon in the heartland

The report indicates that residents could save \$1 billion in electricity costs through efficiency programs. Other recommendations, such as renewable energy programs on farms, could cost taxpayers.

The council, which included 23 members from divergent industries and environmental groups, expresses support for developing cellulosic fuel sources -- which will compete with corn-based ethanol. It also promotes environmentally friendly agricultural processes, like tilling fewer acres and using less fertilizer. Only one recommendation failed to gain a majority vote: a carbon tax.

"It failed because of the sheer cost," said Marnie Stein, a senior environment specialist with the state's Department of Natural Resources, noting that the tax was projected to cost as much as \$2.9 billion.

Iowa became the 26th state to complete a sweeping emission reduction plan. Six other states, including Michigan, a key industrial emitter, are working on their own plans.

"It's been this enormous wave," said Tom Peterson of the Center for Climate Strategies, which helps states develop their plans.

All of those plans have been created since 2003, when state legislatures began passing requirements to reduce emissions, Peterson said. The state programs, in various stages of implementation, could complicate efforts by Congress to install one national greenhouse gas reduction plan.

CLIMATE: Pelosi says House can pass cap and trade, but timetable is uncertain (01/06/2009)

Darren Samuelsohn, E&E senior reporter

This story previously appeared in yesterday's E&ENews PM.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) said yesterday that she has enough votes to pass cap-and-trade legislation aimed at curbing the effects of global warming but would not commit to holding a vote in 2009.

Speaking to reporters in the Capitol, Pelosi said she has sufficient backing in the Democratic-controlled House to move a cap-and-trade bill, but will not force the issue. "I'm not sure this year, because I don't know if we'll be ready," Pelosi said. "We won't go before we're ready."

Pelosi acknowledged the December deadline looming over U.N. negotiations toward a new international climate change agreement. "We're sensitive to Copenhagen and the rest of that," she said, referring to the Denmark capital that will host the next annual U.N. conference. "And it's a very high priority for me."

But Pelosi said she could not guarantee that President-elect Barack Obama would be able to sign a cap-and-trade law before Copenhagen.

"I would certainly hope so, but I can't tell you that that is the case right now," she said. "Of all the bills that we have done, you know I sort of know the policies, I know what the possibilities are, this is the most, should we say, controversial, not controversial, mysterious."

Pelosi added, "There's so many ways we can go. We're seeing, studying what the Europeans did. They had to have some trial and error in what they did. And I think we have to be very careful, because we have to do it right, with cap and trade. We have to do it right. I don't think we can take any chances. So this is going to take some very thorough scrutiny as to how we go forward."

Incoming House Energy and Commerce Chairman Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) will take the lead in 2009 on a climate cap-and-trade bill. But to date, Waxman has not spelled out his plans for that legislation.

"To be determined," replied Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), a senior member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and Pelosi's point person on global warming issues, when asked yesterday about prospects for global warming legislation.

Markey added that he still has not made up his mind yet if he will assert his seniority and take the gavel of the House Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee currently held by the more moderate Rep. Rick Boucher (D-Va.). He said he will make his decision by next week.

Asked about her expectations for the timing of cap-and-trade legislation, Pelosi replied, "I don't know what the timetable will be. A lot of that will relate to how quickly we get through the recovery, whatever else we're doing, and when the bill will be ready. I don't think it's ready."

Proponents of global warming legislation must overcome concerns about the U.S. economy and long-standing opposition from conservative Republicans. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

ranking member James Inhofe (R-Okla.) said yesterday that cap-and-trade advocates still do not have enough votes despite Democratic pickups in November.

"I think the momentum really is on our side of the issue," Inhofe said. "The skeptics' side of the issue."

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