



The Carbon Sequestration Newsletter

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OCTOBER 2001

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Sequestration in the News

Congress Shifts Focus Due to the terrorist attacks of September 11, the agenda in congress has been radically simplified to focus on national security and economic challenges. The administration's energy package as well as efforts to reduce GHG emissions will likely have to wait until 2002 for further attention. [Read](#) the full article "Some Action on Hill Delayed to Avoid Divisive Debates." *Washington Post*, September 23.

Carbon Trading in the UK The United Kingdom completed work on a voluntary GHG trading program, which provides incentives for industry participants and penalties for non-participants. The UK government has allocated roughly \$304 million over five years for the program. The trading system, like the UK's climate tax, is based on energy consumption. *Clean Air Compliance*, September 5.

New England and Canada Join GHG Targets Six New England states and five eastern Canadian provinces adopted an action plan to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2010. Click to see the full text of the August 28th [Resolution](#) and [Action Plan](#).

A Greener Greenhouse NASA Satellites show plant growth in northern regions has been more vigorous over the past two decades. The greenness data from satellites correlates strongly with temperature data. "A Greener Planetary Greenhouse" can be [read](#) online. *NASA*, September 7.

A New Agricultural Commodity? "No-till" and other sustainable farming methods increase soil carbon content, and could be part of the \$171 billion farm bill in congress. For the full story, see "[In Global Warming War, Plowshares are Swords.](#)" *Chicago Tribune*, September 5.

Australia GHG Emissions Highest per Capita The Australia Institute's analysis of national greenhouse inventories shows Australia has lengthened its lead as the world's worst per capita polluter. Emissions per capita are 30% higher than in the US, but Australia still only accounts for 3.5% of total emissions from industrialized countries. [The Carbon Trader](#), September 21.

By the Numbers

The amount of CO₂ injected into the ground for enhanced oil recovery operations is equivalent to the CO₂ emissions from six million cars in one year.

This newsletter is produced by the National Energy Technology Laboratory and presents summaries of significant events related to carbon sequestration that have taken place over the past month.

Events / Announcements

- **R&D Award for Advanced Conversion and Re-Use** NETL will fund SRI International to investigate two concepts for converting CO₂ emissions back into fuel. Researchers will investigate using solar energy to convert CO₂ into methanol, and study ways to use heat to convert CO₂ into fuel-grade chemicals. NETL awarded \$50,000 for the 12 month project, while SRI will cost-share \$13,000. See the August 21 [techline](#).
- **The Dixie Lee Ray Memorial Symposium** Fourth Annual Conference, originally scheduled for October 16-18 in Washington DC, has been postponed until Spring 2002. See the [symposium website](#) for more information.
- **Second National Conference on Carbon Sequestration Postponed** After much deliberation, the conference organizing committee postponed the Second National Conference on Carbon Sequestration, which was to be held May 13-15 2002. The next conference will be held May 2003 in Washington, D.C.
- **Interagency Team** NETL signed an agreement with DOI Office of Surface Mining to promote reforestation of Abandoned Mine Land. Under a cooperative project with Stephen F. Austin State University NETL will create outreach materials to promote a market-based approach to mined land reclamation.
- **Gasification Technologies 2001 Conference** will take place October 7-10 in San Francisco. The [program](#) will include a CO₂ Gasification Nexus Panel with Gardner Hill from BP and Dale Simbeck of SFA Pacific.

Publications

- **National Academy Press**, Published [Atmosphere Biosphere Interactions: Toward a better Understanding of the Ecological Consequences of Fossil Fuel Combustion](#). This report combines research on health consequences of pollutants, CO₂ build-up leading to climate warming, and acid deposition.
- **Soil and Water Conservation Society** Issued a three page [response](#) to the Farm Bill of 2001 called "Seeking Common Ground for Conservation: How Does HR 2646, the Farm Security Act of 2001, Measure up?"
- **First National Conference on Carbon Sequestration CD** All 125 papers and presentations from the May 14-17th conference are available [online](#) or by ordering a CD from NETL (800.553.7681).
- **NETL Carbon Sequestration Program** will issue a Carbon Sequestration White Paper as part of the National Climate Change Initiative. The White Paper will be published as a stand-alone document as well. Check the reference shelf for more information soon.
- **National Academy Press** Published A [Climate Services Vision: First Steps Toward the Future](#), a report on climate services. Included are weather observations, forecasts and projections, as well as their uncertainties. The report addresses seasonal, interannual, decadal to century scale change and variability, including human induced climate change.
- **Mineral Carbonation Workshop** Papers and presentations from the August 8th workshop are now available [online](#).
- **USDA NRCS** Released a seven page fact-sheet in association with Environmental Defense and the Soil and Water Conservation Society entitled "[Growing Carbon: A New Crop That Helps Agricultural Producers and the Climate Too.](#)"

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Legislative Activity

Due to the tragedy of September 11th, priorities in Congress have shifted to National security, military and economic challenges. In this issue of the newsletter we have included a summary of carbon-management legislation introduced in 2001. The full text of the legislation can be seen online at <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

In the Senate:

- **S 1294 Climate Change Risk Management** *Murkowski, August 2001 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources* To establish a new national policy to manage the risk of potential climate change.
- **S 1293 Climate Change Tax Amendments** *Craig, August 2001 Committee on Finance* To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for the voluntary reduction, avoidance, and sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions.
- **S 1255 Carbon Sequestration and Reporting Act** *Wyden, July 2001 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry* To encourage the use of carbon storage sequestration practices in the U.S.
- **S 1131 Clean Power Plant and Modernization Act of 2001** *Leahy, June 2001. Committee on Finance* To reduce emissions of mercury, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur dioxide from electric power generation. Section 17 addresses carbon sequestration.
- **S 1008 Climate Change Strategy and Technological Innovation Act** *Byrd, June 2001 Committee on Government Affairs* To amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to develop a Climate Change Response Strategy, to establish a research and development program that focuses on bold technological breakthroughs, and to establish the National Office of Climate Change Response in the White House.
- **S 820 Forest Resources for the Economy Act** *Wyden, May 2001 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources* To amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to assess opportunities to increase carbon storage on national forests derived from the public domain and to facilitate voluntary and accurate reporting of forest carbon sequestration projects.
- **S 785 Carbon Conservation Incentive Act** *Brownback, April 2001 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry* To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a carbon sequestration program to permit owners of land to enroll in the program.
- **S 769 International Carbon Conservation Act** *Brownback, April 2001 committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry* To establish a carbon sequestration program and an implementing panel within the Department of Commerce to enhance international conservation, and to reward and encourage voluntary, pro-active environmental efforts on the issue of global climate change.
- **S 597 Comprehensive and Balanced Energy Policy Act of 2001** *Bingaman, March 2001 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources* To provide for a comprehensive and balanced energy policy.
- **S 596 Energy Security and Tax Incentive Policy Act of 2001** *Bingaman, March 2001 Committee on Finance* To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives to encourage the production and use of efficient energy sources.
- **S 556 Clean Power Act of 2001** *Jeffords, March 2001 Committee on Environment and Public works* To amend the Clean Air Act to reduce emissions from electric powerplants.

Legislative Activity Continued

In the House of Representatives:

- **HR 2756 Natural Gas and Other Petroleum Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 2001** Hall August 2001 Committee on Science and Committee on Resources To establish funding for RD&D of unconventional exploration and production technologies, and create an advisory committee which has at least 1 member with extensive knowledge of GHG emission reduction technologies.
- **HR 2646 Farm Security Act of 2001** Combest August 2001 Committee on Agriculture To provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2011. Includes conservation methods that enhance soil carbon storage.
- **HR 2626 Clean Coal Power Initiative Act of 2001** Boehlert July 2001 Committee on Science To authorize RD&D and commercial application activities relating to clean coal technologies, including carbon sequestration.
- **HR 2587 Energy Advancement and Conservation Act of 2001** Tauzin July 2001 To enhance energy conservation, and provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people.
- **HR 2542 Farmland Stewardship Act of 2001** Putnam July 2001 Committee on Agriculture To establish a Farmland Stewardship Program and to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to enter stewardship contracts with private owners of land to maintain and protect environmental and agricultural resources. Authorized services include the enhancement of carbon sequestering.
- **HR 2511 Energy Tax Policy Act of 2001** McCrery July 2001 Committee of Ways and Means To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives to encourage energy conservation, reliability, and production.
- **HR 2460 Comprehensive Energy Research and Technology Act of 2001** Boehlert August 31 2001 Committee on Science To authorize appropriations for environmental, scientific and energy R&D (including for GHG emissions), demonstration, and commercial application of energy technology programs and activities of DOE and of the Office of Air and Radiation of EPA.
- **HR 2365 and 2323 National Electricity and Environment Technology Research and Development Act** Costello June 2001 Committee on Science To authorize DOE programs to develop and implement an accelerated R&D program for advanced clean coal technologies, so as to allow coal to help meet the growing need of the United States for the generation of clean, reliable, and affordable electricity.
- **HR 2131 To Reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 Through 2004** Portman June 2001 To reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2004.
- **HR 2116 Great Smoky Mountains Clean Air Act of 2001** Taylor June 7 2001 To reduce emissions from Tennessee Valley Authority electric powerplants. To reduce aggregate CO₂ emissions from TVA powerplants by January 1, 2007, to the level of CO₂ emissions from TVA powerplants in 1990.
- **HR 1335 Clean Power Plant Act of 2001** Allen, April 2001 To reduce emissions of mercury, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur dioxide from fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units operating in the United States.
- **HR 1256 Clean Smokestacks Act of 2001** Waxman, March 2001 House Committee on Energy and Commerce To amend the CAA to reduce emissions from electric powerplants, including GHGs.
- **HR 4 SAFE Act of 2001** Tauzin July 2001 Committee on Energy and Commerce To enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people.

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