



## NGO SUSTAINABILITY

# GLOBAL WARNING <sup>+1.2°C</sup>

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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)

***“1.5°C is not a goal. 1.5 is a physical limit. You cannot compromise with it.”***  
***-Johan Rockström***

## Jim Skea

Jim Skea, a climate scientist and sustainable energy professor at Imperial College London, has been elected to the role of Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).<sup>1</sup>

Skea holds degrees in Physics from Edinburgh University, a PhD in energy research from Cambridge University, and has extensive expertise in energy research and climate change.<sup>2</sup> His contributions have earned him an Order of the British Empire (OBE) in sustainable transportation and sustainable energy.<sup>3</sup> As a founding member of the Committee on Climate Change and as Research Director of the UK Energy Research Centre from 2004-2012, Skea has also played a role in shaping



the UK's climate change approach.<sup>4</sup> With a forty year career dedicated to understanding climate change challenges and driving actions to combat them, Jim Skea's leadership as IPCC Chair promises to shape global climate policy and inspire positive change for an inclusive and sustainable future.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "IPCC Elects Jim Skea as the New Chair." *IPCC*. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, July 26, 2023. <https://www.ipcc.ch/2023/07/26/jim-skea-new-ipcc-chair/>.

<sup>2</sup> "Jim Skea." *IPCC*. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Accessed August 1, 2023. <https://www.ipcc.ch/people/jim-skea/>.

<sup>3</sup> "Prof. Jim Skea CV." *IPCC*. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Accessed August 1, 2023. [https://apps.ipcc.ch/fp/\\_readcv.php?t=SKEA\\_Jim\\_CV\\_1680711906.pdf](https://apps.ipcc.ch/fp/_readcv.php?t=SKEA_Jim_CV_1680711906.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> "Jim Skea." *IPCC*. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Accessed August 1, 2023. <https://www.ipcc.ch/people/jim-skea/>.

<sup>5</sup> "IPCC Elects Jim Skea as the New Chair." *IPCC*. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, July 26, 2023. <https://www.ipcc.ch/2023/07/26/jim-skea-new-ipcc-chair/>.

*Photo by: IISD/ENB*

Biography by: Catie Eiref

**“Climate Displacement: Where Will The Displaced Dwell?” by James McLain<sup>6</sup>**

In rising tides and warming air, we find,  
A world transformed by nature unkind.  
Oceans encroach upon familiar lands,  
While people yearn for solid shifting sands.

Where will they go, the ones left adrift,  
As waters swallow homes and spirits lift?  
Will shelter find them in the mountaintop,  
Or in the arms of cities that won't stop?

A dance of displacement, a tragic waltz,  
As climate change reshapes our earthly vaults.  
A call to action, urgent and profound,  
To seek solutions, common higher ground.

Let's build a world with empathy and care,  
Extend our reach to those in deep despair.  
For every soul who loses their abode,  
Together, let's create a welcoming road.

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<sup>6</sup> McClain John, “Climate Displacement: Where Will the Displaced Dwell?” *Poem Hunter*. Accessed August 7, 2023, <https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/climate-displacement-where-will-the-displaced-dwell/>.

**“Why it's so important to figure out when a vital Atlantic Ocean current might collapse”**

By: Lauren Sommer, *NPR*



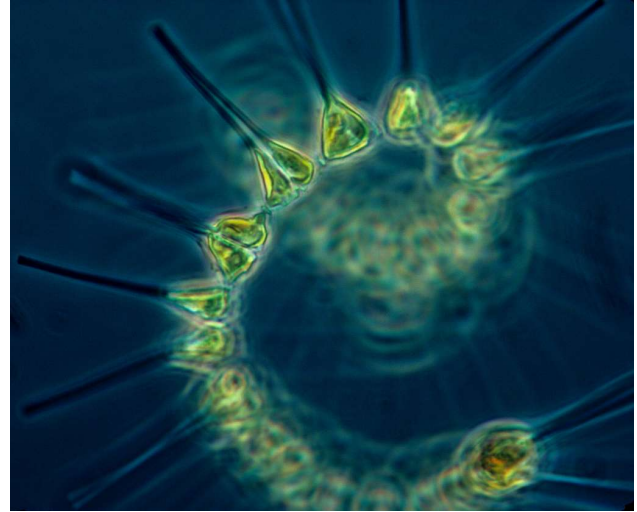
*Photo: Guillame Falco/Pexels*

New research on the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) suggests that the ocean current may collapse within decades. The AMOC is driven by differences in water salinity and temperature in the North Atlantic, bringing warm water from the tropics up the east coast of North America, before cooling and sinking just south of Greenland. However, cold, fresh meltwater from the Greenland Ice Sheet is disrupting the gradient and flow of the current. The collapse of the AMOC would bring colder temperatures to Greenland and Europe, decrease rainfall in the Sahel region of Africa, and weaken monsoons in Asia. There is still much uncertainty around whether or not the AMOC will indeed collapse, with some arguing that it will only weaken significantly. Regardless, scientists are calling to drastically reduce emissions to avoid crossing a devastating tipping point in the global climate system.

[Full Article](#)

**“Climate change is changing the ocean’s color — and fast, scientists say”**

By: María Luisa Paúl, *Washington Post*



*Photo: PICRYL*

Stephanie Dutkiewicz and her team of researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have reported that over the past twenty years, more than half of the world’s oceans have changed color as a result of climate change. Phytoplankton, a photosynthetic microorganism that is the base of aquatic food chains, has been responsible for most of the observed change. Phytoplankton gets its green color from the pigment chlorophyll, which helps produce sugars from carbon dioxide. Rising ocean temperatures are disrupting currents and the nutrients they bring up from the deep ocean. As nutrients are redistributed, some areas are seeing an increase in phytoplankton, and subsequent greener waters. The changes underway have profound consequences for marine ecosystems as all other organisms rely on phytoplankton directly or indirectly for energy to survive.

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### “SeaVolt to launch “first of a kind” offshore floating solar demonstrator”

By: Joshua S. Hill, *Renew Economy*



Photo: Getty Images

The SeaVolt consortium, comprising Belgian companies Tractebel, DEME, and Jan De Nul, is launching its first offshore floating solar energy test platform, designed for rough seas. The platform is tailored to survive in harsh marine conditions and is modular, making it suitable for pairing with offshore wind farms. The test platform will be towed into the Belgian North Sea for at least a year to gather data on the impact of waves, rain, and salt spray on solar panels. Additionally, environmental impact assessments will be conducted to determine the best materials for further development. This project aims to unlock the potential of offshore solar energy.

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### “World will miss 1.5C warming limit - top UK expert”

By: Esme Stallard & Justin Rowlatt, *BBC News*



Photo: Getty Images

Former head of the IPCC, Professor Sir Bob Watson, recently expressed skepticism regarding the Paris Agreement’s aspirational goal of limiting global warming below 1.5°C. In an interview with the BBC, Watson said he does not believe we can reach the 1.5°C goal or even the 2°C goal. Instead, he sees a future of ever weaker government action. Based on current national commitments, the world is on track to raise the global temperature by 2.7°C. Watson stressed the importance of holding governments accountable, and said that even countries that have good climate targets like the UK lack the policies and financing to reach them. A government spokesperson has since responded, and pointed to the UK’s major investments in renewables and to the fact that the country is reducing emissions faster than any other G7 country.

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**“White house cautiously opens the door to study blocking the sun’s rays to slow global warming”**

By: Corbin Hiar, *Politico*



*Photo: Pixabay*

The US Congress has ordered the Biden administration to issue a report on the environmental and societal impacts of solar radiation management (SRM). SRM, commonly known as geoengineering, aims to decrease rising temperatures by reflecting sunlight that reaches Earth’s atmosphere. The most popular SRM technique is releasing sulfates ( $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ) into the atmosphere, similar to a volcanic eruption, to increase its reflectivity. SRM is a controversial practice because it has the potential to disrupt weather patterns, threaten food security, and only masks temperature rise instead of reducing it. Geoengineering has long been considered a last resort when dealing with climate change.

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**“Pacific seabed mining delayed as international agency finalizes rules”**

By: Eric Lipton, *The New York Times*



*Photo: Pixabay*

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) has delayed plans to extract minerals from the Pacific Ocean. The Metals Company have their eyes on the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, between Mexico and Hawaii, that is home to \$30 billion worth of minerals used in electric vehicle batteries. Plans for mining the region were allowed to proceed after the island nation of Nauru gave the Metals Company permission to mine in its national waters, triggering a scramble within the ISA to draft regulations. Environmental organizations and countries such as Costa Rica, Chile, and France, worked to postpone the finalization of the project’s mining rules., which were initially planned to be completed in June 2023. The initial regulations were supposed to be completed in June 2023, but now will be finalized at a later date. Mining is likely to be delayed until 2025 at the earliest if at all.

[Full article](#)

**“An unstoppable force’: Wind and solar to produce more than a third of global power by 2030, report says”**

By: Cristen Hemingway Jaynes, *Ecowatch*



*Photo: Pixabay*

Renewable energy continues to make up a growing portion of global energy capacity, according to the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI). By 2030, over one third of global power generation will come from just wind and solar, excluding other renewable sources, which could push this number even higher. Predictions show that solar and wind could contribute approximately 13,000 terawatt-hours by 2030, which is at least 300% more than their present contributions to global energy supplies. The rise of renewables should see the use of fossil fuels shrink a considerable amount by the end of the decade. However, there is still plenty of work to be done to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

[Full Article](#)

**“Green hushing, explained: Why companies have stopped talking about their climate pledges”**

By: Kate Yoder, *Grist*



*Photo: Getty Images*

Governments around the world have been fighting against greenwashing, which is the practice of companies overemphasizing their environmental commitments to gain public support. However, many companies have begun to hide their environmental initiatives and goals at all, in what is now being called “greenhushing.” Greenhushing has been partially fueled by conservative backlash to environmentally conscious investing, and increased scrutiny of greenwashing. Consumers are becoming more aware of greenwashing, and some companies have taken that as a sign to be silent about any future commitments they may make. Hopefully, governments will take action to ensure the proper disclosure of corporate environmental commitments without fears of litigation or backlash if done properly.

[Full Article](#)

## Report: SDG Summit and Climate Ambition Summit

As leaders of the world meet for the annual United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) this September, two major summits on climate and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be convened to increase ambition on both goals. First, the SDG Summit will convene from September 18-19 under the authority of the UN General Assembly. The 2023 SDG Summit marks the mid-point in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The summit will review the current state of the SDGs, respond to the impact of multiple worldwide crises, and provide high-level political guidance on effective and accelerated actions as the 2030 deadline for achieving the SDGs. But there are concerns over the potential success of the upcoming summit. After the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) this July, only 12% of SDG targets are on track to be achieved by 2030. Of particular concern are SDGs 6 (clean water and sanitation) and 11 (sustainable cities and communities).<sup>7</sup> The outcome of the summit will come as a negotiated political declaration.<sup>8</sup> Earlier this month, NGO Sustainability President Roma Stibravy met with the current UNGA President, Csaba Körösi, to discuss the upcoming summit.



*Roma Stibravy and UNGA President, Csaba Körösi, UN Headquarters, New York.*

The SDG Summit will be immediately followed by the UN Climate Ambition Summit on September 20th, as planned by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres. The goal of the summit is to accelerate action by governments, businesses, financial entities, local authorities, and civil society toward an effective transition to a renewable energy-based, climate-resilient economy. Attendees of the summit will hear from “first movers and doers.” The design and outcomes of the summit will be organized around three interrelated acceleration tracks: ambition, credibility, and implementation.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> “HLPF 2023 Builds Momentum Towards SDG Summit,” *IISD*, July 26, 2023, <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/hlpf-2023-builds-momentum-towards-sdg-summit/>.

<sup>8</sup> “SDG Summit 2023,” *IISD*, n.d., <https://sdg.iisd.org/events/sdg-summit-2023/>.

<sup>9</sup> “Climate Ambition Summit 2023,” *IISD*, September 20, 2023, <https://sdg.iisd.org/events/climate-ambition-summit-2023/>.

**1. Ambition:** Governments, notably major emitters, are expected to announce concrete actions aligned with the Secretary-General's Acceleration Agenda. These actions range from enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to accelerating net zero targets, adopting credible energy transition plans, and committing to phase out coal and oil and gas production.

**2. Credibility:** Leaders of businesses, cities, regions, and financial institutions are encouraged to present transition plans that adhere to the UN-backed credibility standard. This standard emphasizes clear target setting, just transition strategies, and public advocacy for science-based climate action.

**3. Implementation:** Governments, organizations, and sectors are invited to present partnerships that accelerate decarbonization and advance climate justice. These collaborations address challenges in sectors like energy and shipping while ensuring vulnerable regions receive the necessary support.<sup>10</sup>

The SDG Summit and the Climate Ambition Summit both hold promise as transformative events, uniting global leaders to accelerate climate action and drive progress toward sustainable development. The events reflect the urgent need to address climate challenges while underscoring the potential for collaboration and innovation in securing a more resilient and greener future.

Report by: Luca Connor and Egest Balla

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<sup>10</sup> “Climate Ambition Summit 2023,” *United Nations*, n.d., <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/climate-ambition-summit>.



## Sustainable Development Solutions Network

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) is an independent United Nations non-profit organization that was founded in 2012 with the support of former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.<sup>11</sup> Upon its inception, it had ten working groups that focused on areas within the realms of environmental, social, and economic issues. Following the introduction of the 2030 Agenda, its principal goals are now to aid with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to reach the targets of the Paris Agreement. Economist Jeffrey Sachs is the president of the organization. As it grew, the organization's global network program was established and is now composed of national and regional networks across the world. These are membership-based associations of institutions from all over the world. The goal of the network is to bring together academic and research institutes to spread knowledge and work towards the SDGs within their respective geographical areas. Currently, SDSN has more than 1,800 members in 53 networks in a total of 146 countries.<sup>12</sup>



*Photo: Wikimedia Commons*

The national SDSN network in Germany is hosted by the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), a leading German think tank for issues concerning global development and international cooperation; their specific goals are to promote sustainability in Germany and the EU. In addition to the targets of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, SDSN Germany is also guided by the German Sustainability Strategy (DNS).<sup>13</sup> Adopted in 2002 and updated regularly, the DNS acts to ensure the goal of sustainable development throughout government operations. It considers both measures with an impact within German borders, as well as measures taken by Germany that have a global impact. The SDSN Germany network acts as a platform that brings together German scientific organizations, civil society, and businesses to facilitate dialogue and engage stakeholders.

<sup>11</sup> “About Us,” *SDSN*. Accessed July 18, 2023, <https://www.unsdsn.org/about-us>.

<sup>12</sup> “Our National and Regional Networks,” *SDSN*. Accessed July 18, 2023, <https://www.unsdsn.org/networks-overview>.

<sup>13</sup> “What We Work For,” *SDSN Germany*. Accessed July 18, 2023, <https://www.sdsngermany.de/wofur-wir-arbeiten/>.



## Current projects

Currently, the SDSN Germany network has 32 members.<sup>14</sup> One of their main ongoing tasks is to provide policy recommendations to the Federal Government across all pillars of the DNS, i.e.: Social Mobilization and Participation; Finance; Research, Innovation and Digitization; International Responsibility and Cooperation; and Governance. Furthermore, a recent project of the organization was the coordination of a guidance paper on nature-based solutions to climate protection and biodiversity policy. SDSN contributed to the Europe Sustainable Development Report 2021 and recently worked with SDSN Europe at a G7/G20 expert conference. Additionally, the SDSN Germany secretariat frequently organizes events for its members on different topics regarding sustainability, such as climate governance, voluntary carbon markets, socioeconomic participation in the context of the green transition, and sustainability laws.<sup>15</sup> The organization also produces a newsletter that gathers information regarding new publications, research projects, and events.<sup>16</sup>

Report by: Elianne Kjellman

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<sup>14</sup> “National Network SDSN Germany,” *SDSN*. Accessed July 18, 2023, <https://www.unsdsn.org/germany>.

<sup>15</sup> “Events,” *SDSN Germany*. Accessed July 18, 2023, <https://www.sdsngermany.de/veranstaltungen/>.

<sup>16</sup> “Newsletter,” *SDSN Germany*. Accessed July 18, 2023, <https://www.sdsngermany.de/newsletter/>.

*Tales of Two Planets: Stories of Climate Change and Inequality in a Divided World*

By John Freeman

Tales of Two Planets, by John Freeman, is a collection of stories, essays, and poems from various authors that explore the connections between climate change and inequality. Freeman brings together diverse voices from around the world to show how climate change affects various marginalized communities. The book includes stories from many different countries and regions, where issues of resource exploitation, climate change, inequality, and environmental degradation threaten the livelihoods of local communities. Through the various authors' stories, the book shows how climate change affects the health and livelihoods of people as well as the environment.

One of the book's main messages is the inherent injustice of climate change – as the burden of its impacts is often externalized onto communities that are the least responsible for its causes. The collection underscores the struggles of refugees and displaced individuals who not only face the challenges of leaving their home countries but also encounter the additional threat of climate change in their new countries. Through personal accounts and fictional stories, the authors vividly describe the physical and emotional toll of displacement, showing how fighting for their environment and community becomes intertwined with a battle for their existence. Stories from Turkey, Pakistan, Argentina, and Guatemala paint a vivid picture of the loss of home, land, and environment, as well as the accompanying distress and mourning that come

with these experiences. Stories from India and Lebanon illustrate the detrimental consequences of prioritizing development over the well-being of marginalized communities; this underscores the need for sustainable development that balances the needs of future populations while still advocating for the present marginalized population.

While some pieces imagine a future world affected by climate change, others give a more personal perspective on the current realities faced by communities. These stories remind us that climate change isn't just a distant problem but an urgent and immediate reality that affects countless lives today. The inclusion of diverse perspectives not only makes it impactful but also serves as a powerful tool for opening up other viewpoints. By introducing the reader to a wide range of voices, the book encourages a broader understanding of cultural values and perspectives. It fosters empathy and cultural competency, expanding the reader's awareness of the world's complexities when facing climate change. Freeman's collection confronts us with the consequences of our actions and inactions in the face of climate change. It is a call to action, striving for a more sustainable and fair future. With its thought-provoking content and variety of perspectives, Tales of Two Planets is a solid testament to the resilience of communities and the urgency of addressing climate change through collective action.

Report by Catie Eiref

Producer: Roma Stibravy, President

Editors: Andrew Miller, Ben Parker, Scott-Clemons Baker, Kyle White, and Catie Eiref

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