

Center for Environment, Commerce & Energy

The Center, founded in 1985, is an environmental organization dedicated to protecting the environment, enhancing human, animal and plant ecologies, promoting the efficient use of natural resources and expanding participation in the environmental movement.

Friday, April 06, 2012

Environmental Groups Sue EPA Over Coal Fly Ash

Several environmental groups are **suing the Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA) to force completion of long-planned national regulations to govern disposal of so-called coal ash, a waste product from power plants. The lawsuit filed on Thursday by the Sierra Club, Appalachian Voices, the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, the Environmental Integrity Project and others, states:



Fly Ash Pond

"In the absence of national standards requiring safe disposal, coal ash has been dumped in thousands of unlined and unmonitored ponds, landfills, pits and mines. The result has been the widespread release of hazardous pollutants from coal ash to water, air and soil, endangering human health and the environment."

The groups, who filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, say EPA is violating the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) by failing to update its regulations. The complaint says the waste streams contain "large quantities" of arsenic, lead, mercury and other toxins linked to neurological, developmental and other health problems.

EPA floated draft rules almost two years ago laying out options for regulation of the wastes. The coal industry and many coal-state lawmakers are seeking to prevent EPA from going with the tougher of the two options: regulating the materials under the hazardous waste title of RCRA, which is Subtitle C.

The push for coal ash rules stems in part from a late 2008 spill from a breached storage pond in Tennessee. The accident dumped 5.4 million cubic yards of the liquid material into and around a nearby river, destroying and damaging several homes.

It has been three decades since EPA last reviewed the coal ash disposal standards and over three years since the Tennessee Valley Authority Kingston spill. In 2010, power plants used unsafe and leak-prone coal ash ponds to dispose of wastes containing 113.6

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million pounds of toxic metals, a nearly ten percent increase from 2009. Yet EPA's proposed standards for safe disposal, including a plan to close down ash ponds within five years, have gone nowhere. ([The Hill](#), 4/5/2012)



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Sources of our calculations

The calculations for primary emissions are based on conversion factors sourced from:

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) - UK
- World Resource Institute (WRI) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol
- Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) - UK
- US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - USA
- US Department of Energy (DOE) - USA
- Green House Office - Australia
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9 May **An inconvenient lawsuit: Teenagers take global warming to the courts.** Industry giants say their case is misguided. But that isn't stopping a group of high school students from using the legal system to make environmental demands. **The Atlantic.**

9 May **April checks in at No. 3 on the all-time warmest list for the U.S.** Following the warmest March on record, the contiguous U.S. had its third-warmest April, and the year-to-date is running warmer than any other since record keeping began in 1895, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced. **Climate Central.**

9 May **British Columbia's emerging green faith movement.** Compassion for Creation, an event organized by Anglicans for Eco-justice over the impact of transporting more oil sands crude, is one more milestone towards more faith group participation in environmental debates. And the heavy Anglican presence at the forum reflects the increased pull environmental issues have among many mainline Christians. **Vancouver Tyee,** British Columbia.

9 May **Warm water marine species spreading northwards into British waters.** Exotic warm water marine species such as anchovy, bluefin tuna, stingray, and thresher shark are spreading northwards into British coastal waters, where average sea temperatures are now moving closer to the warmer conditions of southern Europe. **The Guardian,** United Kingdom.

9 May **Buying a new car? Think of the bigger picture.** The big arguments against electric cars are: 1) if you plug them into a dirty grid you aren't helping the environment and 2) you'll never save enough money on gas to make them pay. The Union of Concerned Scientists based in Cambridge, Mass., says otherwise. **Globe and Mail,** Ontario.

9 May **Brilliant solar ads say screw the environment, it's about paying less.** Now

that solar often is cheaper than coal, it needs to shed the image of being the power source equivalent of shopping at Whole Foods and start being just the thing that smart, frugal people have. Or so say the creative minds behind SunRun's new ad campaign. **Fast Company**.

9 May **EU's aviation carbon funds could aid developing world.** The EU is considering the deployment of carbon allowance revenues from international airlines to fund climate aid to the poorest countries, under a planned \$100 billion-a-year global relief fund. **Euractiv**, Belgium.

9 May **Coal terminal dogs Democrats running in closely divided new Wash. district.** A relatively small coal terminal proposed for rural northwest Washington state is shaping up to be a major headache for Democrats vying to represent Washington's diverse new 1st District. **E&E Daily**.

9 May **Goodbye nuclear power – and hello more carbon?** Mainstream green groups like Greenpeace and the Sierra Club remain avowedly antinuclear. But we know this: the early closing of nuclear plants in countries like Japan and Germany is bad news for the climate, at least in the short run. **Time Magazine**.

9 May **Climate change 'is harming eye health.'** It may be difficult to pin symptoms to global warming, but scientists agree that increased levels of ultraviolet radiation reaching the surface of the Earth, resulting from ozone depletion at high altitude, and a toxic mix of air pollutants are responsible for serious eye disorders. **London Times**, United Kingdom.

9 May **Conservative thinktanks step up attacks against Obama's clean energy strategy.** A network of ultra-conservative groups is ramping up an offensive on multiple fronts to turn the American public against wind farms and Barack Obama's energy agenda. A confidential strategy memo seen by the Guardian advises using "subversion" to build a national movement of wind farm protesters. **The Guardian**, United Kingdom.

9 May **Global climate treaty may demand more carbon cuts from 'poor' countries.** China and India may have to make bigger carbon emissions commitments as EU

climate chief says Kyoto model is outdated.
The Guardian, United Kingdom.

9 May **Feds "unlikely" to meet climate goals: Audit.** Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government is in the dark about the economic costs of its climate change policies and needs to carefully weigh the risks of scaling back federal oversight of industrial development, warned Parliament's environment watchdog Tuesday. **Postmedia News**.

9 May **Climate change threatens crucial marine algae.** Without major reductions in the use of fossil fuels, sunlight is to kill an unknown number of ocean phytoplankton, the planet's most important organism, a new study reports this week. **Inter Press Service**.

9 May **'We have seen the enemy': Bangladesh's war against climate change.** Devastating cyclones, floods and ruined crops have made Bangladesh 'the world's most aware society on climate change.' Gazipara, like thousands of other villages in coastal Bangladesh, is now racing to adapt to the increased flooding, erosion and salt-water intrusion. **The Guardian**, United Kingdom.

9 May **US completes warmest 12-month period in 117 years.** As far back as records go (1895), never has the U.S. strung together 12 straight months warmer than May 2011 to April 2012 according to new data released today by NOAA's National Climatic Data Center. The average temperature was 2.8 degrees F above the 20th century average. **Washington Post**.

9 May **Autopsy delay clouds Peru dolphin die-off mystery.** With the carcasses of dead pelicans still littering the beaches of northern Peru, investigators report that hotter than usual ocean temperatures have driven a type of anchovy deeper into the sea, beyond the reach of many young pelicans. The cause of a mass dolphin die-off however, still remains a mystery. **Associated Press**.

9 May **India to line up planes, radars against extreme weather.** India plans to introduce aircraft that can fly into tropical storms, weather radars and a network of rainfall gauges to gather data that will improve its response to disasters made worse by climate change, the head of its

disaster agency has said. [Reuters](#).

9 May **Climate change to impact forests in India.** Climate change will be an additional stress on Indian forests, especially in Upper Himalayan stretches, which are already subjected to multiple challenges including over-extraction, livestock grazing and human impact, according to a government report. [Press Trust of India](#), India.

9 May **A personal connection to climate change.** Nearly 40 people gathered at Paul Johnson's home in Upper Jay on Saturday to draw attention to the ways climate change has affected peoples' lives. [Adirondack North Country Public Radio](#), New York.

9 May **Norway boasts world's largest carbon dioxide capture lab.** Norway on Monday inaugurated what it called the world's largest laboratory for capturing carbon dioxide, a leading strategy for fighting global warming. [Agence France-Presse](#).

9 May **Under-fire wind farms hailed for boosting jobs and economy.** The Government has hit back at critics of the onshore wind industry with a report claiming it has created thousands of jobs and generated millions of pounds for the economy. [Yorkshire Post](#), United Kingdom.

9 May **Negotiations: U.N. talks on Rio agenda break off, but negotiators vow to resume.** Negotiations over an official agenda document that will frame talks at the U.N.-backed Rio+20 summit in Brazil next month broke off last week without a focused agreement on how to proceed. [ClimateWire](#).

9 May **Why the discredited cloud theory of global warming won't die.** Richard Lindzen's rejected idea that clouds can help prevent catastrophic climate change keeps resurfacing, thanks largely to nonscientist skeptics. [Inside Climate News](#).

9 May **Busted carbon busters state peaceful protest got its point across.** Two Cowichanians arrested Saturday, while stopping a coal train near White Rock, signalled the peaceful protest sent clear messages about climate-change fears. [Cowichan News Leader](#), British Columbia.

EPA Office of the Administrator

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Seth Oster, Associate Administrator, Office of External Affairs and Environmental Education (202) 564-8368

Stephanie Owens, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Public Engagement, Environmental Education, Special Projects and Product Review, (202) 564-6879

Adora Andy, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of the Press Secretary and Office of Media Relations, (202) 564-2715

Lisa Schlosser, Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, (202) 564-8368

Dru Ealons, Director, Office of Public Engagement, (202) 564-0467

Amy Dewey, Director, Office of Public Liaison, (202) 564-7816

Dayna Gibbons, Deputy, Office of Public Liaison, (202) 564-7983

John Larrett, Senior Public Liaison Specialist for Health, Agricultural & Consumer Organizations (202) 564-7842

Bonnie Piper, Senior Public Liaison Specialist for Environmental, Conservation & Recreation Groups (202) 564- 7836

Doretta Reaves, Senior Public Liaison Specialist for Environmental, Faith-Based & Tribal Organizations (202) 564-7829,

Roger Campbell, Senior Public Liaison Specialist for Labor, Education & Scientific Organizations (202) 564-1591

Sherry Stewart, Program Specialist, (202) 564-4303

Wadi Muhammad, Public Engagement Specialist, (202) 564-8876, muhammad.wadi@epa.gov

OEAAE is the primary office for all EPA communications and public outreach. The Associate Administrator for External Affairs and Environmental Education is the principal advisor to the Administrator on all issues concerning short-term and long-term strategic communications. OEAAE:

- prepares speeches for the Administrator and senior managers,
- serves as the principal news media gateway for official Agency announcements, press releases and statements, speeches, Congressional and public hearing testimony,

biographies of principal officers, and other documents of public interest,

- coordinates Agency's external message for emergency response activities,
- serves as the Agency-wide point of contact for the planning, developing, and reviewing of all Agency print, promotional, display, audiovisual and broadcast products (other than news and Web-based products) intended for the public,
- directs Agency multilingual outreach and communications efforts,
- establishes and maintains close working relationships with a broad range of public and private sector organizations,
- manages EPA's Web content, including content on epa.gov and in new social media, and
- leads and coordinates EPA programs to provide national leadership in promoting environmental literacy, in accordance with the National Environmental Education Act of 1990 (NEEA).

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- President's Environmental Youth Awards (PEYA)
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Slotkin, Director, 202-564-6854,
slotkin.ron@epa.gov

- Office of the Press Secretary, Brendan Gilfillan, Press Secretary, 202-564-8368, gilfillan.brendan@epa.gov

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- Office of Special Projects/Product Review, Lina Younes, Acting Director, 202-564-4355, younes.lina@epa.gov

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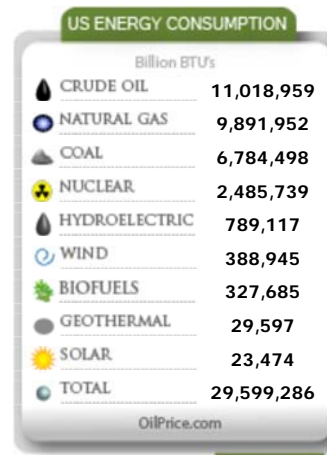
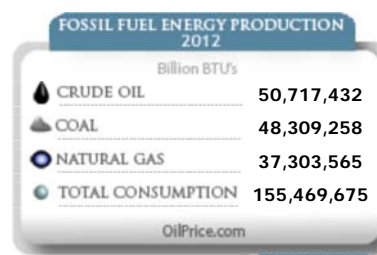
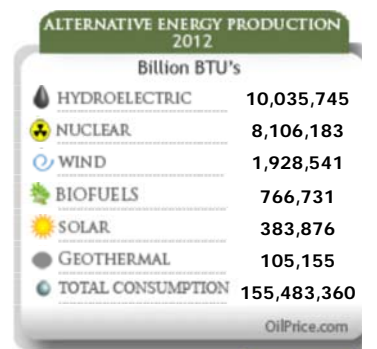
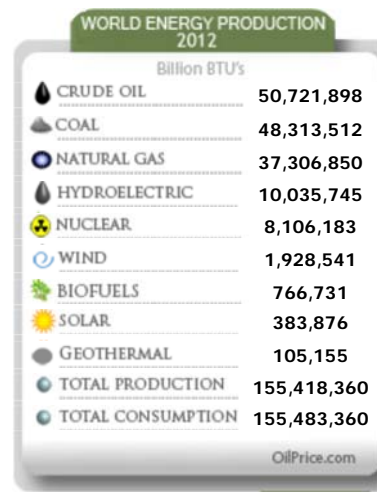
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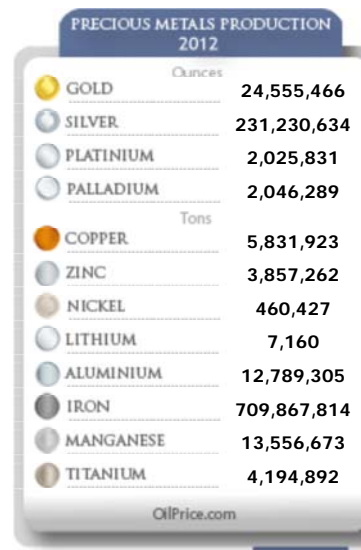
- 1) carbon dioxide
- 2) methane
- 3) nitrous oxide
- 4) hydrofluorocarbons
- 5) perfluorocarbons
- 6) sulfur hexafluoride

EPA's Six Criteria Air Pollutants:

- 1) Ozone
- 2) Particulate Matter
- 3) Carbon Monoxide
- 4) Nitrogen Oxides
- 5) Sulfur Dioxide
- 6) Lead







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Norris McDonald: Diary Of An Environmentalist





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