

# Newsletter

## NGO Sustainability, Inc.



In Consultant Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council

Contact us at: [ngosustainability@gmail.com](mailto:ngosustainability@gmail.com)

Visit us at: [www.unngosustainability.org](http://www.unngosustainability.org)

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### NGO Sustainability President, Roma Stibravy



Roma Stibravy at the Annual Board Meeting, May 23rd, 2018

Roma Stibravy has been working on economic development since her graduate school days, while also working at the Permanent Indonesian Mission to the United Nations. While living in Vienna, Austria, in the 70s, she created the International Committee for Social Welfare, Austria. Among the many socially-oriented activities were fundraising events with the leading musical, theatrical, and fashion institutions to raise funds for both local activities and for economic development programs in Africa. She was then employed by the international headquarters of Save the Children in Geneva, Switzerland, doing tree planting projects in Africa. In the early 90s, Roma started in Sustainable Development as the next step in her career as a UN representative for Solar Cooker International, trying to divert wood and charcoal-burning to solar for cooking in the developing world. Ms. Stibravy worked in many parts of the United Nations in research, writing, and creating programs.

Roma also helped represent the International Chamber of Commerce. In addition, she became the Chair of UN NGO Sustainability.

In 2007, Roma continued her dedication to the promotion of sustainable development/renewable energy for awareness-raising and advocacy by creating NGO Sustainability, Inc.

Roma earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science at Syracuse University and a master's degree in United Nations Affairs at New York University. She presently resides in Norwalk, Connecticut. Roma represents Norwalk, CT on "Sustainable Fairfield County."

## Beat Plastic Pollution

By: Colleen McCarthy

“Beat Plastic Pollution” is the theme for World Environment Day 2018, chosen by this year’s host, India. It is a call to action for all of us to come together to combat one of the great environmental challenges of our time, and invites us all to consider how we can make changes in our everyday lives to reduce the burden of plastic pollution in nature, on wildlife, and our own health. The Beat Plastic Pollution campaign has been very prevalent on social media, helping to raise awareness of the issue of plastic pollution. Since the campaign’s inception, progress has been made, with achievements including the Government of India’s commitment to ban all single-use plastics by 2022, the increased exposure of plastic pollution issues in the press, and pledges from companies, governments and organizations to tackle the issue of plastic pollution.



Photo Credit: [plasticpollutioncoalition.org](http://plasticpollutioncoalition.org)

## Starbucks to scrap plastic straws globally by 2020

Zlati Meyer



Photo Credit: usatoday.com

As part of Starbucks' aim to serve sustainably one of their strategies is to eliminate plastics straws by 2020. The alternative to straws will be recyclable strawless lids and an option to use compostable straws for those who request them. Starbucks' plan of action has been influenced by anti-straw activists who raise awareness that plastic straws create pollution in the ocean, and similar bans have been instituted by companies such as Alaska Airlines and Hilton.

Link to Article:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2018/07/09/starbucks-scrap-plastic-straws-globally-2020/764343002/>

## California meets greenhouse gas reduction goal years early

Christopher Weber

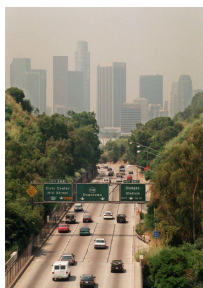


Photo Credit: apnews.com

California's law mandates that their emissions levels decrease to the 1990 levels by 2020. The

state has already achieved this goal and can continue to work towards reaching their goal of having emission levels 40 percent lower than the 1990 indicator by 2030. The cutback in pollution levels are mainly due to the usage of renewable solar energy for electricity. The next challenge is for California to concentrate on using clean transportation to achieve the 2030 target. Connecticut has passed similar legislation, 45% reduction of greenhouse gas from 1990 and 40% use of renewable energy.

Link to Article:

<https://www.apnews.com/942b5a251fac413a84fc4eb93a67c46c/California-meets-greenhouse-gas-reduction-goal-years-early>

## Scientists may have solved a huge riddle in Earth's climate past. It doesn't bode well for the future.

Chris Mooney

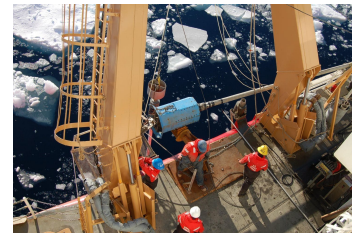


Photo Credit: washingtonpost.com

The Younger Dryas was a major environmental event that occurred 13 thousand years ago as the Earth came out of an Ice Age. Yet as everything warmed, the Northern Hemisphere suddenly grew colder. Scientists now suspect that it may have been caused by a massive glacial flood which slowed and cooled the Atlantic circulation system. Such an event could happen now, although it wouldn't counteract global warming completely.

Link to Article:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/energy-environment/2018/07/11/scientists-may-have-solved-huge-riddle-earths-climate-past-it-doesnt-bode-well-future/?utm\\_term=.ed087d89ca67](https://www.washingtonpost.com/energy-environment/2018/07/11/scientists-may-have-solved-huge-riddle-earths-climate-past-it-doesnt-bode-well-future/?utm_term=.ed087d89ca67)

### A Bad Trade-off For the Planet

Lee Wasserman and David Kaiser

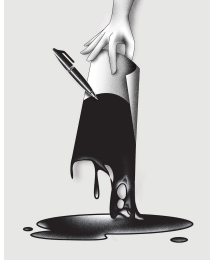


Photo Credit: nytimes.com

Recently, lobbyists and former Senators, backed by companies like Exxon Mobil and Shell, have been campaigning for a federal tax on carbon dioxide emissions, providing an incentive to reduce the use of carbon-based fossil fuels in favor of clean energy. However, they aren't simply proposing a tax, but a deal: a carbon tax in exchange for a repeal of the Clean Power Plan and providing fossil fuel companies immunity from environmental lawsuits.

Link to Article: <https://nyti.ms/2JV3Bm>

### Concern over climate change linked to depression, anxiety: study



Sebastian Malo

Photo Credit: businesspost.ng

A study in the Global Environmental Change illustrates that depression and anxiety are two mental health consequences caused by climate change. The majority of the people affected have low-incomes and are women. These individuals are especially concerned about the impact climate change has on their livelihoods.

Link to Article:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-climate-depression/concern-over-climate-change-linked-to-depression-anxiety-study-idUSKBN1F738X>

### The rise and fall of bees

The Economist



Photo Credit: theneweconomy.com

Humans have forgotten the importance of bees; our ancestors got over 15% of their caloric intake from honey. Nowadays, pesticides and habitat loss have caused 40% of all bee species to decline or be near extinction.

Link to Article:

<https://www.economist.com/books-and-arts/2018/07/26/the-rise-and-fall-of-bees>

### America Is on Fire, But Cable News Won't Mention Climate Change as the Culprit

Grit Post Editorial Board



Photo Credit: gritpost.com

The series of wildfires that annually plague California and the Western half of the United States have been exacerbated by climate change. There are 63 large fires burning throughout 14 states, with only 6 under containment. Outside of the US, wildfires and other natural disasters are claiming lives. In the past two month, more than 220 people have died in Japan from flooding and landslides,



extreme heat has claimed the lives of 70 in Canada, and wildfires have killed 91 people in Greece.

Link to Article: <https://gritpost.com/cable-news-climate-change/>

### China ban: Thailand moves to send poor quality plastic waste back where it came from

Joe Sandler Clarke



Photo Credit: [unearthed.greenpeace.org](https://unearthed.greenpeace.org)

Since China stopped accepting plastic waste imports in January, western countries, including the UK, began scrambling for alternative export markets. Recently, the Thai government has pledged to start screening all plastics and electronic waste imports into the country and will send back plastic scraps to where they come from if imported without proper description. Ever since the China ban, UK waste exports to Thailand have increased exponentially.

Link to Article:

<https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2018/06/29/china-ban-thailand-plastic-waste-pollution/>

### Sinking land, poisoned water: the dark side of California's mega farms

Alissa Greenberg



Photo Credit: [theguardian.com](https://theguardian.com)

Drilling down to wells and aquifers in Central Valley is necessary, due to fluctuating groundwater and rainfall levels. This drilling can shift the land underneath and also suck arsenic out of layers of surrounding clay. The overdrafting of the aquifer causes these two problems to happen simultaneously, causing lethal effects.

Link to Article:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jul/18/california-central-valley-sinking-arsenic-water-farming-agriculture>

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Producer: Roma Stibravy, President

Editors: Samuel Gaspar, Intern ; Colleen McCarthy, Intern ; Kervelle Baird, Intern ; Amelia Barrow; Intern ; Grace McKeon, Intern ; Melissa Serrano, Intern; Lauren King, Intern ; Meghana Annamaneni, Intern

