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News, Research and Events

February 2, 2022



Solar's bright future faces a cloudy reality: What about all the waste?

Solar power is often touted as a “clean” energy source that can help in the fight against climate change, but a new report by fellow [Rachel A. Meidl](#) highlights an important, and often ignored, question: What happens to solar panels once they reach their end of life?

Meidl's report explores the expensive, complicated and energy-intensive process for recycling solar panels and points out that many decommissioned panels end up landfilled, incinerated or exported to secondary markets. To prevent this, Meidl writes that policymakers should develop incentives for the collection and proper management of end-of-life panels, as well as policies that account for the full range of life-cycle impacts. Building resilience and developing sustainability require a collective and systems-based thought process, she concludes.

Read the report [here](#) and check out Meidl's extensive body of research on issues of sustainability in our [online research library](#).

A focus on Ukraine



Bear, meet porcupine: Unconventional deterrence for Ukraine

In order to dissuade Russia from sending its forces across the border, Ukraine must quickly grow a coat of quills that can make it unassailable or at least un-occupiable. But it will need help from its allies, write fellow [Gabe Collins](#) and co-author [Chris Bronk](#). Read in [Defense One](#).

War in Ukraine?

President Vladimir Putin has placed Russia on a course of conflict over Ukraine with no diplomatic off-ramp in sight, writes fellow [Joe Barnes](#). Read Barnes' analysis of the origins of the conflict and its implications for the United States in the [Baker Institute Blog](#).

“[Prematurely] pushing to defund fossil fuels ... risks destabilizing a global energy-food-water-human well-being nexus that, sufficiently perturbed, would likely delay energy transition efforts for decades.”

Gabe Collins and Michelle Michot Foss, fellows at the [Center for Energy Studies](#), in a new [Baker Institute Report](#)

Latest research



Climate policy will fail if we don't address inequities and today's energy needs. Many recently advanced climate policies disproportionately burden lower-income families. An equitable solution recognizes that the U.S. and global economies require both sufficient investment in fossil fuels for today's needs, and a rapid transition to a lower-carbon future, writes fellow [Mark Finley](#). Read his [blog post](#).



The end of the Middle East's Islamist spring fever? The dramatic electoral defeat of Morocco's Islamist Party for Justice and Development last fall signaled a major shift in the region's politics: Islamist parties have become politically vulnerable and must deliver results or face the wrath of voters. [Click here](#) to read the brief by Middle East fellow [A.Kadir Yildirim](#).



State-to-state dispute settlement under the USMCA is working! Whereas the process for Canada, Mexico and the U.S. to resolve disputes under NAFTA proved highly ineffective, the equivalent procedures under the USMCA are working very well, explains fellow [David Gantz](#). Read his analysis in the [Baker Institute Blog](#).

Mexico Country Outlook 2022



What should businesses and investors know to successfully navigate Mexico's economic, social and political landscape in 2022? The [Center for the United States and Mexico](#) answered this question at an [exclusive virtual conference](#) in December on possible responses to Mexico's myriad challenges. Read the supporting report [here](#).

Upcoming events

Roundtable Dialogue — Taxing the Digital Economy: Key Issues and Recent Developments. At this member-exclusive event, fellow in public finance [Joyce Beebe](#) discusses key federal and state tax issues in today's digital economy and the profound impacts of innovative technologies on government taxation. Join the [Baker Institute Roundtable](#) to enjoy this and other exclusive events! **February 10 | 6:00 p.m. CST**

RYP Rice Baseball Game: Rice vs. Harvard. Members of the Roundtable Young Professionals are invited to watch the Rice Owls take on the Harvard Crimson! Families are encouraged to attend. **March 5 | 1:00 p.m. CST**

Visiting with the Ambassador: An RYP Open House at Baker Hall. Join fellow and future Roundtable Young Professionals for a membership recruitment, networking and open house event in Baker Hall's Doré Commons. Baker Institute Director Ambassador [Edward P. Djerejian](#) will offer brief remarks. Learn about RYP membership [here](#). **March 8 | 6:00 p.m. CST**

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