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# Climate & Health News

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



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A news and science roundup organized by the five themes of *The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate*: health impacts; adaptation; mitigation; economics and finance; and communication and politics.

## Health Impacts

### News

#### **'Climate apartheid' may be on the global horizon within a decade**

A [new UN report](#) from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights estimates more than 120 million people could slip into poverty by 2030, leading to widespread displacement and migration. The UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights warns the world is facing a near-term "climate apartheid scenario where the wealthy pay to escape overheating, hunger and conflict while the rest of the world is left to suffer." – **CNN**



According to the UN report, more than 100 million people living in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America face a direct threat to their health and human rights at the hands of climate change. Photo credit: Shutterstock/Victor Tangermann

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### Read more:

- [New ECSAC report says urgent climate action needed to protect health in EU – AAAS EurekaAlert](#)
  - [Acute water shortages hit parts of India amid searing heat wave– CBC](#)
  - [35 US cities at greatest risk from flooding due to sea-level rise– USA Today](#)
  - [Current European heat wave may beat records– NY Times](#)
  - [Beach pollution surges after massive California wildfires and rains– LA Times](#)
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## Science

### Several new studies help refine our understanding of vector-borne disease risk

[Franklinos et al. \(Lancet Infect Dis\)](#) review modeling studies and show there is little consensus regarding climate impacts on mosquito-borne disease; factors other than climate must also be factored in. [Messina et al. \(Nat Microbiol\)](#) map dengue environmental suitability, emphasizing population growth and urbanization as well as climate change, while [Fouque & Reeder \(Infect Dis Poverty\)](#) identify frontier areas between climate zones as at particular risk. [Vandergrift & Kapoor \(Viruses\)](#) identify new viruses associated with serious human disease. And a major Consensus Statement ([Cavicchioli et al. Nat Rev](#)

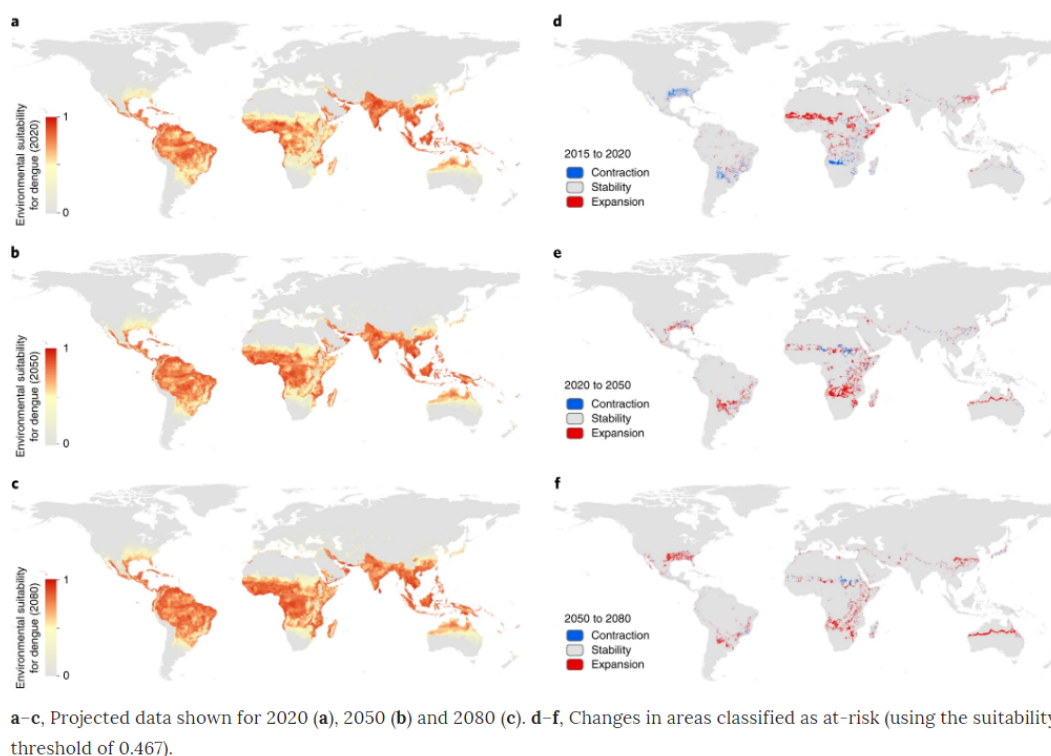


Fig. 2: Environmental suitability for dengue occurrence according to RCP6.0 and SSP2. From the paper by Messina et al.

## Read more:

- [Inequalities in temperature and mortality in S Europe \(Mari-Dell’Olmo et al. Int J Public Health\)](#)
- [Review: Multiple ways heat stress affects kidney function \(Johnson et al. Ann Nutr Metab\)](#)
- [Review: Cascading effects – flooding and water-borne disease \(Suk et al. Eur J Public Health\)](#)
- [Review: Health impacts of climate change in Chinese cities \(Chan et al. Br Med Bull\)](#)
- [Review: Climate is important – but not most influential – risk for conflict \(Mack et al. Nature\)](#)
- [“Atmospheric rivers” worsen California coast water quality \(Aguilera et al. Sci Total Environ\)](#)
- [Depression in two-thirds of women affected by cyclone Mora \(Mamun et al. Psychiatry Res\)](#)
- [Drinking water salinity increases migration risk in Bangladesh \(Rakib et al. J Environ Manage\)](#)

## News

### [The rise, fall and possible re-birth of Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities](#)

In April, the Rockefeller Foundation suddenly announced a halt to funding for 100 Resilient Cities. Though lauded for its support to urban resilience planning and for creating a network of city resilience officers, the program seems to have been considered costly and too open-ended by incoming leadership. Former staffers of 100 Resilient Cities are contemplating formation of a new nonprofit to take over the effort.— *CityLab*



A man shines a flashlight on standing water inside the South Ferry 1 subway station in New York, in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. Credit: Craig Ruttle/AP

### Read more:

- [Paris: Planting wooded areas at historic monuments](#)— *CityLab*
- [Milan: Mapping heat and planting 3 million trees](#)— *FastCompany*
- [Baltimore: Going green with city forests](#)— *CS Monitor*
- [Revolution in urban planning? US cities questioning 'house and yard' zoning](#)— *NY Times*
- [Authorities scramble to protect respiratory health as wildfire season starts in US](#)— *AP*



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## Science

### Improving the efficiency of heat early warning systems

A new study based on experience in Northwest India, which experiences high baseline temperatures, helps identify the most efficient threshold to trigger a heatwave (optimizing tradeoff between number of days potential health impacts) in order to maximize its protective effect on populations. – Nori-Sarma et al. (Int J Environ Res Public Health)



Improving heatwave warning systems will help to save lives in countries such as India. Credit: Sunil Kumar Singh

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### Read more:

- [Review: Reducing EU drinking water vulnerability \(Garnier & Holman Environ Manage\)](#)
- [Review: Opportunities for disease early warning in China \(Yi et al. Environ Res\)](#)
- [Review: Urban flood risk drivers can guide adaptation \(Berndtsson et al. J Environ Manage\)](#)

- [What have we learned from city flood adaptation globally? \(Miao Risk Anal\)](#)
- [Urban natural infrastructure flood management potential \(Gunnell et al. Sci Total Environ\)](#)

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# Mitigation

## News

### [Hungary, Poland and Czech Republic block EU 2050 decarbonisation target](#)

EU leaders had hoped to commit member states to net carbon neutrality by 2050. Twenty-five of the 28 EU nations supported the initiative. However, in a blow to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, three eastern European countries refused to include the target in their 2019-2024 national planning goals. – *The Independent*



Photo from: <https://phys.org/news/2019-06-eu-leaders-net-carbon-emissions.html>

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- [Plans for Europe's largest solar plant unveiled in Spain](#)– *Climate Change News*
- [Amid urgent climate warnings, US EPA gives coal a reprieve](#)– *AP*
- [Electricity demand will soar as households cope with heat](#)– *Yale 360*
- [Electric vehicle policy: China vs US](#)– *FastCompany*
- [The US Pentagon emits more greenhouse gases than Portugal](#)– *The Guardian*
- [A new C40 report looks at consumption-based city emissions](#)– *Curbed*
- [With strong travel demand, airplane emissions to triple by 2050](#)– *Inside Climate News*



Spanish utility giant Iberdrola has laid out a plan to build Europe's largest solar power plant in the country.  
Photo: Iberdrola

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## Science

### [\*\*Increasing ambition of mitigation effort would pay off in avoided heat deaths\*\*](#)

New research models differences in city-specific heat-related mortality in 15 US cities, comparing a 3°C net global warming trajectory (close to current mitigation policies) with 2°C and 1.5°C (Paris Agreement targets), and finds compelling evidence that substantial heat-related deaths could be avoided by increasing mitigation ambition to reach the Paris goals. – Lo et al. (Sci Adv)





A man shades his face from the summer heat, New York.  
Credit: Kathy deWitt / Alamy Stock Photo.

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### Read more:

- [Single \(high impact\) dietary substitutions reduce carbon footprint](#) ([Rose et al. Curr Dev Nutr](#))
- [Choice of rice variety affects GHG emissions](#) ([Gorh & Baruah Environ Sci Pollut Res Int](#))

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## Economics & Finance

### News

#### [\*\*Development bank funding for climate change at an all-time high\*\*](#)

Climate projects won record financing from the world's big development banks in 2018, with funds committed up 60% since the 2015 Paris Agreement. Financing from six multilateral development banks reached \$43.1 billion, up 22% from the previous year and accounting for almost 30% of the banks' total operations. – *Thomson Reuters*





A Turkana herdboys carries his gun as he follows his goats near turbines at the Lake Turkana Wind Power project - partly financed by the African Development Bank and the European Investment Bank - in Marsabit County, northern Kenya, September 4, 2018. Credit: REUTERS/Thomas Mukoya

## Read more:

- [Finance regulator calls climate change major risk to financial markets](#)– *NY Times*
- [Funds say climate change now part of their investing equation](#)– *Wall St Journal*
- [World's largest sovereign wealth fund ditching fossil fuels](#)– *The Local (Norway)*

## Science

### [Economics of the disintegration of Greenland ice sheet](#)

Nobel prize-winning economist William Nordhaus analyzes the economic impact of a potential disintegration of the Greenland ice sheet. A key study finding is that the risk of Greenland's ice sheet disintegration makes a small contribution to the optimal stringency of current policy or to the overall social cost of climate change (adds less than 5% to the social cost of carbon). – Nordhaus (Proc Natl Acad Sci)



Scientists look down at a river of meltwater flowing from southern Greenland.  
Photo: Justine Evans/Alamy Stock Photo

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### Read more:

- [Review: Pests, wildfire risk lowers residential property values \(Nicholls J Environ Manage\)](#)
- [Publicly available dataset on “green” financial regulations \(D’Orazio & Popoyan Data Brief\)](#)

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## Communication

### News

#### How to talk to children about climate change

Children and youth are increasingly mobilized for climate action. Yet many are also worried, and even showing climate change-related anxiety. Identifying positive messages, highlighting actions young people can take to contribute to solutions, and emphasizing climate change as an ongoing conversation in which they have a role, can be helpful strategies. – *NY Times*



Rowan Kelly (front) from Bray with other members of Climate Strike Fridays for Future, spending their thirteenth consecutive Friday protesting about climate change outside the Dáil. Photo: Alan Betson/The Irish Times

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## Read more:

- [Kids are suing governments over climate change all around the world](#)– *National Geographic*
  - [Medical groups warn US candidates that climate is ‘health emergency’](#)– *Inside Climate News*
  - [Oil industry talking out of two sides of its mouth on climate change](#)– *Rolling Stone*
  - [Bloomberg/Sierra Club ‘Beyond Coal’ campaign and US coal plant closures](#)– *E&E News*
  - Opinion: [Conservatives should change their view of climate change](#)– *The Guardian*
  - [100 artists react to climate change](#)– *DW*
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## Science

### [Social media and attitudes toward climate change](#)

Internet blogs are an important platform for discussion of climate change, and play a role in contrarian positions that question mainstream climate science. Study authors evaluated blog posts and comments that either did, or did not, support the scientific consensus on climate change. Findings suggest beliefs are partially shaped by readers' perception of how widely an opinion is shared by other reader comments. When comments reject the





Greta Thunberg

Marian Kamensky (Austria)

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## Read more:

- [Enabling climate-health promotion in Australia](#) ([Patrick & Kingsley Glob Health Promot](#))



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