



NGO SUSTAINABILITY

GLOBAL WARNING

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

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Consultative Status, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
Observer Status, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

*“The climate crisis doesn’t have an off-season.”
-The Climate Reality Project*

Csaba Kőrösi

Csaba Kőrösi is a Hungarian diplomat who currently serves as the President of the 77th United Nations General Assembly. He previously worked as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations and the Head of Mission to Greece and the United Arab Emirates. He also served in several government service positions in Hungary, where he specialized in security policy, multilateral diplomacy, and human rights cooperation. He is a founding member of the Hungarian Scientific Panel on Climate Change as well as a co-chair on the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), where he was integral to the creation of the 2030 Agenda.



Countdown to COP28: A Brief Update



COP28¹ will be held at Expo City Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from November 30th to December 12th, 2023. The “Cool COP Menu of Actions” will be in collaboration with Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). It is an incentive to act on cooling in a sustainable fashion in areas such as food and vaccine cold chains and nature-based solutions.

An assessment of the progress of climate goals known as The Global Stocktake, the first of its kind, will follow. There seems to be an emphasis on equity where the Maldives was cited as achieving its phase down of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) while continuing to bear the cost of other’s inaction.

Additionally, Dan Jørgensen, Denmark’s Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy, will step in as a “Cool Champion”, a title given to global leaders who raise awareness of the need for clean and efficient cooling. Jørgensen spoke on transferring sustainable cooling to the Global South, as millions of people most vulnerable to rapid heating lack adequate access to cooling solutions.²

Many supporters are defending the UAE’s choice of the CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company as the President of COP28, in spite of some opposition from U.S. lawmakers. A COP28 spokesperson argued that he is a “terrific choice” and a “diplomat, minister, and business leader across the energy and renewables industry” through his creation of Masdar, a clean energy company that is creating a sustainable city.³ The real question is: How can the UAE, a country whose economy depends on its fossil fuel industry, can at the same time promote the SDGs and the 2015 Paris Climate Change Agreement?⁴

Photo by WBCSD

¹ The Conference of the Parties to the UN Intergovernmental Panel Convention on Climate Change

² (2023, January 16). *Partners Announce New Ambition on Sustainable Cooling for COP 28*. UN Environmental Programme.

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/partners-announce-new-ambition-sustainable-cooling-cop28>

³ Mathiesen, K. (2023, January 28). *US Lawmakers Press to Remove Oil Boss from Leading COP28 Climate Talks*. Politico.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/us-lawmakers-press-to-remove-oil-boss-from-leading-cop28-climate-talks/>

⁴ *Democrats Urge Kerry to Oppose Oil Executive as COP28 President*. Washington Post.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/01/30/new-york-might-take-second-swing-electrification/>

“The health risks for Ohioans after derailment of train with toxic chemicals”

By: Anna Phillips, *The Washington Post*



Photo: Gene J. Puskar/AP

A cargo train carrying vinyl chloride recently derailed in East Palestine, Ohio, near the border with Pennsylvania. This hazardous chemical is toxic to aquatic life and poses a risk to public health. Residents of the region have been advised to avoid contact with the affected water and to evacuate if necessary. The spill has caused fish to die and sparked concerns about the potential impacts on other wildlife and the environment. In response to the spill, environmental organizations are calling for greater regulation of the transportation of hazardous materials by rail. Officials are working to contain the spill and mitigate the impacts, but the cleanup process is expected to be costly and take time.

[Full Article](#)

“Rising seas risk climate migration on ‘biblical scale’, says U.N. chief”

By: Rachel Pannett, *The Washington Post*



Photo: Scientific American

A recent U.N. report warns that sea levels could rise by up to two meters by the end of the century, an estimate that significantly exceeds previous projections. The report estimates that over 187 million people could be displaced by rising sea levels by 2100. The U.N. has called for urgent action to address the causes of climate change and to prepare for the impacts of rising sea levels. Several coastal communities throughout the world are already experiencing the effects of rising seas, including saltwater contamination of groundwater, mass flooding, and coastal erosion. The U.N. stresses that international cooperation and innovative solutions are needed to address the growing threat of climate displacement.

[Full Article](#)

“Why Reuse Programs Shouldn’t Wait for Consumers”

By: Olga Kachook, *GreenBiz*



Photo: Tesco

Europe has shown to be at the forefront of reusable packaging. They have created mandates requiring reusable food and drink containers in countries such as France and Germany. While some Europeans have adapted to this new way of life, researchers aren't sure if the same can be said for the US market. Reports over the years have shown that while Americans have an interest in reusable packaging and a zero waste lifestyle, there seems to be an intention-action gap. Some companies have launched pilots to test products in the US market but they have proven to be a rather cumbersome process for consumers and not the best representation of reusable goods on a larger scale.

[Full Article](#)

“Donated Clothing Worsening Kenya’s Plastic Pollution: Report”

By AFP, *Fashion United*



Photo: Kevin Mcelvaney/Greenpeace

Millions of secondhand clothing items are donated to developing countries every year, exacerbated by the rise of fast fashion. About 900 million articles of clothing are sent to Kenya each year alone, and what was meant to help the economy has become an environmental and health issue. Organizations like Clean Up Kenya and the Changing Markets Foundation have reported that a lot of donated clothing has either petroleum-based materials such as polyester or are too damaged to be resold. About 30 percent of clothing shipped to the country ends up in landfills or incinerated, dispersing toxic fumes to waste pickers and neighboring communities. Textile waste is also polluting the water, as fibers break down into microfibers which can become ingested by marine life. The report calls for better sorting of donations before being passed on, as well as the use of more non-toxic materials in the manufacturing process altogether.

[Full Article](#)

“‘Exceptional’ Warming: January temperatures 2.2 degrees higher than average in Europe”

By: Laura Paddison, *CNN*



Photo: CNN

Many of us have been questioning where the snow went this year due to the above average temperatures this winter. It seems that the United States isn't the only area in the world that is facing these drastic weather changes. In Europe, average temperatures were 2.2 degrees Celsius hotter than those noted between 1990 and 2020. This heat event has similarly reduced or eliminated the snowfall typically expected in the Alps. Climatologist Maximiliano Herrera stated that this was the most extreme heat wave in European history. These weather conditions remain a significant indicator of future weather events that are already upon us. "Europe is warming faster than any other region, according to the World Meteorological Organization, as planet-heating pollution pushes temperatures towards critical thresholds."

[Full Article](#)

“Study: Enough rare earth minerals to fuel green energy shift”

By: Seth Borenstein, *APNews*



Photo: ScienceNews

A new study argues that the world has enough rare earth metals to make the global transition towards renewable energy possible. As the globe shifts to sustainable energy, production capacity of key metals must expand. Rare earth minerals have been the subject of research by scientists in the United States. These elements are integral in the production of rechargeable batteries, wind turbines, LED light bulbs, smartphones, and computer displays. According to co-author Zeke Hausfeather, the world has enough resources to complete the transition, although mining would have to significantly increase. However, even though the production of renewable energy generates pollution from extracting rare earth materials, it is offset by the decrease in pollution caused by fossil fuels that emit large amounts of carbon. That being said, manufacturers and producers should still focus on using less raw materials to minimize excess emissions.

[Full Article](#)

“An Overlooked Opportunity for Kelp Farms to Double as Pollution Cleanup Sites”

By: Emma Bryce, *Anthropocene Magazine*



Photo: Getty Images

A new study has found that some species of kelp have the ability to clean up coastal pollution. Waste, run-off, and sewage from anthropogenic sources contribute to excess nitrogen pollution that fuels toxic algal blooms. However, researchers found that ribbon kelp was responsive in storing nitrogen. The comparison to other species is useful so scientists can focus on clearing pollution with species that yield the best results. As beneficial as the ribbon kelp is, its low biomass yield would render it more useful in marine aquaculture as opposed to commercial use. While the study was fairly preliminary, the results show that kelp is a useful nature-based solution that is often overlooked.

[Full Article](#)

“Are ebikes the unsung secret to curbing climate change?”

By: Mike Bebernes, *Yahoo! News*



Photo: Getty Images

According to a report from the International Energy Agency (IEA), the emergence of e-bikes could play a critical role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as fighting climate change. E-bikes can reduce the need for car trips and promote physical activity throughout cities and other urban areas. The IEA has estimated that e-bikes could curb approximately 11 million metric tons of CO₂ emissions per year by 2030, which is close to the annual emissions from New York City. However, to recognize the potential of e-bikes, the report argues that action from policymakers, including investing in infrastructure and creating incentives, is necessary. The IEA emphasizes the need for a “modal shift” towards more sustainable forms of transportation to address the climate crisis.

[Full Article](#)

UN Water Conference 2023: What to Expect

This year's UN Water Conference will be held in New York City at the United Nations Headquarters from March 22nd-24th. This 3-day event, with the Netherlands and Tajikistan governments as co-chairs, will be working to tackle **water waste** and **contamination issues**, and try to achieve the water-related goals that have been internationally agreed upon. Those goals are “the enhancement of cooperation to leverage benefits across actors, sectors and scales, and serve as means for sustainable development” as stated by the President of the U.N. General Assembly. This vision is focused on three principles that serve to guide the conference: To be cross-sectional, with all sectors providing their plans and actions; inclusivity, to make sure all are involved and assisted; and last being action-oriented. These principles align with Number Six of the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): to provide clean water and sanitation.



The conference will consist of six plenary meetings, five inactive dialogues, and several informal special events. There will also be in-person and virtual side events in connection with the conference. Additionally, industries and others can pledge to contribute to the Water Action Agenda. This agenda is a culmination of all water related commitments made across various industries. By presenting these issues and working together, the assumed outcome of the conference is to fundamentally understand and manage water in a collective manner. With water affecting every aspect of society and the planet, it's believed addressing these issues can accelerate sustainable development. More awareness from political leaders and cooperation will draw more public attention and drive motivation to see these plans through. The agenda will outline SMART goals (Simple, Market-based, Affordable, and Repairable Technologies), to coincide with the decade-long Water for Sustainable Development plan—started in 2018—and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. If these water issues can be adequately addressed, it can be the building blocks of achieving all the other SDGs.

The conference has three main goals: determine a way to include all stakeholders in the improvement of the impact of water around the world, create concrete plans and actions to see the vision through, and educate and collaborate with additional water related sectors internationally.

For more information visit:

[UN Water Conference 2023 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)

U.S. Bipartisan Senate Ocean Caucus



In Senator Sheldon Whitehouse's 200th speech on the U.S. Senate Floor, 'Time to Wake Up', he implored Congress to act in the face of ocean acidification, sea level rise and climate change consensus.⁵ The bipartisan Senate Oceans Caucus, spearheaded by Co-Chairs Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), has made the issue of ocean protection a priority. Other co-founding members include Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), John Kerry (D-MA), and Maria Cantwell (D-WA).⁶ Cofounded in 2011, their mission is to secure a shared platform to form a response on coastal and oceanic problems while tackling a myriad of issues. Some of the most prominent include emboldening ocean data and mitigating marine debris and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.⁷

As evident in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (an area of ocean plastic waste three times larger than France), marine debris is pervasive and is a main priority on the agenda. In 2015, the Senate Ocean Caucus held a panel on marine debris in Alaska to highlight the significant challenges faced there, as well as the relief the NOAA Marine Debris Program has given to the state.⁸ Senator Coons (D-Del), Sullivan (R-AK), Graham and Whitehouse introduced the UNITE for our Oceans Act, which created a Marine Debris Trust Fund to sponsor grants enhancing reuse and recycling programs.⁹ The original Save Our Seas Act was introduced by Sullivan and Whitehouse in 2018. In 2020, confirming the importance of marine debris on the Caucus' agenda, several of the member senators, and others not on the Caucus, introduced the Save Our Seas (SOS) 2.0 Act to amplify global engagement and outreach, better infrastructure and brace marine debris response with a Marine Debris Foundation.¹⁰

⁵ (2018, March 13). *Whitehouse Delivers 200th 'Time to Wake Up' Climate Speech*. Sheldon Whitehouse United States Senator for Rhode Island.

<https://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/news/release/whitehouse-delivers-200th-time-to-wake-up-climate-speech>

⁶ n.d. *Bipartisan Senate Oceans Caucus*. Sheldon Whitehouse United States Senator for Rhode Island.

<https://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/storyboard/bipartisan-senate-oceans-caucus>

⁷ (2022, December 07). *Whitehouse Secures Major Oceans Policy Wins in NDAA*. Sheldon Whitehouse United States Senator for Rhode Island.

<https://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/news/release/whitehouse-secures-major-oceans-policy-wins-in-ndaa>

⁸ (2015, October 23). *Congressional Event on Alaska Marine Debris*. NOAA.

<https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/congressional-event-alaska-marine-debris>

⁹ (2020, December 16). *Sens. Coons, Graham, Whitehouse, Sullivan Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Combat Ocean Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter*. Chris Coons.

<https://www.coons.senate.gov/news/press-releases/sens-coons-graham-whitehouse-sullivan-introduce-bipartisan-legislation-to-combat-ocean-plastic-pollution-and-marine-litter>

¹⁰ (2020, December 18). *Bipartisan Save Our Seas 2.0 Act Signed into Law*. Foreign Relations Committee.

<https://www.foreign.senate.gov/press/dem/release/bipartisan-save-our-seas-20-act-signed-into-law>

Senators Murkowski, Sullivan and Whitehouse have been active on the issues of carbon ecosystems and IUU fishing. The former introduced the Blue Carbon for Our Planet Act, that aims to protect vital ecosystems like mangroves, kelp forests, tidal marshes, and seagrasses that defend against rising tides. It creates an Interagency Working Group on Coastal Blue Carbon chaired by the NOAA Administrator, ensures that a federally funded report on the blue carbon ecosystem is given to Congress, and provisions the NOAA Administrator– along with the National Academy of Sciences– to determine the technology for carbon dioxide sequestration in the deep sea.¹¹ The latter is a leap towards regulated fishing and was introduced in the Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvest (FISH) Act in August of 2022. It supplements US Coast Guard enforcement and inspection, increases penalties for offenders and asks for reports on the intricate relationship of seafood trade with China and Russia.¹²

As of May 2022, the co-chairs of the Senate Ocean Caucus positioned the BLUE GLOBE Act to become law. During June 2019, the Bolstering Long-Term Understanding and Exploration of the Great Lakes, Oceans, Bays, and Estuaries Act was introduced to sustain a blue economy, deter IUU fishing, fortify maritime workers and advance technology innovation. The bill enhances ocean monitoring by enforcing and emboldening NOAA Cooperative Institutes' precedent on technology advancement.¹³ It impedes IUU fishing through emphasis on innovative technology and creating an IUU Fishing Tech Force. To diversify the knowledge base in maneuvering ahead to combat the effects of climate change, the bill creates an Interagency Ocean Exploration Committee to gather data from subsistence and indigenous communities.¹⁴ Under the umbrella of national security and to step forward in the field, an Advanced Research Projects Agency - Oceans (ARPA-O) would be established to weather high-risk and long-term barriers in ocean technology.¹⁵ It was included in the National Defense Authorization Act for 2023 and will potentially become law under President Biden.¹⁶

While there are common themes like ocean data and IUU fishing, the range of issues facing the Senate Ocean Caucus are immense. The ocean is responsible for sequestering carbon and buffering heat yet it is inundated with pollution, debris and illegal fishing. However, the Caucus is well positioned and equipped to deal with its degradation and will prioritize issues like marine waste, unregulated fishing, marine technology, and carbon sequestration.

¹¹ (2021, November 19). *Senators Introduce Bill Focused on Blue Carbon Ecosystems*. United States Senator for Alaska Lisa Murkowski.

<https://www.murkowski.senate.gov/press/release/senators-introduce-bill-focused-on-blue-carbon-ecosystems->

¹² (2022, August 25). *Sullivan, Whitehouse Introduce FISH Act to Fight Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated Seafood Harvest*. Dan Sullivan United States Senator for Alaska.

<https://www.sullivan.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/sullivan-whitehouse-introduce-fish-act-to-fight-illegal-unreported-unregulated-seafood-harvest>

¹³ (2022, May 06). *Whitehouse and Murkowski Direct China Package Conferees to Support Fisheries, Invest in Blue Economy*. Sheldon Whitehouse United States Senator for Rhode Island.

<https://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/news/release/whitehouse-and-murkowski-direct-china-package-conferees-to-support-fisheries-invest-in-blue-economy>

¹⁴ (2019, June 28). *Bonamici, Young Introduce Bill to Accelerate Ocean Research*. United States Representative Suzanne Bonamici District of Oregon.

<https://bonamici.house.gov/media/press-releases/bonamici-young-introduce-bill-accelerate-ocean-research>

¹⁵ (2021, December 17). *S. 140*. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/140/text>

¹⁶ Ripon Advance News Service. (2022, December 23). *Murkowski's BLUE GLOBE Act Included in NDAA*. The Ripon Advance. <https://riponadvance.com/stories/murkowskis-blue-globe-act-included-in-ndaa/>

Pratt Sustainable Packaging

Pratt, a Direct to Consumer (DTC) platform, established in 2019 as The Brandable Box and later rebranded to Pratt, is a customizable corrugated packaging company. Produced in the USA, these products are made from 100% recycled content, while other industries only utilize about half that amount. Pratt Industries is the fifth largest packaging company in the U.S, and they've built a reputation on producing reliable products. Their DTC customer friendly online interface allows users to completely design their packaging as they see fit. Just provide length, width, and height measurements to the site to determine the size of the packaging you need. There are five different types of shipping mail options and you can choose between brown or white material. Lastly, customers simply upload an attachment of their logo! Not sure how you want to design your box? The site also provides templates you can use for a small additional fee.



So what makes Pratt so special? They have technology that's more convenient to traditional packaging by eliminating print plates and reducing the time it takes to set up. This guarantees shipping within 3 business days, allowing Pratt to meet tight deadlines. Additionally, they source paper and recyclable materials from landfills to produce their products, collecting an average of 3 million tons a year. As the business continues to grow, Pratt has established a closed-loop system, allowing materials to be reused for future products. On average, they save 85 thousand trees, 35 million gallons of water, 20 million kWh of electricity and 5 thousand tons of gas emissions every single day.

For more information visit:

[The Best Place To Get Custom Packaging in the USA | PrattBox - Pratt](#)
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