

NEWSLETTER

NGO Sustainability



In Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council

June 2019

It's Time to Panic!



David Attenborough, the mellifluous voice of the BBC's "Planet Earth" and now an environmental conscience for the English-speaking world, said: "If we don't take action, the collapse of our civilization and the extinction of much of the natural world is in the horizon."

The emissions path we are on today is likely to take us to 1.5 degree Celsius of warming by 2040 two degrees Celsius within the decades after that and perhaps four degrees Celsius by 2100. As temperatures rise, this could mean many of the

biggest cities in the Middle East and South Asia would become lethally hot in summer, perhaps as soon as 2050. There would be ice-free summers in the Arctic and the unstoppable disintegration of the West Antarctic's ice sheet, which some scientists believe has already begun, threatening the world's coastal cities with inundation. And there would be tens of millions of climate refugees, perhaps many more, fleeing droughts, flooding and extreme heat, and the possibility of multiple climate-driven natural disasters striking simultaneously. To stay safely below that threshold we must reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, according to the United Nations report.

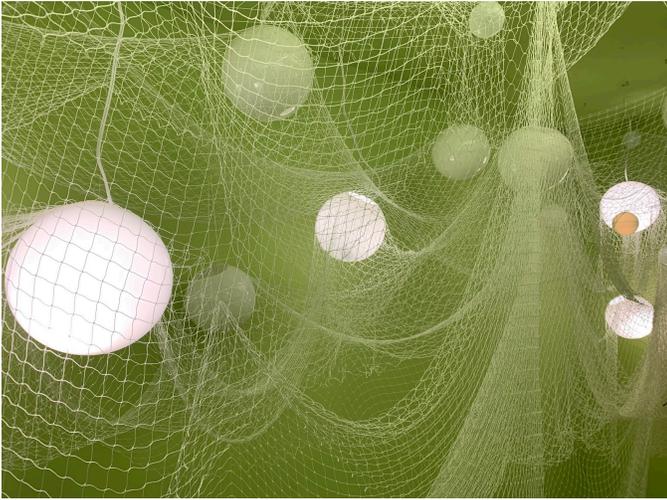
The question is, are people unwilling to pay the money needed to tackle climate change because they think the game is over, or because they don't think it's necessary yet? If we delay another decade, it will require us to cut emissions by some 9 percent each year. For that very reason, the United Nations secretary-general Antonio Guterres believes we have only until 2020 to change course and get started.

Keep up with us!

- ✉ ngosustainability@gmail.com
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The Ocean Cube

Report by Lexi Addison



In the beginning of June, artists Kun Wu, Randy Fernando, and Carol Zhang opened a new exhibit in New York City, The Ocean Cube. Full of colorful lights, jellyfish, and bubbles, the exhibit works to raise awareness about our environmental impact. Each room in the exhibit is a different theme, giving tourists an opportunity to immerse themselves in various ocean environments. All of the materials in the exhibit are made out of recycled components and trash. The artists worked to use all waste materials from the exhibit throughout the creation and design process.

Two of the rooms included in this exhibit made a clear point about the future of our oceans. One room, the Net Guard, reflects the pollution which dominates the ocean's depths. This room contains an array of nets and buoys, showing that there is beauty, even within the litter of debris. One more room, the Recycle Bank, is also effective in communicating the effects of pollution. This room is full of hanging water bottles, which completely surround visitors. The tons of bottles hanging within a blue backdrop reflect the tragedy which our oceans are facing. Plastic water bottles consistently end up in our oceans, damaging the beauty and life which

thrive there. This exhibit is able to display both the beauty and unfortunate damage which exists in our oceans.

Ocean Cube Exhibit
60 Grand St, New York, NY 10013 June 8th - August 18th

"Baby Steps Toward Sustainability."

Vanessa Friedman



Ole Jensen/Getty Images

Copenhagen hosted its annual Fashion Summit, being the largest sustainable style gathering in which world figures talk sustainability. Brune Poirson, the French Minister for ecological and inclusive transition, announced the attempt to pass a law making it illegal for brands to burn or destroy excess products, and Emanuel Chirico of PVH stated the company wants to make all of its dress shirts, jeans and underwear recyclable by 2025.

Link to Article:

<https://www.nytimes.com/by/vanessa-friedman>

“Getting from farm to fork: The long and short of it.”

Charles Ross



Cargill Report

Asia’s rapid income growth is causing a disruption of domestic food supply chains. Factors like inadequate infrastructure can result in a high amount of food loss during the process of farm to table. As much as 40% of fruits and vegetables in India rot because of poor storage and logistics. Another possible factor is an overuse of resources. E-commerce giant JD.com developed large drones to pick up packages of food from rural areas and fly them to urban areas to alleviate the food supply chain issue.

Link to Article:

<https://perspectives.eiu.com/sustainability/fixing-asias-food-system/white-paper/getting-farm-fork-long-and-short-it>

“83 Environmental Rules Being Rolled Back Under Trump.”

Nadja Popovich, Livia Albeck-Ripka and Kendra Pierre-Louis

A New York Times analysis released earlier this week found more than 80 environmental rules and regulations on the way out under the Trump Administration, using research from Harvard Law School, Columbia Law School and other sources.

The analysis breaks down the number into rules that were officially reversed and rollbacks still in progress, categorizes them as air pollution and emissions, drilling and extraction, infrastructure and planning, animals, toxic substances and safety, water pollution, or other. It includes a specific breakdown of the rules that have been reversed and those being rolled back, checkout the link for the full list.

Link to Article:

https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/climate/trump-environment-rollbacks.html?te=1&nl=politics&emc=edit_cn_20190603

“How plastic bottles are paying for lessons in Nigeria.”

Faith Ilevbare



Video Journalist: Faith Ilevbare/BBC News

In Lagos Nigeria, a program has been put in place called ‘The Recycle Pay Educational project’. This allows parents to pay for their children’s school fees in plastic water bottles. This reduces the burden put on parents by deducting their school fees in weight of water bottles brought into recycling stations.

Link to Article:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-africa-48547893/how-plastic-bottles-are-paying-for-lessons-in-nigeria>

“As Students Clamor for More on Climate Change, Portland Heeds the Call.”

Mike Seely



Amanda Lucier/ The New York Times

A high school climate change club in Portland, Oregon seeks to take action on climate change and its extreme effects on weather patterns. Many members do not want to see their ancestral lands, like Fiji and Samoa, disappear because of intense storms and rising sea levels and therefore aim to frame climate change as a human rights issue. These students had Portland’s school board pass an integration of environmental justice in the core curriculum, but it was not implemented until three years later this past May. On May 28th, the school board put \$200,000 towards climate justice education, noting that some of the most reputable climate scientists claim we have only 11 years to reform our society into one that is more sustainable, beginning with education.

Link to Article:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/09/us/portland-climate-change.html>

“Less than Zero: Can Carbon-Removal Technologies Curb Climate Change?”

Fred Krupp, Nathaniel Keohane, and Eric Pooley

This article states that the best way to curb future emissions is through a joint effort between fossil fuel reduction and NET’s (Negative Emission Technology). It advocates the use of economic incentives for carbon removal, in addition to the already implemented carbon-cap programs. This will spur on innovation from the private sector and entrepreneurs, who will strive to find a way to make NET’s more energy efficient to increase their own profits.

Link to Article:

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2019-02-12/less-zero>

“China Rises in U.N. Climate Talks, While U.S. Goes AWOL.”

Colum Lynch and Robbie Gramer

The United States has not committed to attending the major UN climate summit in New York this September. In doing so, they open the door for China to take a commanding role at the summit, undermining US policy to counter the rise of China. The stance of the United States on climate change is discouraging, especially in light of Trump’s nomination of climate change skeptic Kelly Knight Croft as UN ambassador.

Link to Article:

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/05/07/china-rises-united-nations-climate-change-talks-u-s-trump-goes-awol-environment-diplomacy-global-warming/>

“The Green New Deal Has Already Won.”

Robinson Meyer



Shawn Thew/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock

The Green New Deal has already succeeded, simply in forcing candidates to craft bold climate policy even if they don't subscribe to The Green New Deal. Presidential candidates such as Jy Inslee, Elizabeth Warren, Beto O'Rourke, Joe Biden, Tulsi Gabbard, and more have put forth ambitious climate plans. Many of these candidates are doubling down on climate change by using their climate plans to also address other areas of economic concern in the country.

Link to Article:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/06/bidens-climate-plan-mini-green-new-deal/591046/>

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Producer: Roma Stibravy, *President*

Editors: Sam Gaspar, Hannah Fox, and Allie Eastus