



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)

“I don’t really believe that humans are evil; it is just that we are not very intelligent animals. No animal is so stupid as to foul its only nest, except humans” -Yvon Chouinard

Simon Stiell

Simon Stiell, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), was appointed in August of 2022. Beginning in 2013, Stiell served in the Grenada government as the Minister of Climate Resilience and Environment, while also serving as Minister of Education and Human Development and a member of Grenada’s Senate. Prior to his political career, Stiell held various positions within the technology sector, including senior executive positions at major corporations and emerging startups. As Secretary of the UNFCCC, he will help to organize biannual meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP), while also supporting the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action to help bolster the global response to climate change.



COP27 and the UNFCCC

The 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference, known colloquially as COP27, is the annual summit dedicated towards addressing the current climate crisis. The Conference of the Parties (COP) event dates back to 1992, when world leaders met in Rio de Janeiro to sign the first United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), upon which subsequent annual meetings were set amongst signatories to maintain various sustainability initiatives.



COP27 is currently being hosted by Egypt in the city of Sharm El Sheikh, located on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula along the Red Sea. The city is strategically placed to reflect the growing climate issues in the developing world, as its pristine beauty is juxtaposed by its vulnerability to rising temperatures and sea levels.

The event began on November 6th and will take place across 12 days until November 18th, 2022. It is hoped that this event will help to kickstart more meaningful climate action, sorely needed to help mitigate growing warming trends. Whether the event will be more than just empty discussions and commitments without corresponding action from key parties will be seen.

The following are short summaries for each of the thematic days throughout the event. Stay tuned for the next edition of the newsletter for a final analysis of the event's conclusions.

Wednesday November 9th: “Finance Day”

This day highlighted the importance of finance for implementing radical climate measures. Different types of financial instruments, tools, and policies were discussed that would ideally provide opportunities for countries to fully realize and begin their sustainability transitions, especially in developing parts of the world.

Thursday November 10th: “Science Day” and “Youth and Future Generations Day”

Having seen several landmark reports from the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, it is important to recognize the world-renowned science that is painting a dismal picture for our planet if we do not take urgent action. The events consisted of various panel discussions to further engage the various stakeholders and community members to bring about productive discourse.

This day was also dedicated towards elevating youth voices and giving younger generations a seat at the table when discussing climate agendas. Featured successes and challenges from youth activists as well as discussions with policymakers and stakeholders were presented.

Friday November 11th: “Decarbonization Day”

This day was dedicated towards promoting emerging technologies and decarbonization policies across various sectors. Special emphasis was placed on the

oil, gas, and steel industries, which directly contribute to more than 25% of global emissions. Additional discussions focused on green fertilizers with a low carbon footprint as well as ways to lower the fossil fuel emissions of cement, currently responsible for 7% of global emissions. More interestingly, there was a session dedicated to addressing the challenges for the Global South when it comes to industrialization and improving infrastructure.

Saturday November 12th: “Adaptation and Agriculture Day”

With the most recent IPCC reports painting a dire picture on global progress towards mitigating climate change, it is inevitable that billions of people will be impacted in the future. Ways were discussed on climate resilience and adaptation to safeguard against severe climate impacts.

This day focused on discussing various policy initiatives and technologies that can help to improve the lives of those most susceptible to climate change. Specific discussions highlighted various technologies, funding, and support strategies for vulnerable communities. Additional emphasis was placed on improving the resilience of the agricultural sector in response to growing food insecurities and crop failures.

Monday November 14th: “Gender Day” and “Water Day”

This day was to showcase the various challenges that continue to face women globally due to climate change, as well as addressing the growing water crisis worldwide. The events brought women

activists and leaders from across the globe together to promote inclusivity within the climate dialogues and highlight the important role they play within the climate movement. This day was also designated towards sessions that discussed various water resource management strategies, early warning systems for future droughts, and sustainable solutions to rising sea levels.

Tuesday November 15th: “Energy Day” and “Ace & Civil Society Day”

Ace & Civil Society Day will focus on elevating the importance of civil society in global climate discourse and ensuring their unique perspectives and views are heard. Participants will have the opportunity to present successes and challenges, and network with other stakeholders to create valuable opportunities for future involvement.

November 15th will also provide a chance to discuss a vital aspect of the climate movement, notably the global energy transition. Various types of clean energy was highlighted, with a special emphasis on green hydrogen’s potential as a future energy source. Additional topics of discussion will focus on the need for a smart energy grid that hastens the transition away from fossil fuels while accounting for growing energy demand and scarcity.

Wednesday November 16th: “Biodiversity Day”

The past few decades have seen unprecedented losses in biodiversity across

various global ecosystems. Key nature and ecosystem-based solutions are needed to ensure the protection of our planet’s most crucial species. This day will be devoted entirely to discussions surrounding biodiversity, including the identification of key causes of species loss and mitigation strategies to address them. Specific pollution from plastic and other anthropogenic sources will be highlighted, as well as methods to ensure the sustainability of the nexus between humans and marine resources. Various policy initiatives, solutions, and adaptation strategies will be discussed to increase conservation efforts.

Thursday November 17th: “Solutions Day”

The final day of COP27 will be focused on a broad range of possible solutions to address various challenges pertaining to climate change. The day will see the collaboration between industry leaders and government representatives to share radical ideas and promote best practices for future partnerships. Additional emphasis will be placed on promoting startups whose ideas should be promoted alongside larger, more established corporations.

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“California wildfires wiped out nearly 20 years of greenhouse gas emission reductions - in 2020, alone”

By: Elizabeth Weise, *USA Today*



Photo: Getty Images

Carbon offsets have been a crucial component of the fight to mitigate global climate change. However, the stability of these projects is already being threatened. According to a recent study in the *Environmental Pollution* journal, California’s historic and devastating 2020 wildfire season burned 20 years worth of greenhouse gas offsets into the atmosphere. The fires released an estimated 127 million metric tons of CO₂ into the air, more than double the amount sequestered in new forest growth as part of state emission reduction policies over the previous decade. Climate change has already contributed to greater wildfire frequency and intensity, with several countries and U.S. states being severely affected. As forests take several decades to grow back (if at all), this signals a devastating feedback loop in which these crucial carbon offsets designed to last for decades are destroyed in the blink of an eye.

[Full Article](#)

“Europe has warmed faster than any other region in the past 30 years”

By: Jennifer Gray, *CNN*



Photo: Getty Images

According to the World Meteorological Organization, temperatures in Europe are increasing at more than twice the global average, at a rate of 0.5 degrees Celsius per decade. This level of rapid warming has resulted in drastic weather events across the continent, including a recent uptick in wildfires. A year-to-date analysis shows that Europe has quadrupled the 15-year average of wildfires in a single calendar year. These extreme weather scenarios have caused widespread damages costing up to \$50 billion. Additionally, Alpine glaciers have lost 30-meters of ice thickness between 1997-2021 from increasingly warmer temperatures. Although climate mitigation efforts have been made by Europe to cut greenhouse gas emissions, more needs to be done. If climate change continues and warmer temperatures persist, Europe could face even more trouble.

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“New Jersey latest state to sue oil companies over climate misinformation”

By: Amy Westervelt, *The Guardian*



Photo: Peter Summers/Getty Images

New Jersey has joined a growing number of U.S. states including Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont, that are suing some of the largest oil corporations in the world for intentionally exacerbating the climate crisis, delaying climate policy, and spreading misinformation. Many of these cases are based in liability claims for damages caused due to climate change-related weather events. For New Jersey, a 2021 study found that over \$8 billion in damages from Superstorm Sandy in 2012 can be directly attributable to rising sea levels. Utilizing the “failure to warn” approach has helped to improve the plausibility of the suit in the eyes of the courts, although fossil fuel companies are likely to motion for a dismissal as they have done in previous cases. There are hopes that cases like these will help to bring accountability to companies that, regardless of intent, should bear some responsibility for their actions.

[Full Article](#)

“Truck makers tout an electric future. Privately, they’re stalling it”

By: Anna Phillips, *The Washington Post*



Photo: Getty Images

The transportation sector has been a primary target for reducing global carbon emissions. Many companies have publicly announced plans for introducing partial or fully-electric trucks in the coming years. However, industry lobbyists, particularly from the Truck and Engine Manufacturers Association, have pushed to weaken federal emissions rules and postpone the phase-out of diesel-powered vehicles. In light of recent legislation from the Biden Administration that tightens current standards for commercial vehicles, the industry has attempted to persuade government agencies to stand down, arguing that the transition would be too costly and negatively impact truck buyers. Several disputes have occurred across multiple states that have tried to adopt strict truck emissions standards, most notably in California, which currently has stricter regulations than the federal government. The EPA is set to decide the legality of these regulations, which may spell a messy court battle that will further prolong or derail the transition towards cleaner transportation.

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“Climate change: Hidden emissions in liquid gas imports threaten targets”

By: Matt McGrath, *BBC News*



Photo: Getty Images

New research has indicated that Europe’s widespread demand for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) comes at a high environmental cost. LNG imports have increased due to the Ukraine war, which has limited piped supplies coming from Russia. Data analyzed by Rystad Energy has provided evidence to suggest that the production and transportation of liquefied natural gas has increased the rate of carbon emissions. Compared to piped natural gas, LNG requires far more energy to liquefy and transport, and produces ten times more carbon emissions than pipeline gas. If Russia completely shuts Europe off from natural gas imports, there may be upwards of 35 million tons of upstream CO₂ emissions compared to 2021 due to LNG imports, equivalent to adding 16 million more cars to the roads for two years.

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“Amid historic drought, California approves \$140 million desalination plant”

By: Daniel Trotta, *Reuters*



Photo: Getty Images

Legislators from the California Coastal Commission unanimously approved a proposed \$140 million desalination plant to help combat the state’s crippling water crisis amid the worst drought in over 1,200 years. The plant became the first approved by the agency since 2019, and is expected to produce around 5 million gallons of water per day for residents of Orange County. While similar proposals were shut down due to environmental concerns, this plant will be one-tenth the size and have a smaller overall footprint. Additional steps are planned to ensure that marine life is protected, which includes sending brine to wastewater treatment facilities. The state will continue to study the plant’s success to determine the feasibility for other locations along the coast in the hopes that communities have adequate water access for the future.

[Full Article](#)

“Pesticide use around world almost doubles since 1990, report finds”

By: Arthur Nelson, *The Guardian*



Photo: Getty Images

According to the recently published *Pesticide Atlas*, global pesticide use has increased by almost 80% since 1990. Toxic levels of chemicals found in herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers have contributed to the poisoning of 385 million people and close to 11,000 deaths worldwide each year, mostly in developing countries. In Europe alone, biodiversity has experienced a severe hit with 10% of the continent’s bees on the verge of extinction. The EU has experienced several legislative shortcomings due to extensive lobbying by the agricultural industry. Many EU countries have responded to the growing food shortages from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine by relaxing their restrictions on pesticides to compensate, which can potentially wreak further havoc on biodiversity and human health. Advocates are calling for immediate action within the EU to maintain their commitments to sustainable farming and phase out these dangerous chemicals.

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“COP27: King Charles hosts meeting ahead of climate summit”

By: Georgina Rannard, *BBC News*



Photo: Getty Images

Early last month, the media reported that King Charles would not attend the United Nations COP27 Climate Summit this year. However, King Charles hosted a reception at Buckingham Palace to address mitigating climate change. Attendees included Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who is now attending the COP27 conference, United States Climate envoy John Kerry, and Alok Sharma, the former COP President during COP26 in Glasgow. Prime Minister Sunak led the reception with this statement: "Every moment that we allow climate change to ravage our planet, we will see more human suffering." Prime Minister Sunak also paid tribute to King Charles for his 50-year-long dedication to mitigating climate change.

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