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EARTH: Highlights of 2011 - Energy and Economics 2011-2012

Alexandria, VA – Is the United States entering its “Lost Decade”? A crunch on natural resources coupled with a crippling economic crisis and an aging workforce threaten to hurl us into a decade—or more—of grudgingly slow development akin to that of the Japanese after their own real estate bust a few decades ago. Will the United States learn from past mistakes in order to reconcile economic growth with environmental safety? In the December issue of EARTH Magazine, learn how the facts and the fallacies measure up to the increasing challenges facing the United States in 2012 and beyond.

Misconceptions such as the price of oil significantly dropping in the future, and that practice of hydrofracking is inherently bad while natural gas from shale is a gift from above limit the United States’ capacity to fight the oncoming challenges of the future. In 2012, the concept of limited natural resources and how they influence the United States should be a focus of debt and fiscal debates.

Will absolute growth cease in a finite world as environmental limitations outpace adjustments in efficiency? Or will increasingly advanced technologies afford us new and efficient ways to adjust so that we never run short of the energy we need? For more information on the featured story, visit <http://www.earthmagazine.org/earth/article/5ca-7db-b-12>.

Check out this story and more in the December issue of EARTH Magazine to read about the untold story of life after the major earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand; dig up exciting discoveries in the top paleontology finds of 2011; and ascend the sea-level staircase in the beautiful island of Barbados. These stories and more are available online now at <http://www.earthmagazine.org/digital/>.

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Keep up to date with the latest happenings in Earth, energy and environment news with EARTH magazine online at <http://www.earthmagazine.org/>. Published by the American Geosciences Institute, EARTH is your source for the science behind the headlines.

The American Geosciences Institute is a nonprofit federation of 50 geoscientific and professional associations that represents more than 250,000 geologists, geophysicists and other earth scientists. Founded in 1948, AGI provides information services to geoscientists, serves as a voice of shared interests in the profession, plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education, and strives to increase public awareness of the vital role the geosciences play in society's use of resources, resiliency to natural hazards, and interaction with the environment.