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GLOBAL WARNING 1.2°C

LATEST NEWS IN SUSTAINABILITY

NO. 159 / January 2025

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE LIVING AND RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET

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"The future of life on earth depends on our ability to take action".

—David Attenborough

Jane Goodall

Jane Goodall, born on April 3, 1934, in London, England, is a pioneering primatologist, ethologist, and anthropologist best known for her groundbreaking work with chimpanzees. She started her career in Africa in 1960, when she began studying the behavior of wild chimpanzees in Gombe Stream National Park, Tanzania. Her observations revolutionized the scientific understanding of primates, revealing that chimpanzees, like humans, use tools, exhibit emotions, and engage in complex social behaviors.

Goodall's work challenged the prevailing view that humans were the only species capable of such traits. Over the decades, she has become a global advocate for animal welfare, environmental conservation, and human rights. She founded the Jane Goodall Institute in 1977, which supports the conservation of chimpanzees and other primates and promotes community-centered conservation efforts.

Her numerous awards and honors include the Kyoto Prize in 2002, the Hubbard Medal in 2003, and honorary degrees from universities worldwide. Goodall's enduring influence extends beyond science, with her educational outreach and "Roots & Shoots" program inspiring young people to engage in environmental and humanitarian causes.



Jane Goodall, English Primatologist and Anthropologist,
Receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom in January
2025

Source: Getty Images

Goodall's legacy continues to shape fields such as primatology, conservation, and animal rights. Her life's work reminds the world of the deep connections between humans and other animals.

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Smoldering Dawn¹
By Amanda Gorman

All our angels have gone.

In this smoldering dawn, we soldier on.

We've proved ourselves strong,

Not by how badly we burned,

But how bravely we bond.

Apocalypse does not mean ruin, but revelation.

In devastation, this infernus Has injured us, but it cannot

Endure us, even in the surreal.

We do not surrender.

We emerge from the embers.

The hardest part is not disaster, but the after.

Scorched earth is where the heart hurts.

What we restore first,

Where we start the work.

Today we mourn.

Tomorrow, reborn.

We end the burning.

Befriend the hurting.

Mend those who face the flame.

We reclaim our city's name,

A revelation that only this place tells:

To find our angels, All we need do is look within ourselves.

¹ Gorman, Amanda. "Smoldering Dawn" 10 Jan. 2025,
www.nbclosangeles.com/news/california-wildfires/amanda-gorman-poem-california-wildfires/3602661/

“Whole Foods Needs a Holistic Approach on Climate Change”

By: Mindy S. Lubber, *Harvard Business Review*



Photo: Getty Images

The analysis highlights Whole Foods Market's struggles during the 2008 financial crisis, pinpointing its over-reliance on affluent consumers and premium pricing as key vulnerabilities. The company's focus on high-end products and a niche market left it exposed during economic downturns, as it lacked appeal to price-sensitive shoppers in a period of financial uncertainty. To recover, it is recommended that Whole Foods adopt a more inclusive strategy, balancing its commitment to quality and sustainability with more competitive pricing. This would make its products accessible to a broader customer base. Additionally, strengthening its focus on community, health, and ethical sourcing while maintaining its distinctive position in the organic and natural food sector could help the company better navigate future economic challenges and ensure long-term growth.

[Full Article](#)

“The Junk Food Crisis Harming Britain’s Children”

By: Madeleine Speed and Amy Borrett, *The Financial Times*



Photo: Getty Images

The United Kingdom is experiencing a junk food crisis, as unhealthy, cheap food and the expensive cost of healthier foods are contributing to the increase in childhood obesity and malnutrition. Obesity affects one in five children between the ages of 10 and 11, a statistic exacerbated by food inflation and childhood poverty. In order to address this issue, campaigners have been endorsing measures such as levies on unhealthy foods, universal free school meals, and stricter food standards. While programs like Chefs in Schools have shown successful results, there is difficulty in getting nutritious food, specifically in low-income communities.

[Full Article](#)

“The E.P.A Promotes Toxic Fertilizer. 3M Told It of Risks Years Ago”

By: Hiroko Tabuchi, *The New York Times*



Photo: Getty Images

In 2003, 3M informed the E.P.A. about high levels of toxic PFAS, or “forever chemicals” in sewage sludge, which was widely used as fertilizer. Despite evidence linking PFAS to severe health risks, such as cancer and birth defects, and contamination of farmland, crops, and water, the E.P.A. has not implemented regulations to limit PFAS in sludge. This failure has led to widespread environmental and public health concerns. Only Maine has taken proactive steps by banning sludge fertilizer and testing farms for PFAS contamination. While 3M pledged to cease PFAS production by 2025 and improve water treatment, whistleblowers and experts criticize the E.P.A.’s inaction. Solutions include stricter regulations and requiring industries to prevent PFAS from entering wastewater.

[Full Article](#)

“The Rivers Run Dry and the Lights Go Out: A Warming Nation’s Doom Loop”

By: Julie Turkwitz and José María León Cabrera, *The New York Times*



Photo: Getty Images

Ecuador faces a severe energy crisis as a prolonged drought, intensified by global warming, has dried rivers and reservoirs, crippling its hydroelectric-dependent power grid. Power outages lasting up to 14 hours daily have disrupted businesses, schools, and essential services, deepening poverty and social instability. Despite significant investments in hydropower under former President Rafael Correa, mismanagement and overreliance on this energy source have left the country vulnerable to climate-induced water scarcity. Temporary measures, such as importing energy from Colombia, offer limited relief, but experts warn the outages could persist until 2026 without significant rainfall. The crisis highlights the need for diversified energy sources, as many hydropower-dependent nations face similar risks from climate change.

[Full Article](#)

“Fervo Energy nabs \$255M to deploy carbon-free geothermal power”

By: Zoya Mirza, *Utility Dive*



Photo: Getty Images

Fervo Energy recently raised \$255 million to further develop carbon-free geothermal power projects across the U.S. The funding includes \$135 million in equity led by Capricorn Investment Group and \$120 million in debt from Mercuria. These investments will help Fervo expand its enhanced geothermal systems, which use horizontal drilling to tap into geothermal reservoirs more efficiently and with a smaller surface footprint. Geothermal energy, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, emits far fewer greenhouse gases than fossil fuels and can provide firm, year-round power, helping to balance intermittent wind and solar resources. Other companies such as Meta are also looking to geothermal to meet their data centers’ energy requirements, highlighting the technology’s growing role in the broader renewable energy mix.

[Full Article](#)

“E.P.A. Allows California to Ban Sales of New Gas-Powered Cars by 2035”

By: Coral Davenport, *NY Times*



Photo: Getty Images

The Biden administration granted California and 11 other states a waiver under the Clean Air Act to ban the sale of new gasoline-powered cars by 2035, a significant step toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions and combating climate change. This waiver, issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), enables these states to mandate that all new cars sold be zero-emission vehicles, while allowing the used car market to operate as usual. The waiver reflects the administration’s broader climate policies, including a national rule aimed at ensuring 56% of new cars sold in the U.S. by 2032 are electric, though it stops short of a nationwide ban on gas-powered vehicles.

[Full Article](#)

“Galveston to build island's first-ever pump station to protect against increased flooding”

By: Rebekah F. Ward, *The Houston Chronicle*



Photo: Getty Images

Galveston, Texas is building its first ever pump station to address the increasing flood risks driven by storm surges, rising sea levels and sinking land. The South Shore drainage project, which was approved by the city counsel, is intended to operate as a pump station to accelerate stormwater drainage during flooding situations including hurricanes. This bill worth \$68 million is largely funded by congressional allocations following Hurricane Harvey, and seeks to increase the city’s resilience to hurricanes that occur once every 100 years. While the pump station offers some relief, the Ike Dike, a gate system with a \$34 billion budget estimate, is still awaiting construction, which could take decades to complete.

[Full Article](#)

“Asian Development Bank to provide \$500 million loan to support sustainable infra projects in India”

By: *The Economic Times*



Photo: Getty Images

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced a \$500 million loan to support sustainable infrastructure projects in India. This funding will primarily focus on promoting eco-friendly developments, enhancing urban infrastructure, and strengthening India's commitment to sustainability goals. The initiative aligns with India's priorities to achieve long-term economic growth while addressing climate challenges. The loan is part of ADB's broader partnership with India to foster inclusive development and green investments. It underscores the importance of sustainable practices in urban planning and infrastructure, contributing to India's climate resilience and environmental targets.

[Full Article](#)

The Los Angeles Wildfire Crisis

Adrianna Mannino (NGO Intern)

Wildfires have long been a critical issue in California, particularly in Los Angeles, where the combination of a Mediterranean climate, ongoing droughts, and seasonal Santa Ana winds makes the region highly susceptible. Over the past decade, the intensity and frequency of wildfires have increased significantly, largely due to climate change and urban encroachment into wildfire-prone areas.

As of January 12, 2025, Los Angeles is facing devastating wildfires, primarily the Palisades and Eaton Fires. Together, these fires have burned over 40,000 acres, destroyed more than 12,000 structures, and displaced approximately 150,000 residents. Tragically, at least 16 lives have been lost as firefighters struggle to contain the blazes.

The Palisades Fire, igniting near the Pacific Palisades, has rapidly expanded to nearly 24,000 acres and is only 11% contained. The fire has devastated affluent neighborhoods, including parts of Brentwood and Malibu, destroying numerous homes. Meanwhile, the Eaton Fire in the Pasadena-Altadena region has scorched over 14,100 acres, with containment at 27%. This fire has resulted in 11 fatalities and the destruction of over 7,000 structures, including historic landmarks.

California's prolonged drought, which has resulted in the driest nine-month period on record, combined with fierce Santa Ana winds with gusts reaching 100 mph, has created perfect conditions for these wildfires to thrive. These weather patterns have not only accelerated the spread of the fires but also made containment efforts exceedingly difficult.

The economic impact of the wildfires is projected to be catastrophic, with estimated losses ranging from \$135 billion to \$150 billion, potentially making this the most expensive natural disaster in U.S. history. Insured losses alone are expected to surpass \$20 billion. In addition to financial losses, the fires have severely affected air quality, with several areas reporting hazardous levels, forcing residents to stay indoors.

In response, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency, deploying National Guard troops to assist in firefighting and evacuation operations. President Joe Biden has approved federal disaster relief funds to support affected communities. However, the scale of the disaster underscores the pressing

need for comprehensive climate change mitigation strategies and improved wildfire management practices.

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The 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 29)

Arian Isaczai (NGO Intern)

Azerbaijan hosted the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP 29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which served as a pivotal moment for global climate policy. The primary goals of the summit were to measure the progress made towards the Paris Agreement's goals in lowering greenhouse gas emissions, reinforcing signatory countries' pledges, adapting to the effects of climate change, and mobilizing financial support for developing countries.

The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage:

An emergency fund known as the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage was established during the COP29 climate summit in Baku, Azerbaijan. The fund is to assist the recovery of less developed countries that have been disproportionately affected by the disasters linked to climate change, despite their little contribution to causing emissions. The United Nations is in charge of the fund's management, and the World Bank serves as the financial trustee. Ibrahima Cheikh Diong, the inaugural executive director, highlighted the importance of "global solidarity" and "diversity of funders" (Gelles) in making progress. Currently, the Fund for Loss and Damage has accumulated around \$720 million in initial commitments from wealthy nations that have historically resisted accountability for their emissions, with Sweden being the latest to pledge. However, this is considered insufficient given the hundreds of billions of dollars in damage climate-fueled disasters are causing each year. For instance, in 2023, China suffered monetary losses from climate change of more than \$42 billion. Experts, including Liane Schalatek, the head of climate finance work at the Heinrich Böll Foundation, consider the United States's \$17.5 million pledge to the fund a "ridiculous amount" (Gelles) given their history as a significant emitter.

Saudi Arabia Blocks Global Climate Action:

Saudi Arabia was one of the 200 nations that signed a climate summit agreement in Dubai to transition away from coal, oil, and gas. The language included in the agreement focused on "transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly, and equitable manner" (Friedman). Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's energy minister, undermined the agreement a few days after the summit, claiming that countries had simply agreed to an "à la carte menu" (Friedman), implying that they could decide which parts of the agreement they wanted to abide by. Furthermore, he proposed that the transition represented just one of several choices, including increasing energy efficiency, renewable energy, or nuclear energy.

After the summit, Saudi Arabia opposed language supporting a transition away from fossil fuels in five U.N. resolutions this year and launched a year-long effort to prevent other forums from using the same transition terminology. In order to obstruct progress, Saudi Arabia employed several tactics, such as procedural objections that blocked almost all sets of discussions on carbon markets, scientific research, and decarbonization. According to some analysts, Donald Trump's election may have provided Saudi Arabia with more confidence as he pledged to increase American production of fossil fuels and withdrew the United States from the Paris agreement once again.

Limitations of U.N. Climate Negotiations:

Following the 2015 Paris Agreement, some progress has been made in addressing climate change, as by 2100 global warming is expected to have fallen from 4 degrees Celsius to about 2.7 degrees Celsius. Additionally, Denmark is now considered the first country in the world to impose a tax on methane emissions from livestock.

Despite the progress made and the potential of COP29 to establish goals, promote agreements, and increase climate action, it is constrained by its dependence on voluntary cooperation and the absence of enforcement mechanisms to ensure nations fulfill their commitments. A significant limitation is the disparity between the financial needs of developing countries and the commitments made by wealthy countries. Nevertheless, there was another plan being considered at COP29 to fund poorer countries up to \$1.3 trillion a year to assist them in transitioning away from fossil fuels and adapting to climate

change. However, richer countries only agreed to provide \$300 billion each year by 2035, which many nations consider an insufficient amount.

According to some experts, there is a need to reconsider the structure of the United Nations climate summits, which have been taking place since 1995. They propose eliminating consensus rules, excluding oil and gas producers, and holding smaller conferences as current talks aren't able to bring change and the needed speed and scale. Yet, even if the United Nations summits were reconstructed, the agreements are non-binding and cannot exert power or implement enforcement on governments. For instance, world leaders pledged to stop methane leaks and deforestation by 2030, but they have not made sufficient progress toward these goals. The U.N. climate discussions frequently lead to incremental progress as governments often compromise by loosening the wording, such as modifying “phase out” to “phase down” (Plumer) in the context of fossil fuels and when pushing for reforms at future summits. The inadequacies of summits are acknowledged by U.N. officials, but it is crucial to continue fighting to “show that global cooperation is not down for the count” (Plumer).

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