NGO SUSTAINABILITY

GLOBAL WARNING

LATEST NEWS IN SUSTAINABILITY +
NO. 131 |May 2022

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE LIVING AND RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET
ngosustainability@gmail.com | unngosustainability.org

"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."
—Gaylord Nelson

Margaret Renkl

Margaret Renkl, is an American nature writer and *New York Times* opinion columnist who lives in Nashville, Tennessee. Renkl is the author of Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss (Milkweed Editions, 2019) and Graceland, At Last: Notes on Hope and Heartache From the American South (Milkweed Editions, 2021. She's a graduate of Auburn University and the University of South Carolina. In her nonfiction book, Late Migrations: *A Natural History of Love and Loss,* she interweaves short pieces on nature and the natural world with family stories and memories from Renkl's life. In her other book, Graceland, At Last: Notes on Hope and Heartbreak from the American South, she takes in the full scope of her surroundings, and the reader walks away wanting to see as she sees, hear what she hears, smell what she smells. It's a stellar collection that spans nature writing and cultural criticism. Her weekly essays for the New York Times offer a model for how to move through our world with insight and sensitivity. Like nothing else in the newspaper, her essays burst with awareness of the things of nature, awareness that our lives are led in that midst, permeated with and part of the natural world. All is written with an open, joyful, yet steady voice of wonder.

Photo by: *LovetoKnow*

"Mother's Earth Gifts" by Kelly Roper
Kelly Roper is a contributing writer and topic expert with LoveToKnow.com as well as an Editorial Assistant.

Mother Earth gives her gifts for all to share,
She gives them freely, yet she's still aware
That things are changing, perhaps for the worse.
How much more can she give if our future is cursed?

It's way past time to put Mother Earth first,
To clean up the water before we all thirst,
To clean up the air before our lungs sicken,
To renew the soil and feel it quicken.

How long until the point of no return?
How much longer until we all finally learn,
That to this task we all must rise.
And stop abusing Mother Earth before she dies.

"Urgent Action Required to Protect World's Coral Reefs from Disappearing Within Three Decades, Warn Experts" *ScienceDaily* by University of Leicester

Photo by: James Watt

Meeting the 1.5˚C target could mean avoiding the functional degradation of coral reefs by 2050. In the Vibrant Oceans Initiative shared at Our Oceans Conference, the key recommendations for the continuation and thriving of coral reefs were presented. The corals are important ecological indicators that measure stress from climate change. Corals have varying levels of response to climate change, some as sanctuaries because they react better to thermal stress. The "Forecasting Climate Sanctuaries for Securing the Future of Coral Reefs" called for including these recovery sanctuaries in the 50 Reefs studied and focused on monitoring efforts and reducing external pressures like development and promoting sustainable financing endeavors. As biodiversity hotspots, marine protected areas will be an effective management tool, but these areas may span many national boundaries.

Full Article

"G7: Coal, energy security, and biodiversity top UK agenda for Berlin Meeting" *Business Green* by Michael Holder.

Photo by: BusinessGreen

Environment and energy ministers from world's leading seven economies met in Berlin this week amid pressure to ramp up climate and nature commitments. The UK government has pushed its fellow G7 nations to accelerate the shift towards green energy, reduce dependency on fossil fuels, and ramp up efforts to tackle biodiversity loss, as climate and energy ministers of the world's leading economies met for a summit in Berlin in May. The G7 meeting came less than six months ahead of COP27 in Egypt later this year, and follows months of heightened geopolitical tensions and worsening economic headwinds in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine which has threatened to derail climate progress made at COP26.

Full Article

"In South Korea, an Emphasis on Recycling Yields Results" *The New York Times* by David Belcher

Photo by: Chung Sung-Jun

In Hwaseaong, South Korea, at a sprawling recycling plant in this city of farmland and industry, the sound of sustainability is deafening. The Recycling Management Corporation plant, one of the country's nerve centers of plastics recycling, runs around the clock, its maze of conveyor belts and sorters producing a din that could rival an airport runway. South Korea's waste management system, known as jongnyangje, calls for food, garbage, recyclables and bulky items to be separated into color-coded bags. There are both penalties for noncompliance and rewards for those who report violators. Factories like these help South Korea meet ambitious sustainability goals, which are reinforced with policies, messaging and enforcement.

Full Article

"The Battery that flies" *The New York Times* by Ben Ryder Howe

Photo by: Tristan Spinski

A new aircraft being built in Vermont has no need for jet fuel. It can take off and land without a runway. Amazon and the Air Force are both betting on it. The Alia was made by Beta Technologies, where Mr. Caputo is a flight instructor. A five-year-old start-up that is unusual in many respects, the company is the brainchild of Martine Rothblatt, the founder of Sirius XM and the pharmaceutical company United Therapeutics, and Kyle Clark, a Harvard-trained engineer and former professional hockey player. A battery-powered aircraft with no internal combustion has been a goal of engineers ever since the Wright brothers. Larry Page, the Google co-founder, has been funding electric plane start-ups for over a decade. Electric motors have the virtue of being smaller, allowing more of them to be fitted on a plane and making it easier to design systems with vertical lift. For now the plane is currently only transporting cargo.

Full Article

"On an Endangered River, Another Toxic Disaster awaiting to happen" *The New York Times* by Margaret Renkl

Photo by: Damon Winter

The Mobile-Tensaw Delta River is beautiful, an ecosystem that includes not just open water but also marsh, swamp and hardwood forest. From Mr. Meador's flat-bottom boat, the delta feels entirely separate, a quiet world of sunshine and drifting clouds and lapping water and birdsong. Self-contained. Untouched. But the Mobile-Tensaw Delta is far from untouched. Nine rivers feed into it, and rivers carry more than just water. They also carry microplastics; fertilizer, pesticides and animal waste from factory-farming operations; silt from stormwater runoff, and heavy metals from mines and factories — and that's on top of the devastations wrought by damming or wetland development or the granddaddy of all environmental threats: climate change.

Full Article

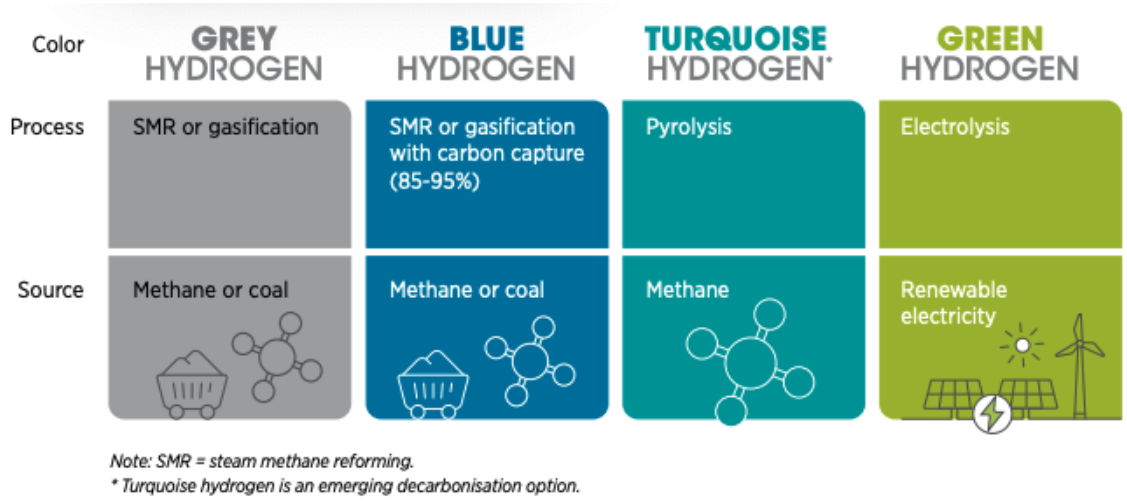
"Climate Action 100+: Is the $68tr investor group failing to drive 'meaningful progress' from top emitters?" *Business Green* by Michael Holder

Photo by: Istock

Climate Action 100+, the world's largest green activist investor group, has been accused of failing to deliver any meaningful progress in pushing the biggest global emitters to slash their emissions over the past five years, despite its members boasting trillions of dollars of assets under management. The initiative was first launched in 2017 with the aim of using its vast investor influence to accelerate decarbonisation among the world's largest corporate greenhouse gas emitters in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement. It now boasts 700 members representing $68tr in assets between them.
But five years since its formation, the investor group has come under increasing fire over its relative lack of success in engaging with targeted companies to spur climate action. Today a new report from campaign group ShareAction argues that only a fraction of the corporate Climate Action 100+ engages with have set near-time emissions reduction goals, adequately disclosed climate risks, or aligned their capital expenditure with Paris Agreement goals.
Full Article

Each week, our interns at NGO Sustainability choose special topics of interest to report on. We believe our interns should explore issues they are passionate about within the sustainability field and we look forward to sharing some of the most interesting aspects of this work with you. Here is Intern Tana's Report on Hydrogen

What are the different Types of Hydrogen?



Blue Hydrogen

- Blue hydrogen is produced mainly from natural gas, using a process called steam reforming, which brings together natural gas and heated water in the form of steam
- As the greenhouse gasses are captured, this mitigates the environmental impacts on the planet.
- Blue hydrogen is sometimes described as 'low-carbon hydrogen' as the steam reforming process doesn't actually avoid the creation of greenhouse gasses.

Green Hydrogen:

- Green hydrogen is hydrogen produced by splitting water by electrolysis. This produces only hydrogen and oxygen.
- We can use the hydrogen and vent the oxygen to the atmosphere with no negative impact.

- To achieve electrolysis we need electricity, we need power. This process to make green hydrogen is powered by renewable energy sources, such as wind or solar
- This makes green hydrogen the cleanest option – hydrogen from renewable energy sources without CO2 as a by-product

Grey Hydrogen:

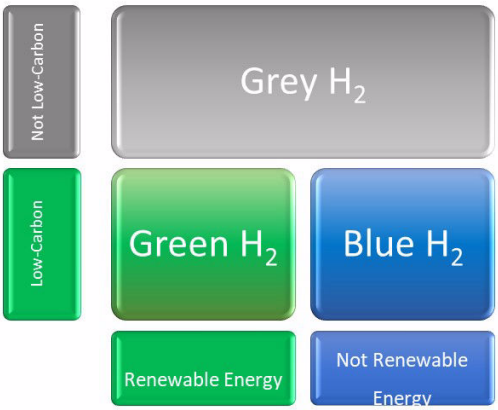
- Similar process to blue hydrogen, SMR or ATR are used to split natural gas into Hydrogen and CO2. But the CO2 is not being captured and is released into the atmosphere.

Pink Hydrogen:

- Similar to green hydrogen, pink hydrogen is made via electrolysis, but using nuclear energy as its source of power.

Yellow Hydrogen:

- Another type of hydrogen made by electrolysis is yellow, where electrolysis is achieved solely through solar power (unlike green which could use a combination of renewable energy sources such as wind or solar).



Producer: Roma Stibravy, President
Editors: Tanatswa Gawe(Hofstra University), Naim Mohammed(University of Connecticut)
Contributors: NGO Sustainability Interns