



Planet Pulse

**A rhythmic check-in on
climate issues**



Balcony power

I first wrote about the popularity of balcony solar in Germany. Since then, a number of states are considering passing legislation to enable DIY residential solar. Just this week two articles focused on the trend.

- California has introduced the Plug into the Sun Act to establish safety standards and eliminate obstacles to install portable and balcony solar systems.
- Maine has also proposed legislation to allow small, plug-in solar units primarily to allow renters to access the benefits of renewable energy.
- Lawmakers in Vermont and New Hampshire are considering similar legislation.
- The U.S. has some catching up to do as more than a million such systems have already been deployed in Germany.



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An electrified Spruce Goose

- REGENT Craft has secured \$10 billion in orders and just completed a 255,000 sqft production facility.
- Next: prove its 12-passenger Viceroy seaglider flies, sort of.
- If successful, the 15,000-pound craft with a 65-foot wingspan would be the largest EV in existence.
- The seaglider is neither plane nor boat, but a wing-in-ground (WIG) craft that “flies” on a cushion of air.
- Its current projected range is 100 miles.
- The plan: deploy it as a “regional water taxi.”
- The company claims it can achieve a per-seat cost between \$0.50 - \$1.00 meaning a trip between Providence RI and New York would cost \$200 or less.

Amtrak beware- seagliders are gunning for you.



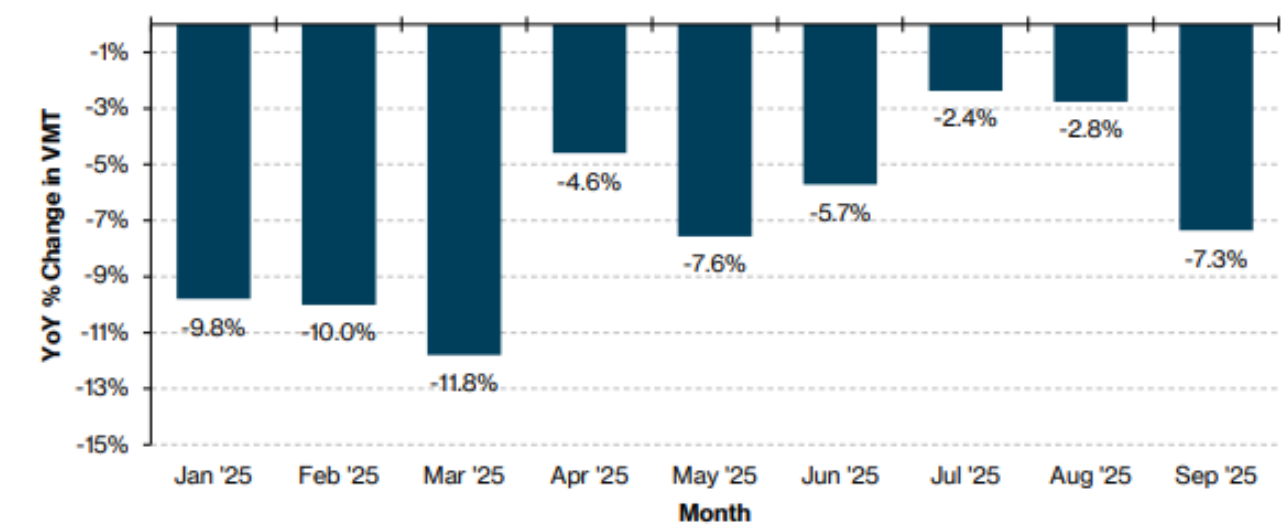
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Uncongested



Figure 2-9: Average Year-over-Year Percent Change in Daily VMT in the CRZ



Sources: StreetLight Data, Inc., TBTA.

I first covered congestion pricing programs enacted in London and Stockholm. Manhattan’s program is celebrating its one-year anniversary and the results are as advertised.

- Year-over-year vehicle speeds improved 4.6% in the CRZ (congestion relief zone) and morning speeds on crossing improved 23%. (Jan. thru Oct.)
- Bus speeds in the CRZ increased 2.3% and ridership increased 8%.
- Subway trips into the CRZ increased 9% (Jan. thru Oct.)
- Total GHG emissions decreased 6.1% YoY in the CRZ (Jan. thru Sept.)
- The results are not surprising given previous programs implemented in Europe and the UK have yielded similar results.



11% fewer vehicle entries between January and October.

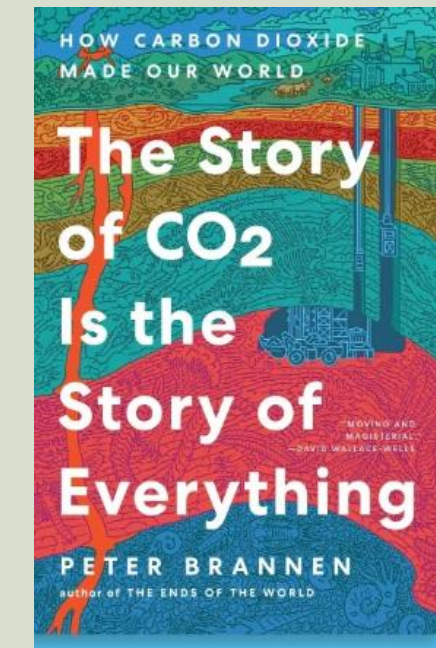
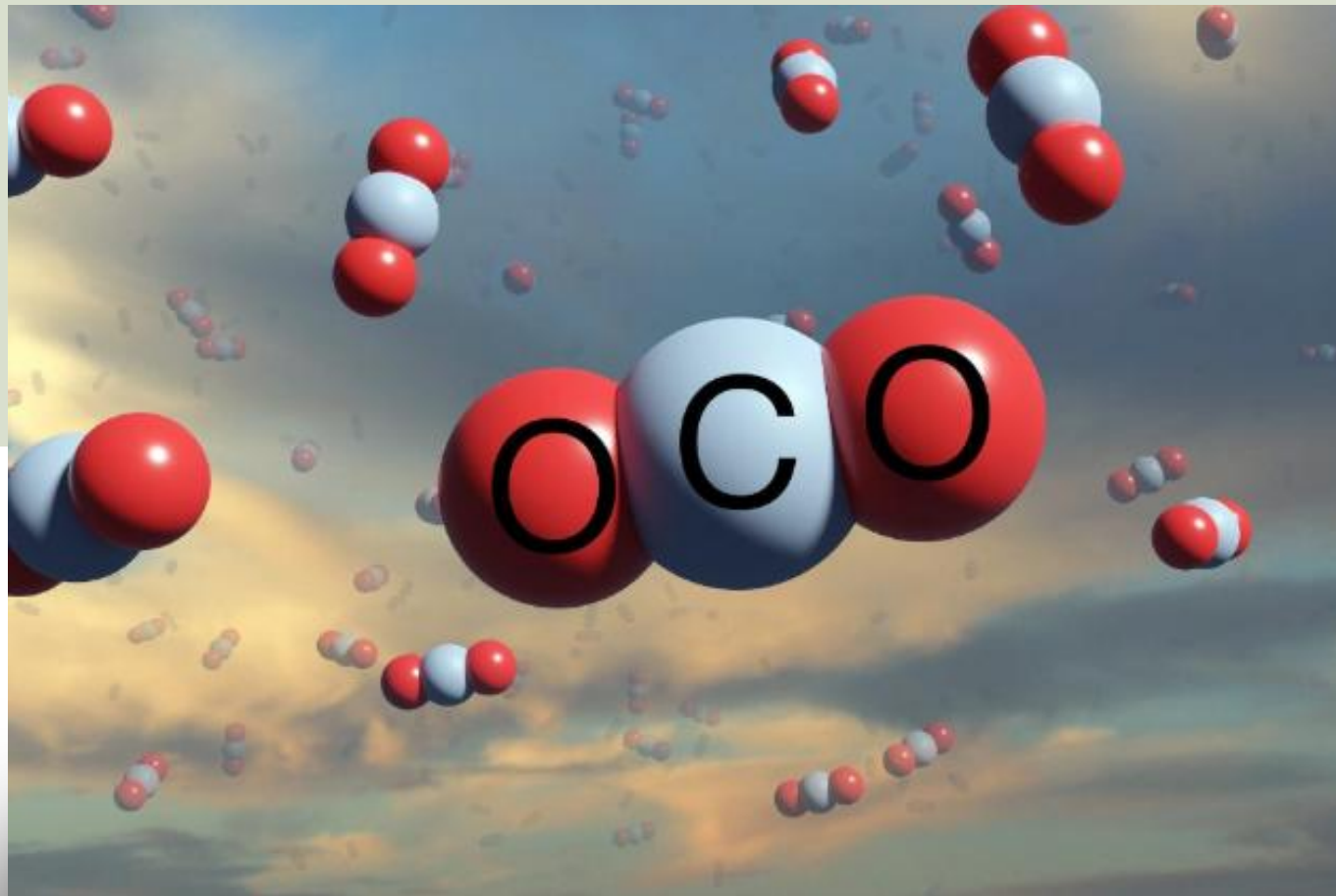


7.1% fewer vehicle miles traveled in the CRZ from January to September.



\$468 million in net revenue raised through October.





We are creatures of carbon

- *The Story of CO₂ Is the Story of Everything* describes carbon dioxide as the “backbone of all life on our planet.” It credits carbon buried over a million years ago for making complex life possible by allowing oxygen to build.
- The author - Peter Brannen - agrees that CO₂ and global temperatures are directly linked saying the following:
 - If all the CO₂ vanished, we’d enter a deep freeze.
 - Conversely if all the buried carbon (fossil fuels) were burned, all ice would disappear.
- What is alarming is his observation that “as far as we know, we’re emitting CO₂ 10x faster than it was emitted in the run-up to the Permian mass extinction.
- He’s doesn’t predict another extinction, but does say “we are leaping into the unknown.”

Exactly.

Unbiased and Unfiltered

An honest assessment of the cleantech industry and the effort to stem climate change.

