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Climate & Health News

Newsletter of the JHU-UPF Public Policy Center Climate Change Working Group



JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY

PUBLIC POLICY CENTER



upf. Universitat
Pompeu Fabra
Barcelona

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NEWS

Features and Reports

[Bonn COP suspended: Implementation difficulties challenge negotiators](#)

UN Paris Climate Agreement talks in Bonn in early May were suspended as countries failed to resolve differences. Negotiations will resume in Bangkok in September (an extra week of meetings has been scheduled). Delegates struggled with the complexity of defining a rulebook for the Agreement, with differences over finance and cutting carbon. – *BBC*



UN talks have been officially suspended as countries failed to resolve differences about implementing the Paris climate agreement.
Photo: IISD/ENB - KIARA WORTH

[Drug-resistant infections may increase with warming climate](#)

The chance of acquiring a drug-resistant infection may be higher in a warmer climate. Researchers found higher daily minimum temperatures were associated with increased resistance in common pathogens, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). – *Scientific American*

[Globally, winds are "stilling," may particularly hurt city dwellers](#)

Scientists report surface wind speeds across the planet have fallen by as much as 25% since the 1970s. Called "stilling," this phenomenon is believed to be a consequence of global warming, and is more marked over land masses. The winter of 2016/2017 saw Europe becalmed, leading to smog so intense that Paris banned cars for 6 days. – *Cosmos*



Oli Scarff/Getty Images

[Disabilities and climate change](#)

Comprising 10-15% of the global population, people with physical or intellectual impairments are uniquely affected by climate change. With greater vulnerability during storms, floods and extreme heat climate disruptions are harder for these populations at virtually all levels compared to those without disabilities. – *The Daily Climate*

[Dengue risk helping make case to aim for 1.5°C net warming](#)

As part of effort to demonstrate the impact of half a degree C (between 2 and 1.5 C) global warming, a new study suggests over 3 million cases of dengue could be prevented by reducing emissions to meet the more ambitious target. – *The Daily Climate*



Under mosquito nets, young patients are treated for dengue fever at a hospital in Paraguay. Limiting global warming could avoid millions of new cases each year, research shows. Credit: Norberto Duarte/AFP/Getty Images

[New 'C-CHANGE' climate center at Harvard School of Public Health](#)

Harvard University has established a new Center for Climate, Health and the Global Environment (C-CHANGE), led by former EPA chief Gina McCarthy, who says: "C-CHANGE will ensure... cutting-edge science produced by Harvard is actionable—that the public understands it, and... it gets into the hands of decision-makers so ... science drives decisions." – *The Hill*

Solutions

[Global agreements underway for climate migrants](#)

Two UN agreements are under discussion – the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Migration – that will for the first time recognize the role of changing climate and environmental change in population displacement, and could serve as basis for improved migration policy planning and management. – *Project Syndicate*



NICKRH / GETTY IMAGES

[City climate legal action modeled on tobacco lawsuits](#)

Cities in several countries are suing oil companies using arguments employed in suits against the tobacco industry: “Oil and gas, like cigarettes, are products. The companies that sell them are liable for the damages they cause,” according to the lead counsel, US Department of Justice case against Philip Morris. “They have misled the public about the product’s dangers.” – *Wired*



In a federal court in San Francisco, a judge heard a motion to dismiss from five fossil fuel companies, the defendants in the suit brought by San Francisco and Oakland. *GETTY IMAGES*

[Update on Oslo 2019 car ban](#)

In 2015, Oslo made world headlines for being the first European city to declare plans for a comprehensive, permanent ban on cars in its core by 2019, replacing hundreds of parking spaces with 60 kilometers of bike lanes and parks. – *CityLab*



Bring on the ladies on cargo bikes, says Oslo. Laura Bliss/CityLab

[Norfolk leading on holistic climate resilience](#)

Like many coastal cities, Norfolk Virginia has begun raising streets, installing pumps and planning major floodwalls. But officials are also embracing a radical, holistic approach that reshapes and reinvigorates the entire 400-year-old city by pairing climate adaptation with economic development. – *Inside Climate News*



Most of Norfolk, home to the nation's largest naval base, is less than 15 feet above sea level. Credit: Tyler Folsbee/U.S. Navy

[Nurses step up to fight climate change](#)

The American Academy of Nursing has issued a statement warning against the rollback of climate protective standards and calling for community-based initiatives that support populations most vulnerable to the health consequences of climate change. – *Daily Climate*

[NASA climate science program restored](#)

A U.S. House of Representatives spending panel voted today to restore a small NASA climate research program that President Donald Trump's administration had quietly axed. - *ScienceMag*

SCIENCE

[New global climate model examines extreme weather, water and food security](#)

Researchers projected changes in weather extremes, hydrological impacts and vulnerability to food insecurity at global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C using a new global atmospheric general circulation model. Betts et al., *Philos Trans A Math Phys Eng Sci* (Special Issue on "Physical and Social Challenges for a Warming World of 1.5°C Above Pre-Industrial Levels")



Maria Olsen/EC/ECHO

[Comment – Private and public sector responses to climate change and health](#)

Businesses and local governments are taking major steps to reduce GHG emissions and build resilience. Developments in 2017 – including a season of unusually extreme weather events – heightened awareness of role health sector can help to accelerate these actions. *Koh & McCarthy, JAMA*

[Lancet Countdown co-benefits modeling: UK](#)

Researchers modeled different scenarios to assess the health co-benefits that result from mitigation actions for several scenarios of implementation of targets under the UK Climate Change Act. *Williams et al., Lancet Planet Health*

[Review - Dengue fever and climate in China](#)

Dengue fever has become one of the most serious infectious diseases in China. This review identified major weather parameters associated with dengue fever and recommended research and policy priorities, including enhanced public education and awareness. *Li et al., Sci Tot Env*

[Review – State of knowledge on the Zika virus](#)

Small, isolated Zika outbreaks in Asia were overlooked until the 2015 large-scale outbreak in Brazil and increase of microcephaly cases. Here researchers review knowledge and uncertainties around epidemiology, virus dispersion with globalization and climate change, and modes of transmission as well as disease treatment. – *Depoux et al., Public Health Rev*



[Threat of Zika: Asia region](#)

Asia has been a hotspot of dengue fever and chikungunya mainly due to its dense human population, unplanned urbanization and poverty. Presence of *Aedes aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* mosquitoes, also competent vectors of Zika virus, place the region at risk. Some countries in the Hindu-Kush have already reported Zika cases. – *Dhimal et al., Infect Dis Poverty*

[Lessons from Hurricane Sandy cleanup](#)

Semi-structured interviews with stakeholders involved in Hurricane Sandy cleanup identified at-risk sectors, gaps in training and preparedness, and particular concern about fallen trees, electrical hazards, and fatigue, with steps to reduce these hazards. *Ochsner et al., Am J Ind Med*



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Climate & Health News Editor: Mary Sheehan (msheeh10@jhu.edu),
Managing Editor: Eileen McRae (emcrae4@jhu.edu)