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# Climate & Health News

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



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**PUBLIC POLICY CENTER**



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Barcelona

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## Health Impacts

### News

#### **Nearly 30 million people required humanitarian aid due 2018 weather extremes**

A new report commissioned by Care International found weather extremes, particularly drought, were involved in humanitarian disasters in Sudan, Chad, the Philippines, Madagascar and Ethiopia among other countries, and that media under-reported the news.

– *The Guardian*



A Filipino on a bike passes children in a flooded street in Manila, the Philippines, in 2016.

Photograph: Mark R. Cristino/EPA

### Where climate change fits in Venezuela's crisis

Venezuela has suffered a severe and persistent drought over the last decade, leading to water and electricity rationing and affecting agricultural production. Water scarcity has contributed to millions of Venezuelans leaving their homes. – *Scientific American*



Crowds protesting in Venezuela. Credit: [Marcelo Perez Del Carpio](#), *Getty Images*

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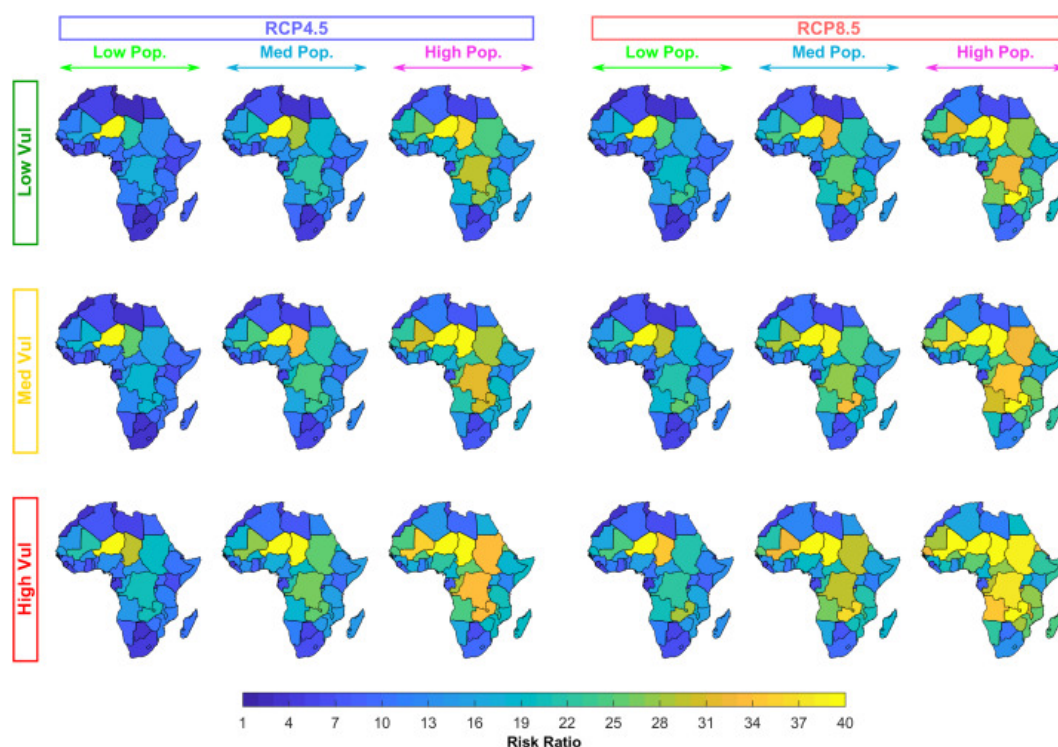
- [Drought is an overlooked driver of Central American migration– PRI](#)
- [January was Australia's hottest month ever– AP](#)
- [Extreme flooding in Australia forces widespread evacuations– WBUR](#)
- [Air pollution is lingering longer over hotter cities, increasing the risk of storms– Bloomberg](#)

## Science

### Future drought risk in Africa by region

Risk assessment of drought across Africa to 2100, integrating the impacts of climate change and vulnerability based on climate and population scenarios. Findings suggest that while the whole continent will have aggravated drought hazard, the drought risk ratio is highest in central African countries due to vulnerability and growing population.

Ahmadalipour et al. (2019). *Future drought risk in Africa: Integrating vulnerability, climate change and population growth*. *Sci Total Environ*. 662:672-686.



[Fig. 8 from paper]. Projections of the ensemble mean drought risk ratio in different scenarios: two climate scenarios (RCP4.5 and RCP8.5), three population scenarios (Low, Medium, and High population), and three vulnerability scenarios (Low, Medium, and High) in distant future (2070–2100).

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- [REVIEW: The global 'syndemic' of obesity, undernutrition and climate change: The Lancet](#)
- [REVIEW: Climate change impact on vector-borne disease](#)
- [REVIEW: Schistosomiasis and climate change](#)
- [Hot temperatures associated with mortality risk in Kuwait](#)
- [Characterizing the Rio de Janeiro 2010 heatwave \(737 excess deaths\)](#)
- [Complex influence of climate change factors on malaria in Kenya](#)

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# Adaptation

## News

### **Chicago releases its first 'Resilience Strategy'**

The new Chicago Resilience Strategy commits to reducing inequality, addressing crime and violence, improving responsiveness to extreme weather, transitioning to 100% renewable energy in buildings (by 2035), and a fully electric bus fleet (by 2040). Chicago is part of the Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities network, which called the strategy a model in terms of engagement of civic organizations and long-term vision. – *Cities Today*



Storm clouds move into downtown Chicago on June 12, 2013. Getty Images/Scott Olson



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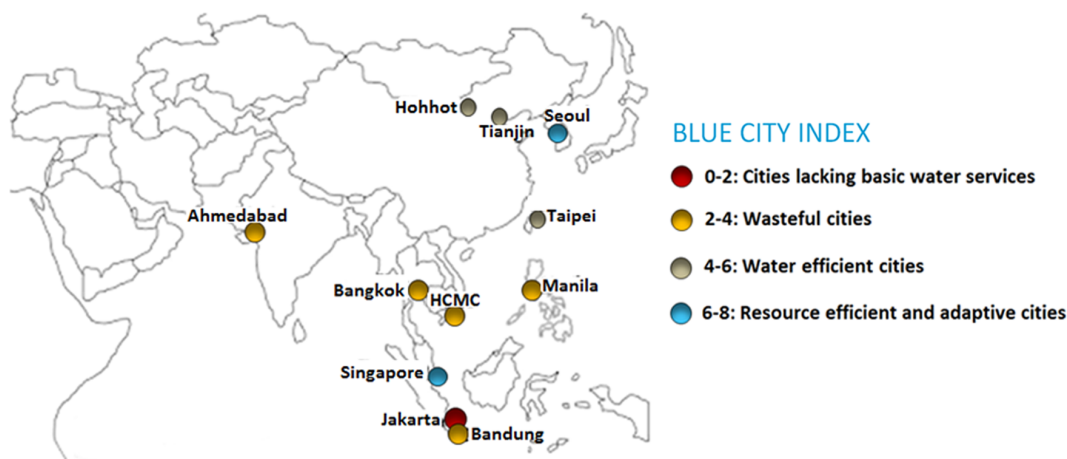
- [Tools to visualize urban sea level rise– The Verge](#)
- [Surat, India: “We have to learn to live with floods”– The Guardian](#)
- [Phoenix is working to beat urban heat– Scientific American](#)

## Science

### Water governance and climate change in large Asian cities

Assessment of the urban water and waste cycle in the context of climate change in 11 large Asian cities. The study found high variability in managing water and related risks across cities. Recommendations include greater priority for solid waste, sanitation and drinking water, and strong potential for city-to-city learning. Exploring co-benefits with other sectors (transport, energy) will increase efficiency, improve resilience, and lower cost.

*Rahmasary et al. (2019). Overcoming the Challenges of Water, Waste and Climate Change in Asian Cities. Environ Manage. 2019 Feb 22 [Epub ahead of print]*



[Fig. 2 from paper] Map with eleven Asian cities included in the City Blueprint study.

**Read more:**

- [Household emergency preparedness for Typhoon Mangkhuk in Hong Kong](#)
- [Factors leading to urban food supply chain resilience: the case of Baltimore](#)
- [The aging population and heat-related adaptation in urban China](#)

- [Environmental health practitioners help communities adapt in South Africa](#)

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# Mitigation

## News

### [How to cut emissions faster: best practice solutions from across the globe](#)

Seven policies could help the US reach Paris goals: instituting a carbon tax (like British Columbia), requiring utilities to produce power from zero-carbon sources (like New York), increasing incentives for electric vehicles (like Norway), improving industry efficiency targets (like China), setting home energy efficiency standards (like California), curbing natural gas methane emissions (like Canada), and ending hydrofluorocarbons use (like the EU). – *NY Times*



Protesters in Norway call for action on climate change. A UVA study finds that American liberals and conservatives disagree regarding common climate change mitigation strategies, but might agree on some adaptation strategies.

Read more at: <https://phys.org/news/2015-11-liberals-mitigate-climate.html#jCp>

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### Read more:



An off-grid solar powered home in Tanzania, Africa. Image: Off-Grid Electric

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## Science

### **REVIEW: Best practices in clean air and active transportation**

Literature review of best practice for urban clean air and active transport policies. Findings suggest streets are being redesigned to integrate transport modes (with pedestrian, cycling, and public transport improving air quality and health); electric and autonomous vehicles may reduce air pollution but have limited impact on health; and green spaces mitigate air pollution and encourage physical activity. Benefits are enhanced with integrated policies.

Glazener & Khreis (2019). *Transforming our cities: Best practices toward clean air and active transportation*. *Curr Environ Health Rep*. 2019 Jan 30.



In downtown Phoenix, investments in urban greening have been made to reduce the impact of heat waves.  
Credit: Mark Skalny The Nature Conservancy

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### Read more:

- [WHO says health needs 'more of a say' on climate and air pollution policy](#)
- ['Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans' and air quality in Europe](#)
- [Climate change in Malaysia: Impacts, mitigation and adaptation](#)

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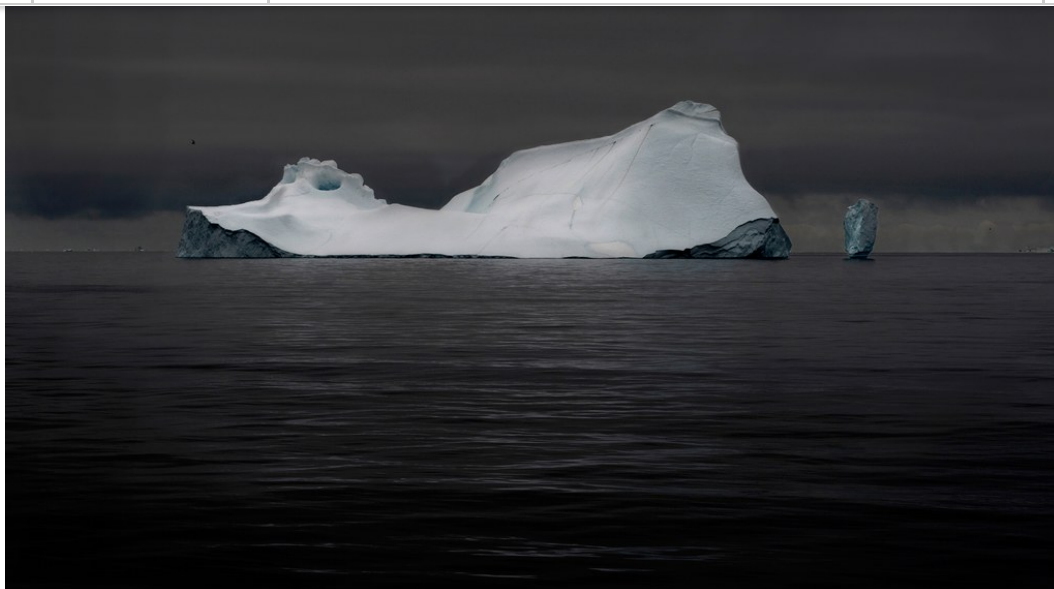
## Economics & Finance

### News

#### **The false choice between economic growth and climate change**

This interview with economists outlines the “terrible economics” of pointing out the costs of climate change policies while ignoring their benefits, reviews the evidence for a carbon tax, and show that the economic benefits of mitigation are likely to be substantially larger than previously believed. A large share of benefits arise from economic savings of avoided health costs due to air pollution exposure. —*New Yorker*



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Last year, the U.S.'s carbon-dioxide emissions increased by an estimated 3.4 per cent, the second-largest gain in the past two decades.

Photograph by Fernando Moleres / Panos Pictures / Redux

### Read more:

- [Carbon tax gathering steam through 'people's payout'– Thomson Reuters](#)
- [Half of European companies do not have CO2 emissions reduction plans– CNBC](#)
- [Businesses need to start worrying about climate impacts on supply chains– TheEconomist](#)



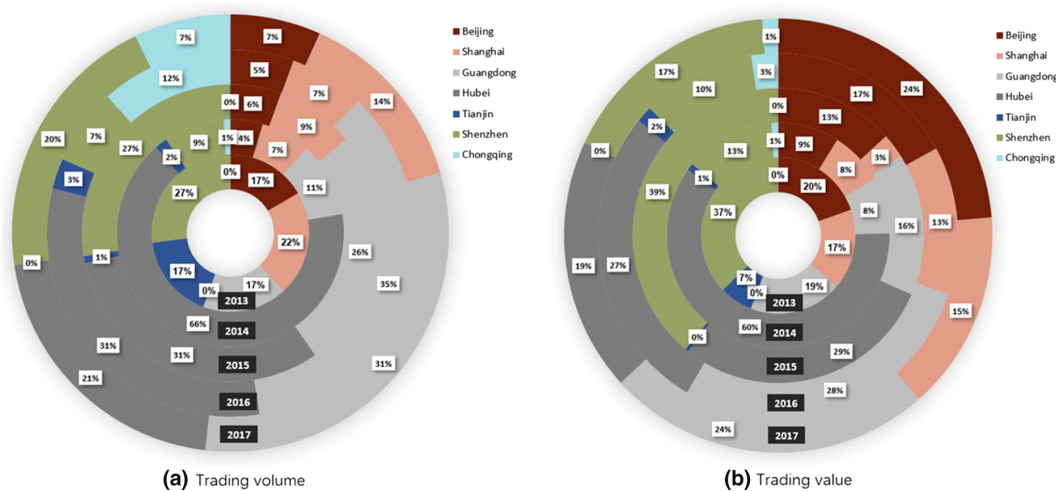
Industrial air pollution. Dirk Meister | Moment | Getty Images

## Science

### **REVIEW: Comparative study of China's pilot emissions trading schemes**

To provide lessons for scale-up to a nationwide emissions trading scheme (ETS), this study reviews performance of seven Chinese ETS pilots (in four cities, two provinces and one economic zone). Authors find the pilots were successful, though with challenges including: carbon price lacking a signal function, insufficient incentives for compliance, low market liquidity, and market fragmentation.

*Zhou et al. (2019). Addressing climate change through a market mechanism: a comparative study of the pilot emission trading schemes in China. Environ Geochem Health. Feb 14. [Epub ahead of print]*



[Fig. 4 from paper] The percentage of trading volume and trading value.  
Data source: <http://k.tanjiaoyi.com/>

### Read more:

- [Economics of flooding and recovery in urban areas: Vancouver, British Columbia](#)
- [The impact of disaster-related economic losses on mental health](#)

## Communication

## Women are 'uniquely placed' to inspire climate action, say city mayors

At a conference chaired by C40 Chair and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, mayors highlighted the role of women – particularly their listening and communicating skills – in moving forward a climate change mitigation and adaptation agenda in cities. Hidalgo noted that in 2014 there were only 4 women mayors in the C40 group, while today there are 21. –

*Thompson Reuters*

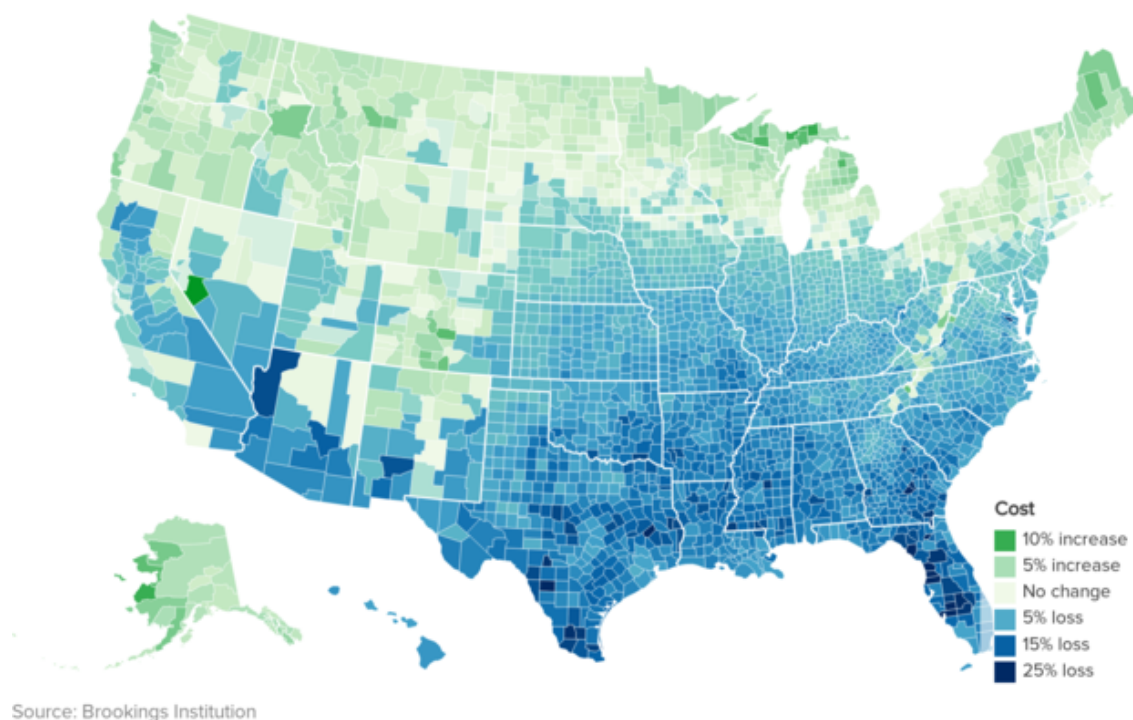


Catherine McKenna, Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, hosted the two-day Climate Leaders' Summit, *Women Kicking it on Climate*. (Government of Canada)

### Read more:

- [Two new 1-minute videos that show past and future global heating– Yale e360](#)
- [Climate change 'felt real' in 2018– Science News](#)
- [As US cedes leadership on climate, China steps in– PBS News Hour](#)
- [Brookings: US climate change skeptics live where effects hit hardest– CBS](#)

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Projected cost by 2080, as portion of 2012 income

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/climate-change-skeptics-live-where-it-hurts-economy-most-study-finds/>

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## Science

### Twitter use for communicating extreme weather information

Researchers analyzed five costly US weather disasters (Hurricanes Irene and Sandy, two tornado outbreaks, and flooding in Louisiana) through the lens of Twitter. Findings suggest that Twitter was used predominantly for preparation for hurricanes, but more frequently for real-time or recovery information for tornadoes and floods. Individuals with average-sized networks were more likely to share information than “influentials” with larger networks.

*Niles et al. (2019). Social media usage patterns during natural hazards. PLoS One. 2019 Feb 13;14(2):e0210484.*



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In this Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019, photo, a resident pushes a bicycle through floodwaters at Hermit Park in Townsville, Australia. More than 1,100 people had been rescued from their homes on Sunday night and evacuation efforts were continuing Monday. (Andrew Rankin/AAP Image via AP)

## Read more:

- [California's first 'food waste prevention week'](#)
- [Environmental justice implications of Hurricane Harvey flooding in Houston, Texas](#)



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