

## Reaching Out—and Saving Trees

Educating new leaders about sustainable issues is one of the Worldwatch Institute's core priorities. In an attempt to broaden its audience *and* stay true to its mission, Worldwatch is delighted to report that two of its most popular resources are now available online. As of December 2005, all *World Watch* magazine subscribers can access the PDF files of complete issues of the magazine, going back as far as October 2002. And, our *Signposts* CD-ROM product has been transformed into an instantly accessible online collection of Worldwatch's well-known global indicators entitled *Global Trends*. Each trend contains a PowerPoint slide and an Excel spreadsheet containing valuable data that can be manipulated by the user. For more details, visit our website at <http://www.worldwatch.org/>.

## Much Ado About Ethanol: Worldwatch works with its partners to achieve a New Energy Future

In his recent State of the Union address, President Bush announced that the United States is "addicted to oil." This realization comes not a moment too soon, as a peak in global oil production may be on the horizon, according to experts.

Luckily, there are alternatives. Biofuels, particularly ethanol, may be part of the answer. By fermenting plant material into ethanol, the U.S. and other oil-guzzling nations could grow a much larger share of their fuel domestically, offering them an opportunity to dramatically reduce reliance on oil imports, mitigate the release of carbon into the atmosphere, and reduce the global human consumption "footprint." **This spring, Worldwatch will launch its landmark report, "Biofuels for Transportation: Global Potential and Implications for Sustainable Agriculture and Energy in the 21st Century."** The study—developed in cooperation with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR), with funding from the German Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture (BMELV)—is being conducted by an international group of experts and explores the potential of biofuels as a major fuel source in the 21st century.

This project represents the first ever comprehensive assessment of the opportunities and risks of the large-scale international development of biofuels, marking the emergence of biofuels as a major global issue as well as a growing domestic industry. Benefiting from extensive global research, regional workshops and in-depth country studies of Brazil, China, Germany, India, and Tanzania, the project will attempt to quantify global biofuel production potential and analyze the various policy instruments available for global biofuel development promotion. Effects of biofuels on developing and developed country economies, agricultural and industrial productivity, rural landscapes and biodiversity, levels of oil dependency, air and water quality, and climate change, will be analyzed from a uniquely global perspective.