

Greetings! Perhaps you are someone who keeps up with news related to politics and the environment. If so, then you probably know that there are mounting crises in fresh water availability, climate change, soil erosion, and energy. What you may not know is two things:

1. **The energy crisis is huge, and potentially not very far away.** Many of the world's leading petroleum geologists have become alarmed about the unsustainability of our energy use. Right now we find one barrel of oil for each four that we burn, world-wide. Worse yet, leading oil experts are forecasting a peak in global oil production occurring sometime in the next two years. This kind of peak has already occurred in a number of countries, among them the United States, and has been historically impossible to reverse. When the planet-wide oil production peaks everyone in the world will have to begin adjusting to declining energy availability. Simply put, we have been able to have more *stuff* in the world each year, year after year, only because we have had more *energy* in the world each year. Less energy means less stuff, and very likely an economic collapse. The things we do now to save energy, like line-drying clothes or combining automobile trips, as a matter of choice because they are the right choice for a better world, are likely to become the things that we will *have* to do because we will have no choice after the peaking of world oil production—because energy will have become too expensive.

2. **This energy crisis is commonly referred to as Peak Oil, and it has a geo-political dimension as well.** Nearly everything of significance that happens on the larger stage of the world is best understood in terms of nations preparing for Peak Oil. It explains why the United States has no exit plans from Iraq, for instance; it explains why China, whose energy imports are rising at 20% per year, is cutting deals with Venezuela and Iran; it explains why even small nations are cutting back on their purchases of American debt in an attempt rein in the U.S. imperialist power.

For more background on the coming energy crisis, I suggest that you visit one of these excellent web sites and books:

<http://www.energybulletin.net/> (an aggregator of energy-related news items)

<http://www.fromthewilderness.com/> (a news and analysis web site)

Books: “PowerDown: Options and Actions for a Post-Carbon World,” by Richard Heinberg; “Crossing the Rubicon: the Decline of the American Empire at the End of the Age of Oil,” by Michael Ruppert.]

For more background on the geo-political dimension, including a healthy skepticism regarding 9/11 (the event that is being used to justify the U.S. military grab to secure resources), you may want to attend the following lecture by Mike Ruppert:

“9/11 and the Politics of Peak Oil”

a lecture by best-selling author and political investigator

Michael C. Ruppert

7:30pm Thursday June 2nd 2005

Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center, 1819 NW Everett St

Sponsored by the Portland 9-11 Truth Alliance and 

\$10 admission at door, advance tickets at Laughing Horse, 3652 SE Division

For more information, phone Kurt Liebezeit, (503) 887-4532

or Laughing Horse Books (503) 236-2893, or visit

<http://www.septembereleventh.org/portland/index.php>

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