

# Climate Change Campaign Newsletter

February 2024

Due to health reasons, it has been a while since the previous newsletter. There is so much news. If you don't have time to read all the newsletter, reading just the headlines will do.

## Newsletter Priorities

The Earth/environment

The poor

Women and girls

## Introduction

When fossil fuels (coal, petrol, natural gas) burn, they release carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane and other gases that trap the Sun's heat in the atmosphere, causing the Earth's temperature to rise. They're called greenhouse gases because they act like a greenhouse that keeps the temperature inside the greenhouse warmer than outside.

As a result of the increase in greenhouse gases, the world is now about 1.2°C warmer than it was in the late 19th century.

As the ocean warms, it expands. The sea level rises. More ocean water evaporates and more rain falls. Higher temperatures provide more energy for hurricanes and cyclones, which become stronger, meaning stronger winds and more rain. More rain means more flooding, etc.

The warming ocean also means that more water evaporates, and so there is more rain. Warmer air expands more and can hold more water vapor.

Warming causes polar ice and glaciers to melt, further raising the sea level.

As the sea level rises, the sea comes further inland and beaches erode. Buildings near the sea fall into the sea. Villages and towns move away from the coast. They have to find better locations and all this costs money, lots of it.

The warming of the oceans is causing ocean currents to change. Some fish no longer live where they used to. Other fish are found where they haven't been found before. This affects fishers. It also affects islands which allow other countries to fish in their waters for a fee. If the fish move, the other countries won't want to fish in the same waters and the islands will lose an important source of income.

As well as ocean currents changing, weather patterns also are changing. Rainfall is becoming irregular in places. Some places are getting floods they've never had before; others are getting worse heatwaves and droughts than usual.

People's lives are already changing as a result. For example, the ongoing East African drought has put more than 20 million people at risk of severe hunger. The

2022 European heatwaves led to an abnormal increase in deaths. Millions of people are migrating. And these extreme weather events have caused trillions of dollars of economic damage in recent decades.

The “crazy” extreme weather rampaging around the globe in 2023 will become the norm within a decade without dramatic climate action, the world’s leading climate scientists say. The heatwaves, wildfires and floods experienced this year were just the “tip of the iceberg” compared with even worse effects to come, they say.

In September UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned that a climate breakdown has begun.

Laudato Si’ Movement email August 12, 2023

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/weather/climate-breakdown-has-begun-earth-s-hottest-three-month-span-20230907-p5e2qf.html>

In 2018 climate scientists concluded that we must limit global warming to 1.5°C by 2040 if we are to avoid a future in which everyday life around the world is marked by its worst, most devastating effects: the extreme droughts, wildfires, floods, tropical storms, and other disasters that we refer to collectively as climate change. However, a study released this year concluded that 1.5°C of warming would be too hot for the world.

To keep warming to 1.5°C, scientists agree that by 2050 at the latest, and ideally by 2040, we must have stopped emitting more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than the Earth can naturally absorb through its ecosystems. But current policies and practices have the world on pace to hit nearly 3°C of warming by the end of the century.

<file:///Users/user/Downloads/1649-The-Future-We-Choose-Surviving-the-Climate-Crisis.pdf>

To zero out greenhouse gas emissions, we have to stop using all fossil fuels. All coal, all petrol, all natural gas, which means we have to use energy that won’t harm the Earth: natural, sustainable energy.

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/global-warming-101#warming>

<https://japantoday.com/category/features/environment/1.5c-of-warming-is-too-hot-for-a-just-world-study1>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-24021772>

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2023/06/28/commentary/world-commentary/little-panic-might-order-amid-global-heat-records/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/aug/28/dramatic-climate-action-needed-curtail-extreme-weather>

So, why not just stop using fossil fuels and switch to renewable energy? The problem is resistance from the oil companies and their supporters. The companies have donated billions of dollars to political parties and politicians over the decades (I can’t see any difference between these donations and bribes) and politicians are in the pockets of these powerful companies. The companies, of course, want to make as much money from fossil fuels as they can before we switch completely to renewable energy. Then, their assets will become stranded assets — useless.

Perhaps even liabilities if they cost money to maintain and decommission — oil rigs, for example.

### Worldwide climate inequality

September 2022

The adverse effects of climate change are not distributed equitably among countries and communities. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres points out that “the poor and vulnerable are the first to suffer and the worst hit.” Poor countries bear a larger share of the costs, simply because 75% of people living in poverty depend on agriculture, which is extremely sensitive to irregularities in weather and broader climatic changes.

Declines in crop production and quality, increases in crop pests and diseases and other disruptions have already disproportionately affected the poor, just as increasingly frequent and extreme heat disproportionately threaten children and the elderly. A study commissioned by the Vulnerable 20 group, made up of over 50 economies vulnerable to global warming, found that those economies had lost \$525 billion, or 22% of their 2019 gross domestic product, in the past two decades due to human-induced changes in temperature and rainfall patterns. Of the total losses, 44% were concentrated in Bangladesh (population 166.3 million), the Philippines (111 million) and Vietnam (98.1 million), due to their large populations and levels of economic development.

By 2030, 122 million people (mostly the poorest 20% across 92 countries) could be pushed into extreme poverty by higher food prices and other climate-driven income losses.

In Latin America many native groups — such as the Guna people in Panama, the inhabitants of the Mexican state of Chiapas and some Aymaran groups in Bolivia — have lost their towns to rising sea levels, drought, water scarcity, deforestation, changing rainfall patterns and natural disasters. Worse, when these groups are forced to leave their traditional lands, they often end up in urban slums, where they face double discrimination as migrants and indigenous peoples.

In 2020, natural disasters, extreme temperatures and droughts displaced 30.7 million people in 144 countries and territories.

Poor countries are also more prone to resource conflicts, and they tend to lack adequate technology, infrastructure, policies and resources for adaptation. (An example of a resource conflict is cobalt mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In 2021 cobalt-containing battery chemistries accounted for 74% of the global EV battery market.)

Furthermore, climate justice demands that developed countries and multinational corporations assume responsibility for the negative externalities they generate. They must pay their ‘climate debt’ to the rest of the world and acknowledge the intergenerational implications of climate-driven inequality. Like the poor today, younger and future generations will pay the biggest price for a problem they didn’t cause.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/The-Big-Story/Counting-the-cost-of-climate-change>  
<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2022/09/25/commentary/world-commentary/climate-justice/>  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/B9780128195345000106>  
<https://www.innovationnewsnetwork.com/how-cobalt-is-powering-green-technologies/24638/>  
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/05/31/the-dark-side-of-congos-cobalt-rush>  
<https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/violence-democratic-republic-congo>

There is another small problem that doesn't get mentioned often. Poor countries have to continue to develop until they catch up with us. Where are they going to get their energy? They are poor, so they don't have money to buy expensive technology. Will rich countries give them the necessary technology? The U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan and other wealthy nations failed to deliver on a promise first made in 2009 to provide the developing world \$100 billion a year by 2020.

<https://japantoday.com/category/world/co2-cuts-v.-cash-climate-talks-stymied-by-stand-off1>

We must remember that climate change has been caused by the wealthy countries, not the poor. Between 1990 and 2015, the richest 1% of the global population accounted for twice the carbon dioxide emissions relative to the poorest 50%.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2022/09/25/commentary/world-commentary/climate-justice/>

There are other possible solutions. Africa has US\$10 trillion worth of fossil fuel assets. What if the world compensates Africa for not using these assets?

[https://issafrica.org/iss-today/climate-disaster-is-reshaping-the-world-can-africa-make-its-mark?utm\\_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm\\_campaign=ISS\\_Weekly&utm\\_medium=email](https://issafrica.org/iss-today/climate-disaster-is-reshaping-the-world-can-africa-make-its-mark?utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=ISS_Weekly&utm_medium=email)

The average debt for low- and middle-income countries, excluding China, reached 42% of their gross national income in 2020, up from 26% in 2011. For countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, the annual payments just to service that debt averaged 30% of their total exports.

Debt-for-climate swaps allow countries to reduce their debt obligations in exchange for a commitment to finance domestic climate projects with the freed-up financial resources. They have been used since the late 1980s to preserve the environment and address the liquidity crisis in developing countries, including Bolivia, Costa Rica and Belize. These are commonly known as 'debt-for-nature swaps'.

<https://theconversation.com/cop27-how-debt-for-climate-swaps-can-help-solve-low-income-countries-crushing-debt-and-environmental-challenges-at-the-same-time-191161>

## **The Situation in 2023**

**Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere hits new record high**

June 2023

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2023-06-06/science-atmospheric-co2-hits-record-high/102444412>

## Heat

Land temperatures hit 60°C in Spain in July.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jul/18/heatwave-floods-save-planet-children>

## Drought

### Somalian drought

March 2023

30-year-old Aisha Sugal crumples onto the dusty ground. Seven months' pregnant, she has just walked 30km a day for the past 10 days, with no food and very little water. She has arrived with about two dozen others from her village, mostly women and children. Their journey has led them to the aid camp at Ladan, south-west Somalia, where 30,000 others have come over the past two years.

More than 40,000 Somalis may have died last year because of this hunger crisis, according to a UN report. Half were children under five. It's forecast that 30,000 more people may die before June.

The drought, the worst in Somalia's history, is the result of five failed rainy seasons, with a sixth on the horizon.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-23/foreign-correspondent-worst-drought-in-somalia-al-shabaab/102121188>

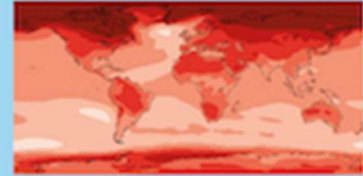
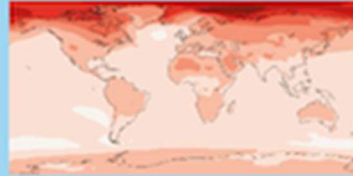
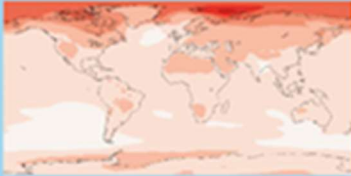
# Which future will we choose?

**1.5°C**

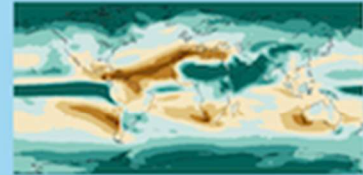
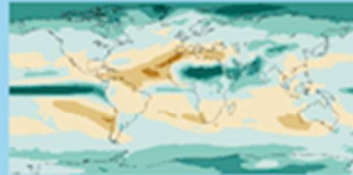
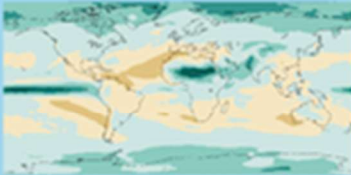
**2°C**

**4°C**

**Temperature**



**Rainfall**



**Extreme weather events that happened once per decade before human influence will be . . .**

	<b>1.5°C</b>	<b>2°C</b>	<b>4°C</b>
<b>Extreme heat</b>	4 times more likely	6 times more likely	9 times more likely
<b>Heavy rain</b>	50% more likely	70% more likely	3 times more likely
<b>Drought</b>	2 times more likely	2 times more likely	4 times more likely

Source: Wake Smith webinar  
Fire

As global temperatures rise, fires are spreading farther north and into the Arctic. New research on the exceptional Arctic fire seasons of 2019 and 2020 points to fires moving into the ground as well. These underground fires are known as “zombie fires”.

<https://theconversation.com/zombie-fires-in-the-arctic-canadas-extreme-wildfire-season-offers-a-glimpse-of-new-risks-in-a-warmer-drier-future-209666>

Canada has had its worst wildfire season ever, with more than 5,700 fires recorded so far this year.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-21/canada-wildfires-what-we-know/102754712>

The Greece wildfire in August was the largest ever recorded in the EU.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/aug/29/greece-wildfire-declared-largest-ever-recorded-in-eu>

The Maui fires killed at least 115 people and destroyed the island’s historic town of Lahaina.

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/aug/16/non-native-grass-species-blamed-for-ferocity-of-hawaii-wildfires>

## Ice

### Climate, ice sheets & sea level

February 2023

Parts of Earth's ice sheets that could lift global oceans by meters will likely crumble with another half degree Celsius of warming. New research suggests that the number of people threatened by sea level rise has been underestimated by tens of millions.

<https://japantoday.com/category/features/environment/climate-ice-sheets-sea-level-the-news-is-not-good>

## Ocean

In August scientists reported a “huge” coral bleaching unfolding across the Americas.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/aug/11/coral-bleaching-central-america>

### Kiribati in danger

July 2023

Kiribati is facing a real challenge. With no part of its land rising more than 2 meters above the ocean, the country is among the most vulnerable to the encroaching tides. Small islands have already succumbed to inundation, while others suffer erosion, jeopardizing crop cultivation and freshwater reserves.

Rising sea levels were beginning to swallow Teate's home, so she built a seawall.

<https://www.abc.net.au/pacific/teate-davies-and-the-seawall/102611176>

### In Fiji the climate crisis is a daily reality

April 2023

Sailosi Ramatu stands in the water where his house once was, before rising sea levels forced the Fijian village of Vunidogoloa to be moved to higher ground.  
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-04-06/fiji-climate-change-moving-villages-vunidogoloa/102186670>

**Global warming has so changed ocean tides that today human coastal habitations are under threat everywhere**

June 2023

[https://www.ucanews.com/news/when-the-tide-turns-a-sobering-thought-for-world-oceans-day/101562?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=UCAN+Evng+Newsletter+07+June+2023+\(Copy+1\)&cmid=88e53fce-4a66-4d8f-a305-42cabfbaa0ea](https://www.ucanews.com/news/when-the-tide-turns-a-sobering-thought-for-world-oceans-day/101562?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=UCAN+Evng+Newsletter+07+June+2023+(Copy+1)&cmid=88e53fce-4a66-4d8f-a305-42cabfbaa0ea)

**At least one-third of Bangladesh will be under water before 2050, as will the entire Mekong Delta.**

March 2023

<https://www.laciviltacattolica.com/the-real-obstacles-to-ecological-transition/>

**Wetlands Drowning**

August 2023

At Shell Beach on the the US Gulf Coast, the sea has risen about seven inches since 2009. The sea is rising faster than most wetlands are able to grow – meaning that most wetlands are in a state of ‘drowning.’

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/news-services/washingtonpost/20230828-132784/>

**Ocean acidification**

September 2023

When carbon dioxide dissolves in water, it reacts to form carbonic acid. The increased presence of carbonic acid leads to increased acidity of the ocean. It's estimated oceans absorb somewhere between a quarter and a third of the millions of tonnes of CO2 human activities emit.

As oceans turn more acidic, it becomes more difficult for marine organisms, such as coral and some plankton, to form their protective shells and skeletons, and existing shells may begin to dissolve.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2023-09-12/ocean-acidification-pacific-marine-environment-climate-change/102630998>

**Rain**

The coastal village of Zagora in Greece received more than 750 millimetres of rain – more than a years' worth — in the space of just 18 hours on September 5.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-08/greece-southern-europe-flood-omega-weather-pattern/102828274>

Hong Kong reported 158mm of rainfall in the space of an hour on September 7, the highest since records began in 1884.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/sep/08/hong-kong-weather-record-rain-flooding-after-typhoon-haikui>



## Vegetation

### Saguaro Cacti Collapsing in Arizona Extreme Heat

August 2023

Arizona's saguaro cacti, a symbol of the U.S. West, are leaning, losing arms and in some cases falling over during the state's record streak of extreme heat.

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/science-nature/climate-change/20230816-130144/>

### Chartreuse liqueurs

April 2023

The Carthusian monks who have made Chartreuse liqueurs in France since 1605 say they will not increase output despite growing demand. They cannot sustainably expand production as some of the 130 plants that are used to make the liqueur have suffered as a result of climate change.

[The Tablet](#)

### Species are moving

April 2023

Around half of all life on Earth is on the move because of climate change.

<https://theconversation.com/fear-and-wonder-podcast-how-species-are-responding-to-climate-change-and-how-humans-can-help-204359>

### Allergy season to get more intense

April 2023

A study found that the US will face up to a 200% increase in total pollen this century if the world continues producing CO2 emissions at a high rate. Pollen season in general will start up to 40 days earlier in the spring and last up to 19 days longer than today under that scenario.

<https://theconversation.com/allergy-season-is-getting-more-intense-with-climate-change-were-creating-better-pollen-forecasts-to-help-203881>

## Animals

Our addiction to fossil fuels is killing baby penguins

September 2023

In Antarctica last year, whole colonies of emperor penguins lost all the chicks they had stoically incubated through weeks of darkness, minus 50 degrees Celsius temperatures and 160 kilometers-per-hour winds. These iconic birds depend on sea ice as a platform for breeding and raising chicks, but as the globe is warming, ice is melting too early. The chicks, too young to swim, are drowning.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/commentary/2023/09/03/world/global-warming-baby-penguins-dying/>

### Bark beetles

In the American West, warmer temperatures have led to an explosion of bark beetles, which has in turn led to vast die-offs of evergreens, which the larvae feed on. These dead trees have provided a ready supply of fuel for fires.

[Greta Thunberg, The Climate Book](#)

### Paris fumigates for tiger mosquitoes

September 2023

Health authorities in Paris have fumigated areas of the French capital for the first time to kill tiger mosquitoes, which can carry the dengue, chikungunya and Zika viruses, whose rapid advance through northern Europe is thought to have been accelerated by climate change.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/sep/01/paris-fumigates-city-tiger-mosquitoes-carry-zika-dengue-disease-france>

### **Insect apocalypse is coming**

August 2023

An unusually large influx of tiny insects called aphids have been sucking on Dallas-area pecan trees this summer. After they've had their fill, they excrete the waste onto cars, driveways and sidewalks. "Texas is covered in a sticky, icky goo," declared a Dallas Morning News headline.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/commentary/2023/08/20/world/the-insect-apocalypse-is-coming-to-your-neighborhood/>

## **People**

### **The Poor**

#### **African women bear the brunt of climate change**

March 2023

The double burden of climate change and gender inequality renders women more vulnerable because they are less likely to have access to financial and social assets. 80% of people displaced by the climate crisis globally are women.

<https://issafrica.org/pscreport/psc-insights/african-women-bear-the-brunt-of-climate-change>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/mar/26/climate-change-crisis-women-feminism-pakistan-floods>

#### **Somalis are dying because of a climate crisis they didn't cause**

March 2023

We've seen droughts, but never six consecutive failed rainy seasons. We've known displacement, but never 3 million internally displaced people. We were at the brink of famine in October last year but narrowly averted it, and we're facing similar conditions today, with 8.3 million people needing urgent assistance.

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/mar/22/somalis-are-dying-because-of-a-climate-crisis-they-didnt-cause-more-aid-isnt-the-answer>

#### **Climate change displaces 2 million children in sub-Saharan Africa**

September 2023

<https://international.la-croix.com/news/environment/climate-change-displaces-2-million-children-in-sub-saharan-africa/18325>

#### **Climate-induced rising sea levels are forcing residents of tiny Panama island Carti Sugtupu to leave**

September 2023

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-11/carti-sugtupu-residents-leave-panama-island-hit-by-rising-seas/102839860>

### American climate migration has already begun

February 2023

Last year, 3 million were displaced in the US. Millions more will follow. Neither they, the government nor the housing market are ready.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/feb/23/us-climate-crisis-housing-migration-natural-disasters>

### Climate Change Increasing Human Trafficking Risks

January 2023

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/news-services/afp-jiji/20230125-86244/>

### Climate change inflames extremist insurgency in Africa

July 2023

Climate change is reducing the economic prospects of young men in the Sahel, the region that stretches across Africa below the Sahara Desert. Rising temperatures, increasing droughts and less predictable rainfall make them more susceptible to recruitment by Boko Haram, an Islamist extremist movement born in the 2000s in northern Nigeria out of political grievances.

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/news-services/washingtonpost/20230702-120053/>

### Bangladeshi farmers paying for climate change

August 2023

Abdus Salam, a marginal farmer from Kurigram, a poverty-stricken northern district, planted rice on his 165 decimals of land by borrowing 20,000 Taka (US\$183) from relatives and friends. The crop on just 10 decimals of land survived. Salam is now considering taking a high-interest loan from a local usurer.

[https://www.ucanews.com/news/bangladeshi-farmers-pay-price-for-climate-change/102322?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=UCAN+Evng+Newsletter+18+Aug+2023+\(Copy+1\)&cmid=06de40dd-3a9c-479a-81de-0efc2d9ec73f](https://www.ucanews.com/news/bangladeshi-farmers-pay-price-for-climate-change/102322?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=UCAN+Evng+Newsletter+18+Aug+2023+(Copy+1)&cmid=06de40dd-3a9c-479a-81de-0efc2d9ec73f)

### The crippled kidneys of Nepali workers

January 2023

When the body is severely dehydrated, calcium and uric acid in urine form crystals, scarring the kidneys. When internal temperatures soar past 104 degrees, organs, including the brain, can break down. As the world grows hotter and climate change ushers in more frequent and extreme heat waves, public health experts fear kidney disease cases will soar among laborers who have no choice but to work outdoors. A glimpse of that future is emerging in Nepal, where nearly 1 in 10 people go abroad to work – often in some of the world's hottest places.

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/news-services/washingtonpost/20230107-82553/>

### Seaweed farmers in eastern Indonesia struggle in a changing climate

July 2023

Seaweed farmers in Indonesia are losing out on revenue from their harvests as a result of erratic weather patterns and warming waters. The warming seas encourage the growth of a bacteria that attacks the commercially valuable *Eucheuma cottonii* species of seaweed.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2023/07/seaweed-farmers-in-eastern-indonesia-struggle-in-a-changing-climate/>

### Deadly costs for Mexico's Indigenous communities fighting climate change

February 2023

Mexico's Indigenous communities are on the front lines of ecological preservation. Many still live on their ancestral lands and struggle against development projects that would destroy some of the world's most precious ecosystems that they call home. These communities are showing us how the fight against climate change begins at the local level. They also have valuable lessons to teach us about maintaining plants, fauna and species native to their lands. But Mexico has become the deadliest place in the world for environmental and land activists protecting Indigenous territories. 54 environmental and land defenders were killed in Mexico in 2021.

<https://fore.yale.edu/news/The-deadly-costs-for-Mexico%E2%80%99s-Indigenous-communities-fighting-climate-change>

### Water Shortages Clear Out Villages in Nepal

June 2023

Dozens of families used to live in the once-vibrant village of Purana Gaun in eastern Nepal, but the number of households that remain can be counted on the fingers on one hand. The exodus has been driven by a lack of water, as rainfall falters and springs and streams dry up, and most of those with the means to leave have already gone.

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/world/asia-pacific/20230624-118591/>

### Extreme Heat, Heavy Rain Devastate South Korean Watermelon Farmer

August 2023

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/science-nature/climate-change/20230826-132332/>

### As climate catastrophes rise, reinsurers reduce risks

September 2023

Natural disasters are now happening so frequently that reinsurers -- the firms that sell insurance to insurance companies -- are scaling back their exposure to such risks. This raises the question of whether individuals and businesses will be able to protect themselves against the effects of climate change if their insurance companies cannot even get coverage themselves.

<https://japantoday.com/category/business/as-climate-catastrophes-rise-reinsurers-reduce-risks>

### Causes

### How China, US watered down a key UN document

March 2023

China, the US and Saudi Arabia are among countries that significantly altered a United Nations document that will shape global climate policy for years to come. Greenhouse gas emissions have to be cut by 60%, and CO2 pollution has to fall 65% by 2035 from 2019 levels for a 50% chance of keeping global temperature rise within 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. Chinese negotiators successfully lobbied to delete a reference to those exact reductions in the final summary for policymakers.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/03/25/world/science-health-world/un-climate-change-report-china-u-s/>

### Sweden's dishonesty

Only one third of our actual emissions of greenhouse gases were included in Sweden's climate targets and the official national statistics.

Greta Thunberg, *The Climate Book*

### Coal use climbs worldwide

April 2023

The burning of coal for electricity, cement, steel and other uses went up in 2022 despite global promises to phase down the fuel that's the biggest source of planet-warming gases in the atmosphere. Nearly all newly commissioned coal projects were in China.

<https://japantoday.com/category/features/environment/coal-use-climbs-worldwide-despite-promises-to-slash-it>

### Fossil fuel subsidies

August 2023

The IMF found the total subsidies for oil, gas and coal in 2022 were \$7 trillion.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/aug/24/fossil-fuel-subsidies-imf-report-climate-crisis-oil-gas-coal>

### Biomass

The decision to consider burning biomass as 'renewable' was made in what has been called a blind spot of the Kyoto Protocol.

Entire nations' climate policies are based on this loophole. In the UK, for instance, the Selby Drax power plant is the biggest single emitter of CO<sub>2</sub>, but its biomass emissions are excluded from the UK's national statistics. The EU would not stand a chance of reaching its climate targets without a wide use of clever creative accounting like this. In 2019, 59% of the EU's so-called renewable energy came from biomass.

Biomass energy's renewable status depends upon a sustainable agriculture and forest industry, which doesn't exist at any sufficient scale today.

The fact that biomass is considered renewable has sparked large-scale exploitation of this energy source, which is accelerating deforestation and biodiversity loss. Burning wood for energy releases more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than burning coal.

Greta Thunberg, *The Climate Book*

### Premier pressured EPA to remove emissions targets

September 2023

In 2019, the Western Australia Environmental Protection Authority wanted to introduce tough new emissions guidelines. The decision triggered a backlash from Woodside Energy and the state's mining lobby. A single phone call from the WA premier led to the guidelines being scrapped.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-10/mark-mcgowan-phone-call-epa-emissions-targets-tom-hatton/102800212>

### Our environmental laws are failing

September 2023

In August Australia's federal environment minister quietly waved through a coalmine extension. The Gregory Crinum coalmine in Queensland now has a green light to operate for another 50 years. The extra coal, when burnt, will add about 31m tonnes of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. That equates to 6% of Australia's annual emissions.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/sep/09/our-environmental-laws-are-failing-us-in-the-face-of-the-climate-crisis>

### Big Oil's trade group allies outspent clean energy groups by 27x, with billions in ads and lobbying

February 2023

<https://theconversation.com/big-oils-trade-group-allies-outspent-clean-energy-groups-by-a-whopping-27x-with-billions-in-ads-and-lobbying-to-keep-fossil-fuels-flowing-198286>

### BP scaling back climate change plans

February 2023

The oil and gas multinational BP set a record annual profit last year, reaching a staggering US\$27.7bn. The company celebrated this news by announcing it would scale back its climate change plans.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/commentisfree/2023/feb/09/fossil-fuel-companies-wont-save-us-from-climate-change-we-need-governments-to-step-up>

### Corporations more talk than action

February 2023

Twenty-four multinationals examined have all endorsed the Paris treaty target of capping global warming at 1.5° Celsius. Staying under that critical temperature will require slashing global greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030, and reaching 'net zero' by mid-century.

But the 2030 pledges of the 22 companies that made them would slice only 15% off their collective emissions. And net zero targets adopted by all 24 multinationals would remove a barely third of their current emissions.

<https://japantoday.com/category/features/environment/on-climate-most-corporations-more-talk-than-action>

### Corporations use greenwashing to convince you they are battling climate change

May 2023

Greenwashing is any communication that leads the listener to adopt an overly favorable impression of a company's greenness. For example, an organization tells you something good they do but neglects to tell you the bad things that go along with it. An electric hand dryer in a public restroom may say on it: This dryer protects the environment. It saves trees from being used for paper. But it neglects to tell you that it's powered with electricity, and that electricity may have been generated from coal-fired power, which might actually be more damaging than using a tree, which is a renewable resource.

A company may say: Look at this, we invested US\$5 million in renewable energy last year. They may not tell you that they spent \$100 billion drilling for oil in a sensitive location. And they may not tell you that they spent \$50 million lobbying against climate legislation that would have made a real difference.

<https://theconversation.com/how-corporations-use-greenwashing-to-convince-you-they-are-battling-climate-change-204660>

### Canada is on fire, and big oil is the arsonist

June 2023

Canada is on fire from coast to coast to coast. Thousands have been evacuated, millions exposed to air pollution. Canada subsidises oil and gas more than any other G20 nation, averaging \$14bn annually between 2018 and 2020. Now big oil is getting tax breaks for carbon capture and storage – an unproven technology.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jun/20/canada-wildfires-big-oil>

### Meat, dairy and rice production will bust 1.5°C climate target

March 2023

Climate-heating emissions from food production, dominated by meat, dairy and rice, will by themselves break the key international target of 1.5°C if left unchecked.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/mar/06/meat-dairy-rice-high-methane-food-production-bust-climate-target-study>

### Aviation chiefs rejected measures to curb climate impact of jet vapours

March 2023

Airlines and airports opposed measures to combat global warming caused by jet vapour trails that evidence suggests account for more than half of the aviation industry's climate impact. These human-made clouds trap heat in the atmosphere that would otherwise escape into space.

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2023/mar/18/aviation-chiefs-rejected-measures-to-curb-climate-impact-of-jet-vapours>

### Shipping's conundrum

June 2023

Shipping is the most efficient means of cargo transport, but the sheer volume of goods – 11 billion tonnes a year – puts its emissions on a par with countries like Germany or Japan. In 2018, the International Maritime Organization set its first sector-wide climate target: to halve shipping emissions between 2008 and 2050. This 'initial strategy' doesn't align with the Paris Agreement goal of keeping global warming below 1.5°C.

<https://theconversation.com/marshall-islands-a-nation-at-the-heart-of-global-shipping-fights-for-climate-justice-202613>

### Aviation's conundrum

July 2023

Critics and researchers caution that pinning aviation's carbon-cutting hopes on sustainable aviation fuels is problematic. These fuels, derived from liquid biofuels, along with synthetic fuel options such as green hydrogen, have been produced in only minuscule amounts and at high cost. Controversial ideas to curb customer demand for air travel are likely needed to significantly bring down commercial aviation's emissions fast.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2023/07/aviations-climate-conundrum-more-than-sustainable-fuels-needed/>

### Carbon footprint of ChatGPT

May 2023

Researchers estimate that creating GPT-3 consumed 1,287 megawatt hours of electricity and generated 552 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, the equivalent of 123 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles driven for one year. And that's just for getting the model ready to launch, before any consumers start using it.

<https://theconversation.com/is-generative-ai-bad-for-the-environment-a-computer-scientist-explains-the-carbon-footprint-of-chatgpt-and-its-cousins-204096>

### 90% of rainforest carbon offsets by biggest provider are worthless

January 2023

The forest carbon offsets approved by the world's leading provider and used by Disney, Shell, Gucci and other big corporations are largely worthless and could make global heating worse.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jan/18/revealed-forest-carbon-offsets-biggest-provider-worthless-verra-aoe>

## Solutions

### Tropical Forests

April 2023

What will it take for standing primary tropical rainforests to be worth more alive than dead?

<https://yff.yale.edu/news/tropical-forests-arguing-while-world-burns-its-time-peace>

### ADB readies \$15bn in climate financing for emerging Asia

April 2023

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Editor-s-Picks/Interview/ADB-readies-15bn-in-climate-financing-for-emerging-Asia-president>

### Climate expert calls for urgent rethink on aid

June 2023

The world needs to offer trillions, not billions in overseas support, says climate economist Avinash Persaud.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jun/18/countries-are-drowning-climate-expert-calls-for-urgent-rethink-on-scale-of-aid-for-developing-world>

### Bahrain to build walls against rising sea

August 2023

<https://japantoday.com/category/features/environment/'silent-threat'-bahrain-to-build-walls-against-rising-sea1>

### California's climate plan

January 2023

California is embarking on an audacious new climate plan that aims to eliminate the state's greenhouse gas footprint by 2045, and in the process, slash emissions far



beyond its borders. The blueprint calls for massive transformations in industry, energy and transportation, as well as changes in institutions and human behaviors. <https://theconversation.com/how-californias-ambitious-new-climate-plan-could-help-speed-energy-transformation-around-the-world-197094>

### Exploitation by fossil fuel firms

May 2023

Academics now estimate that the 21 top fossil fuel behemoths are liable for an estimated US\$209bn annual reparation bill arising from their exploitation.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/may/19/fossil-fuel-climate-reparations-debt-developing-nations>

### Ecuadorians vote to halt oil drilling in Amazonian national park

August 2023

Ecuadorians have voted in a historic referendum to halt the development of all new oil wells in the Yasuní national park in the Amazon, one of the most biodiverse regions on the planet.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/aug/21/ecuador-votes-to-halt-oil-drilling-in-amazonian-biodiversity-hotspot>

### Financial Institutions Accelerate Move Away from Coal

May 2023

Banks and insurers are more frequently adding coal exclusion policies to their investments while those with existing policies are toughening them up despite record profits in the sector, according to a report.

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/science-nature/climate-change/20230531-113164/>

### Goulburn community solar farm

August 2023

300 Goulburn residents have bought into a \$5 million solar farm being built by a community organization called Community Energy 4 Goulburn on the town's outskirts to feed power into the grid. The 4,500-panel farm will be the first community-owned solar farm in Australia with a battery.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-12/goulburn-residents-fund-and-build-solar-farm-for-local-power/102621222>

### EU border tax on CO2 offers huge opportunity to tackle climate change

April 2023

<https://www.pik-potsdam.de/en/news/latest-news/eu-border-tax-on-co2-offers-huge-opportunity-to-tackle-climate-change>

## Technology

### 'Revolutionary' solar power cell

July 2023

Solar power cells have raced past the key milestone of 30% energy efficiency. The breakthrough is adding a layer of perovskite on top of the silicon layer. This captures blue light from the visible spectrum, while the silicon captures red light, boosting the total light captured overall.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jul/06/revolutionary-solar-power-cell-innovations-break-key-energy-threshold>

### Geoengineering could have harmful results

August 2023

Geoengineering aims to remove excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere or reflect solar energy away from Earth. Stratospheric aerosol injection would seed the upper atmosphere with billions of tiny particles that reflect sunlight directly out to space. Cirrus cloud thinning aims to reduce the impact of high-altitude, wispy clouds that trap energy within the atmosphere by making their ice crystals larger, heavier and more likely to precipitate. Cloud brightening aims to increase the prevalence of brighter, lower-level clouds that reflect sunlight, possibly by spraying seawater into the air to increase water vapor concentration.

Some scientists have suggested going further and installing arrays of space mirrors that could reduce global temperature by reflecting solar energy away before it reaches the atmosphere.

But changing Earth's complex and interconnected climate system may have unintended consequences. Changes that help one region could harm another, and the effects may not be clear until it's too late.

<https://theconversation.com/geoengineering-sounds-like-a-quick-climate-fix-but-without-more-research-and-guardrails-its-a-costly-gamble-with-potentially-harmful-results-211705>

### Geothermal Energy

Geothermal is a low-carbon source of energy – it produces around 17% of the emissions of fossil gas – but it does produce other emissions, such as hydrogen sulphide and sulphur dioxide, both of which cause substantial environmental concerns.

[Greta Thunberg, The Climate Book](#)

### The key to greening heavy industry

August 2023

If we are to eliminate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, we will have to find a 'clean' way to power hard-to-abate heavy industries, such as steel, cement and fertilizer production. Solar and wind energy alone cannot do this job, but hydrogen can.

Most hydrogen produced today is sourced from fossil fuels. The technology, as originally developed, requires huge amounts of fresh water — a resource that, in many parts of the world, is in short supply.

Researchers in China have reported that they converted seawater directly into hydrogen.

Make no mistake: green hydrogen can completely replace fossil fuels. But vast investment will be needed to make this happen. In order to produce 4 Gt of green hydrogen annually by 2050, we must urgently deploy vast arrays of solar and wind devices, which can power vast arrays of electrolyzers that convert vast quantities of seawater into the zero-emission fuel of the future.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/commentary/2023/08/25/world/greening-energy-hydrogen/>

### **Carbon Capture and Storage**

In the autumn of 2021, the world's biggest direct-air carbon removal plant opened in Iceland. If all goes according to plan and without setbacks, it will capture about three seconds' worth of each year's global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Some carbon capture and storage plants have been shown to actually emit more CO<sub>2</sub> than they capture.

[Greta Thunberg, The Climate Book](#)

### **Positive News**

**'Beginning of the end' of fossil fuel era approaching, says International Energy Agency**

September 2023

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/sep/12/beginning-of-the-end-of-fossil-fuel-era-approaching-says-iea>

**Clean energy investment is extending its lead over fossil fuels.**

May 2023

<https://www.iea.org/news/clean-energy-investment-is-extending-its-lead-over-fossil-fuels-boosted-by-energy-security-strengths>

**The Asian Development Bank readies \$15bn in climate financing for emerging Asia**

April 2023

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Editor-s-Picks/Interview/ADB-readies-15bn-in-climate-financing-for-emerging-Asia-president>

**Coal miners forced to insure themselves amid climate concerns**

September 2023

Some coal producers are having to set aside tens of millions of dollars to cover their own risks as they are cut adrift by insurers.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/business/2023/09/01/companies/coal-miners-insurance-snub/>

**Insurance companies are pulling out of California and Florida**

June 2023

Hurricane Andrew's unprecedented US\$16 billion in insured losses across Florida in 1992 set off alarm bells. Multibillion-dollar disasters since then have left several insurers insolvent and pushed many others to reevaluate what they're willing to insure.

<https://theconversation.com/why-insurance-companies-are-pulling-out-of-california-and-florida-and-how-to-fix-some-of-the-underlying-problems-207172>

**Mexico sets a global precautionary example by stopping solar geoengineering experiments**

January 2023

On January 13 the Mexican government announced that it will not allow solar geoengineering experiments in Mexico. This announcement came in response to

Make Sunsets' experiments over Baja California Sur, Mexico, where the two-man startup used weather balloons to spray sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere. This took place without the Free Prior and Informed consent of the Indigenous peoples whose territories were used for the experiments and without any permits or even a license to operate a business in Mexico.

<https://www.etcgroup.org/content/mexico-sets-global-precautionary-example-stopping-solar-geoengineering-experiments>

## Protest

### Congolese Students Taking on Big Oil

July 2023

Student activists are traveling thousands of miles across the Democratic Republic of Congo to mobilize communities against the expansion of Big Oil.

<https://znetwork.org/znetarticle/how-congolese-students-are-taking-on-big-oil/>

### 20 local farmers are in jail for fighting for their land not to be taken by the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP)

April 2023

<https://landportal.org/news/2023/04/close-20-local-farmers-are-jail-fighting-their-land-not-be-taken-east-africa-crude-oil>

### Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group distances itself from the East African Crude Oil Pipeline

June 2023

<https://www.banktrack.org/article/mitsubishi-ufj-financial-group-distances-itself-from-the-east-african-crude-oil-pipeline>

### Why are older, law-abiding citizens joining climate protests?

September 2023

With four decades of experience as a volunteer firefighter and law-abiding citizen, last year Alan Glover did something many would deem radical. The 62-year-old drove a truck onto the Sydney Harbour Bridge at peak hour and blocked one lane of traffic. Glover was demanding action on climate change and knew he was risking jail time and hefty fines under new penalties for protesters that had just been approved in NSW. His experience fighting the Black Summer bushfires in 2019 and 2020 made him realize he needed to do more.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-16/older-climate-activists-joining-the-fight-/102822208>

### Dozens of climate activists arrested after shoveling coal from train bound for Newcastle

April 2023

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/apr/16/dozens-of-climate-activists-arrested-after-shovelling-coal-from-stalled-train>

### Health professionals to protest against Top End gas developments

July 2023

More than 80 paediatricians, GPs, nurses and other healthcare workers will head to Canberra to protest against new gas developments planned in the Northern Territory.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/live/2023/jul/26/australia-news-live-doctors-middle-arm-darwin-climate-crisis-anthony-albanese-global-heating-warming-gina-rinehart-whale-stranding-albany-western-australia?filterKeyEvents=false&page=with:block-64c0319f8f0857661ecd4623>

## **Courts**

**California sues five of the world's largest oil companies — ExxonMobil, Shell, BP, ConocoPhillips and Chevron**

September 2023

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-17/california-sues-oil-exxonmobil-shell-bp-conocophillips-chevron/102866110>

**Small island nations take high-emitting countries to court to protect the ocean**

September 2023

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/sep/10/small-island-nations-take-high-emitting-countries-to-court-to-protect-the-ocean>

**Judge rules in favor of young activists in US climate trial**

August 2023

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/aug/14/montana-climate-trial-young-activists-judge-order>

## **Negative News**

**Blood batteries**

February 2023

The US is turning to Africa for its abundance of raw materials: cobalt — a key ingredient in certain types of batteries, copper, etc. Cobalt from the Congo has been at the center of child labor abuses, but because the US needs the cobalt and copper, it is willing to overlook this abuse.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2023/02/03/commentary/world-commentary/ev-blood-batteries/>

**Can electric vehicle batteries be recycled?**

July 2022

The question of the economic model for recycling lithium-ion batteries remains unresolved, and there is still no real industrial sector for recycling these batteries.

<https://theconversation.com/can-electric-vehicle-batteries-be-recycled-187397>

**Shipping emissions tax**

June 2023

Efforts by France to build a consensus for a global carbon tax on the shipping industry have failed.

<https://japantoday.com/category/features/environment/shipping-emissions-tax-still-stuck-in-port1>

**Forced labour is helping cheap solar**

May 2023

Xinjiang is one of the world's biggest producers of polysilicon, a crucial ingredient in modern-day solar panels. About 45% of the world's supply comes from the province, where metallurgical grade silicon is crushed and purified in huge factories.

Researchers and human rights activists claim those factories are home to the widespread use of forced Uyghur labour.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-17/the-dirty-secret-behind-australias-cheap-solar/102288954>

### Planting trees isn't enough

April 2021

Planting trees can have both positive and negative effects, depending on how projects are planned and managed and where they are done. Planting trees in native grasslands, such as North American prairies or African savannas, can damage these valuable ecosystems.

<https://theconversation.com/arbor-day-why-planting-trees-isnt-enough-153776>

### Nickel mine destroying people's livelihoods

June 2023

Sumitomo Metal Mining owns a 15.03 % stake in the Sorowako nickel mining and processing project in Indonesia. It is reported that the mine is causing many problems for people who live in the area: loss of farmland, contamination of drinking water, arrest for speaking out against the mine, etc.

<https://foejapan.org/en/issue/20230612/13248/>

### The Pope/Vatican

#### Documentary about 'Laudato Si'

90-minute film

settings > subtitles > auto-translate > Japanese

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?app=desktop&list=PLjq6DwYksrzzjrNYm1cqbAazCAcUXEIB7>

#### Pope Francis launches Laudato si' Village

February 2023

The Borgo Laudato Si' Project is for education in integral ecology.

<https://www.exaudi.org/pope-francis-launches-the-laudato-si-village/>

#### Vatican moving towards net-zero

June 2023

The Vatican announced a new phase of its work toward net-zero emissions goals for its iconic Saint Peter's Basilica, which attracts 10 million visitors a year.

[Catholic Climate Covenant newsletter](#)

#### Season of Creation

September 2023

The Season of Creation began with an online event followed by more than 6,000 people worldwide. In Korea they began with a mass and a march in the streets; bishops from different countries such as Myanmar, Spain, US, Brazil and Mexico, celebrated masses and sent messages to their communities; the seminarians in the Philippines joined in prayer and in Brazil the news reached the airwaves. In

Argentina and Honduras they celebrated Masses for Creation and in Kenya they also participated in the march for the African People. In Hong Kong, the diocese embraced the celebration of the Season of Creation, making a special showing of The Letter.

[Laudato Si' Movement email](#)

## Africa

**"Planting a tree is an act of faith, hope and charity," says Benin bishop**

June 2023

<https://international.la-croix.com/news/environment/planting-a-tree-is-an-act-of-faith-hope-and-charity-says-african-bishop/17931>

**Catholics in Benin launch 'Green Church' program**

March 2023

Catholics of the Archdiocese of Cotonou in Benin are embarking on a new initiative called the 'Green Church' program, aimed at combating climate change which has become a threat to their West African nation.

<https://international.la-croix.com/news/ethics/catholics-in-benin-launch-green-church-program/17463>

**Catholic parishes in Burkina Faso are planting trees like crazy**

June 2023

<https://international.la-croix.com/news/environment/catholic-parishes-in-burkina-faso-are-planting-trees-like-crazy/17975>

**Bank accounts for 10,000 seedlings in Kenya**

March 2023

A Catholic diocese has teamed up with the largest bank in East Africa to restore degraded forests in Kenya.

<https://cathnews.com/2023/03/03/bank-accounts-for-10000-seedlings-in-kenya/>

**Nairobi Declaration**

September 2023

Bishop Matthew Kukah from Nigeria urged African leaders to ensure that climate finance reaches the most vulnerable.

[The Tablet, 14 September 2023](#)

**Nun's mission to make Senegal "green and clean"**

June 2023

Inspired by Laudato si', Sister Marie-Thérèse Mbaye wants to transform Senegal through integral ecology

<https://international.la-croix.com/news/environment/the-nun-whose-mission-is-to-make-senegal-green-and-clean/17947>

## Oceania

**Fiji Catholics take Laudato si' to heart**

June 2023

Columban missionaries working in Fiji are taking new initiatives to implement principles of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato si'.

<https://international.la-croix.com/news/environment/fiji-catholics-take-laudato-si-to-heart/17997>

### Oceania Bishops

February 2023

“We see our purpose of working together to care for oceans through synodality and mission as an essential dimension of preaching the Gospel” said Bishop Anthony Randazzo, President of the Federation of Catholic Bishops’ Conferences of Oceania.

<https://cathnews.com/~documents/media-releases/media-releases-2023/230215-fbc-co-the-oceans-of-the-world-are-interwoven-with-the-future-hopes-of-all-peoples/?layout=default>

### Kiribati Catholics plant mangroves

May 2023

In Response to the Cry of the Earth, one of the seven Laudato Si’ Goals, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Kiribati have mobilized young people to pick and plant mangroves seedlings, a plant that plays a vital role in marine habitat and coastal protection.

[Catholic Climate Covenant](#)

### Fossil fuel Divestment Week of Action

March 2023

A multi-faith prayer service was held at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Sydney, on Thursday as part of a worldwide fossil fuel Divestment Week of Action, initiated by the global Catholic Laudato Si’ Movement.

<https://cathnews.com/2023/03/14/people-of-faith-gather-for-fossil-fuel-divestment-week-of-action/>

### Asia

#### The bishops of Asia joined the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

August 2023

[Laudato Si’ Movement email](#)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/asian-bishops-back-campaign-against-fossil-fuel-proliferation/102113>

#### Bishops in Indonesia go green

March 2023

Taking inspiration from Laudato si, bishops have set ecological justice as the theme for their pastoral letter for Lent this year.

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/catholics-in-indonesia-go-green/100649>

#### Myanmar Cardinal demands ‘ecological justice’

September 2023

Myanmar's Cardinal Charles Maung Bo reported that ecological injustice “has robbed food from the plates of millions of children in poor countries and snatched water from their thirsty mouths.” The cardinal condemned rich nations who plunder resources from the global south and called it “horrendous injustice.”



<https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/17566/church-leaders-demand-ecological-justice->

### **Korean Catholics conduct street Mass as part of climate march**

April 2023

Catholic clergy, religious, and laypeople in South Korea joined a nationwide rally and held a street mass seeking justice for those suffering because of climate change in the country and the world.

[https://www.ucanews.com/news/korean-catholics-conduct-street-mass-as-part-of-climate-march/101039?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=UCAN+Evng+Newsletter+19+April+2023+\(Copy+1\)&cmid=84e77ae1-026b-47d4-803c-7b6f04a1f0ea](https://www.ucanews.com/news/korean-catholics-conduct-street-mass-as-part-of-climate-march/101039?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=UCAN+Evng+Newsletter+19+April+2023+(Copy+1)&cmid=84e77ae1-026b-47d4-803c-7b6f04a1f0ea)

### **Philippine archdiocese divests from fossil fuels**

September 2023

The Archdiocese of Manila has announced it has divested from fossil fuels such as coal and other businesses that destroy environment in line with Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato si.

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/philippine-archdiocese-divests-from-fossil-fuels/102523>

### **Church leaders from the EU and Latin America demand green transformation**

July 2023

Catholic justice and peace networks from Europe and Latin America (LAC) have joined forces to urge decision-makers in both regions to take proactive measures "for a transition towards a sustainable and people-centered economy."

<https://international.la-croix.com/news/environment/church-leaders-from-the-eu-and-latin-america-demand-a-green-transformation/18147>

## **USA**

May 2023

More than 31% of Citigroup shareholders supported a resolution brought by Catholic congregations that called for a review of the global bank's financing policies around climate change and Indigenous rights.

St. John Neumann is the first parish in the Arlington Diocese to enroll in the Vatican's Laudato Si' Action Platform. "If all our parishioners mindfully consider the way that we live — what we buy, what we eat, what we throw away, how we spend our time — that would be our primary goal."

[Catholic Climate Covenant](#)

### **Catholic Youth Climate Summit a Success**

March 2023

Catholic youth call us, the Church, and the world to bold climate action, and the Youth Climate Summit last weekend in the Chicago Area was a huge success!

[Catholic Climate Covenant newsletter](#)

### **US Church's Laudato Si' Champions**

August 2023

A coastal diocese. A major health care system. A Wisconsin congregation of women religious. A 94-year-old priest, a grandmother and an all-boys high school. All were among those honored as Laudato Si' Champions within the US Catholic Church for their varied and extensive ecological efforts and actions on climate change in response to Laudato Si'.

<https://www.ncronline.org/earthbeat/faith/catholic-climate-conference-spotlights-laudato-si-champions-us-church>

### Franciscan sisters' \$1.5 million gift: Network takes on climate lobbying

June 2023

Thanks to a recent gift from the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, a Washington, D.C.-based advocacy organization founded by religious sisters more than 50 years ago, will expand its lobbying portfolio on Capitol Hill to include climate advocacy.

<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/earthbeat/justice/franciscan-sisters-15-million-gift-network-take-climate-lobbying?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=62d2b4b6-e548-4564-befc-8ad36edb83bd>

### Inflation Reduction Act resourcing churches

August 2023

The Inflation Reduction Act is providing many churches and communities of faith with the resources to make a green transition. IRA covered 30% of St Andrew's Episcopal Church in Lewisburg, PA's cost of adding solar to their parish building.

[Catholic Climate Covenant email](#)

## World

### Sisters' project for our Common Home

'Sowing Hope for the Planet' is an initiative promoted by the International Union of Superiors General in order to make Laudato si' a reality: sharing ideas, formation, and synergetic action aimed at curing a sick planet.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2023-02/laudato-si-uisg-sisters-project-networking-hope-planet.html>

### Missionaries called to prioritize migration, climate change

March 2023

Catholic missionaries across the globe need to prioritize migration and refugee issues, climate change and the coexistence of various cultures in their missionary works, says the head of the Columban missionaries.

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/missionaries-called-to-prioritize-migration-climate-change/100751>

### Parliament of the World's Religions

August 2023

Journey of the Universe co-producers Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim traveled with Project Manager Sam King to the 2023 Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago. This year's Parliament focused on climate action as part of The Global Ethic's commitment to justice, peace, and sustainability.

[Journey of the Universe Newsletter](#)

## Japan

### Introduction

#### Japan climate group urges more renewable energy, effective carbon pricing

April 2023

Japan aims to cut emissions by 46% versus 2013 levels by boosting renewable energy in its electricity mix to 36%-38%, double 2019's levels.

The solar, wind, geothermal and other resources available in Japan are sufficient to supply electricity for the nation, but they are unevenly distributed. The biggest bottleneck is the inadequate deployment of transmission lines.

Japan is introducing a carbon pricing scheme this fiscal year in stages, combining emissions trading and a carbon levy to encourage companies to curb pollution. But the levy will be introduced only from around the 2028/29 fiscal year on fossil fuel importers.

<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14883920>

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/science-nature/climate-change/20220616-38153/>

#### Japan can be a green energy superpower

April 2023

The International Energy Agency estimates that offshore wind alone could meet nine times Japan's current electricity demand. The Global Wind Energy Council quantifies Japan's potential at 128 gigawatts from fixed sites and 424 GW from offshore floating turbines. To put these figures into perspective, Hekinan Thermal Power Station, Japan's largest coal plant, has a capacity of 4.1 GW.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Opinion/Japan-can-be-a-green-energy-superpower>

#### Japan isolated and left behind

June 2023

Japan's "isolation" was noticeable at the G7 Ministers' Meeting on Climate, Energy and Environment in Sapporo in April. One of the focal points was whether to include a timeline for the phase-out of coal-fired thermal power generation. Although European countries insisted that the timeline be clearly stated, Japan's strong opposition prevented the inclusion of it.

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20230608/p2a/00m/0sc/021000c>

June 2023

Climate change was one of the major topics at the Group of Seven (G7) summit held last month in Hiroshima, but the lack of support for Japan's policies made it appear that the country was seeming "left behind".

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20230608/p2a/00m/0sc/021000c>

April 2023

Planning for a just transition — a climate and energy response that doesn't leave behind the people and places who rely on high-emitting activities — is another aspect of climate action where international environmental organizations and researchers claim Japan is lagging.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2023/04/30/commentary/japan-commentary/japan-just-transition-action-needed/>

## Japan Must Take More Responsibility for Eradicating Global Deforestation

January 2023

Illegal logging was put on the agenda at a summit of major countries in Britain in 2005. Since then, US, EU and other parties have implemented measures accompanied by penalties to ban the trade in illegally logged timber. As Japan has lagged behind in taking such steps, it is important for the nation to make efforts that will ensure the prevention of illegal logging.

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/editorial/yomiuri-editorial/20230128-87243/>

(Trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub> as they grow. When felled, they stop absorbing CO<sub>2</sub>, leaving more in the atmosphere. When burned or when they decompose, they emit the CO<sub>2</sub> they had absorbed. So deforestation contributes to global warming/boiling.

The general trend for deforestation over the past 20 years is upward. Every year 12 million hectares of tropical forest are lost. Most of this loss is driven by commercial agriculture — cattle, soy, oil palm, fast-growing timber, much of it illegal. Emissions from this deforestation would be 3rd if it was a country: after China and US, ahead of EU, India, Russia. They account for 11% of global annual emissions.)

<https://vimeo.com/791894944>

## Causes

Experts slam Japan's 'green transformation' bills for protecting nuclear power industry

April 2023

A group of researchers and lawyers released a statement on April 17 demanding that Japan's 'green transformation' bills currently under deliberation in the Diet be scrapped, criticizing them as "protecting the nuclear power industry and greenhouse gas producers."

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20230418/p2a/00m/0na/015000c>

## Japan's scrap-and-rebuild culture faces an environmental reckoning

August 2023

The tendency toward new construction — rather than the renovation of existing buildings — is coming under renewed scrutiny amid concerns over sustainability and the industry's contribution to climate change. The scrap-and-rebuild cycle could produce nearly double the emissions of renovations, according to research.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/environment/2023/08/27/sustainability/japan-scrap-build-sustainability/>

## Fossil Fuel Finance in Asia

July 2023

350.org Asia launched Connecting the Dots, a new investigative storytelling report that exposes the devastating impacts of fossil fuel finance in Asia. The digital book features accounts from communities in Indonesia, Bangladesh and the Philippines who have suffered at the hands of coal developers and the financial institutions that fund them.

Masayoshi Iyoda, 350.org Japan Campaigner says, "Loopholes in Japanese megabanks' climate finance policies are extending fossil fuel addiction and climate

colonialism across Asia, locking the planet further into climate catastrophe. Japan has the opportunity to lead the Asia energy transition, but this means both public and private financiers must cut the flow of money to fossil fuel projects and other delaying tactics such as ammonia/hydrogen co-firing with fossils, carbon capture and storage. This report exposes the devastation that the Japanese yen is wreaking across Asia, and I hope to see Japan instead divert this money to community-led renewable energy that protects the health, livelihoods and homes of all Asians.”

<https://350.org/press-release/connecting-the-dots-350-org-launches-investigative-storytelling-report-on-fossil-fuel-finance-in-asia/>

[https://350asia.org/connectthedots/?\\_gl=1\\*1ob4nav\\*\\_ga\\*MjE0MjE1OTU1Mi4xNjkzMjg0NDUw\\*\\_ga\\_V7QV8EHFVY\\*MTY5MzI4NDQwOS4xLjEuMTY5MzI4NTg3My4wLjAuMA..](https://350asia.org/connectthedots/?_gl=1*1ob4nav*_ga*MjE0MjE1OTU1Mi4xNjkzMjg0NDUw*_ga_V7QV8EHFVY*MTY5MzI4NDQwOS4xLjEuMTY5MzI4NTg3My4wLjAuMA..)

### Toyota — activist target

April 2023

Toyota stands accused of using its lobbying might around the world to delay the transition to clean driving. It's a charge Toyota vehemently rejects.

In 2019, Toyota startled some of its fans by backing the Trump administration's efforts to wind back Obama-era standards supported by California that would require car makers to build vehicles that reach an average of 23 kilometres a litre by 2025, eliminating about 6 billion tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere over the vehicles' lifetime.

In 2021, Toyota declined to join a pledge signed by six major car makers, including General Motors and Ford, to phase out fossil-fuel cars by 2040, saying not all parts of the world would be ready to transition by then.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/hybrid-to-hell-how-toyota-went-from-green-darling-to-activist-target-20230420-p5d1yq.html>

### Shohei Ohtani pitches cosmetics for Kose

August 2023



<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14990773>

### **Effects**

**Japan baking under hottest summer temps in recorded history**

August 2023

<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14992353>

**Typhoons bring more rain, faster wind as world warms**

August 2023

<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14966443>

**Climate change upends Fukushima peach harvest season**

August 2023

This year, the peak harvest season for Akatsuki, the main peach variety grown in Fukushima Prefecture, came about a week earlier than the average year.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/08/28/japan/society/fukushima-peach-early/>

**Acidified waters off Hokkaido threaten survival of 'ice angels'**

March 2023

<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14862808>

### **Positive News**

**Momentum grows for a 'just' climate transition in Japan**

April 2023

Kiko Network and Climate Integrate have released reports that call for a just transition to be embedded in Japan's climate action. Researchers and labor unions within Japan are also floating the idea.

Local governments and industry are cooperating to imagine a green economy: Iwaki in Fukushima Prefecture is developing a certification program for wind turbine technicians, while Muroran in Hokkaido has an ambitious vision to reinvent itself as an offshore wind hub.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2023/04/30/commentary/japan-commentary/japan-just-transition-action-needed/>

### Japan Suspends Wind Power Projects Over Threat to Endangered Birds

August 2023

The central and local governments have suspended a number of wind farm construction projects over concerns about the protection of endangered birds.

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/society/general-news/20230806-127856/>

### Japan's trump card - wind

February 2023

Japan's offshore wind industry is entering a new phase of productivity and is forecast to offset a growing sense of energy insecurity while drastically reducing the current reliance on fossil fuels. Japan is considered capable of producing as much as 3,460 terawatt hours (TWh) of offshore wind energy annually, or three times the 905 TWh of energy used across Japan in all of 2020.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/02/01/business/british-offshore-wind-firm-japan/>

### Supporting SMEs

June 2023

In June this year, the Environment Ministry picked out 16 areas, including the city of Akita and the prefectures of Aichi and Kyoto, as model districts where local governments, financial institutions and chambers of commerce and industry are working together to support the carbon neutrality efforts of small- and medium-sized enterprises in their communities.

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/business/economy/20230906-134763/>

### Protest



## Negative News

### Mega solar power projects stalling

May 2023

In 2013, plans were approved to build an 480,000-kilowatt plant with around 1.5 million solar panels on Ukujima island in Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture. According to Prefecture regulations, construction within its harbors requires agreement from fishery cooperatives that have fishing rights in those waters. In 2020, 10 cooperatives opposed the project claiming it would negatively impact the fishing environment.

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20230511/p2a/00m/0na/012000c>

## Catholic News





The bishops have set up a Laudato Si' website: [laudatosi.jp](http://laudatosi.jp)

### Christmas in Hiratsuka parish

Hiratsuka Parish (Yokohama diocese) included a description of the state of the world in its Christmas celebration. Together with music, singing and dancing, and involving the Filipino and Latin American communities, parishioners were reminded of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, human rights being violated in Myanmar and the multitudes of people being forced to migrate because of climate change. The publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* in 1962, and of *Laudato Si'* in 2015, Laudato Si' Week, and the Season of Creation were all mentioned, as was COP 27 in Egypt.

“As a result of developed countries continuing to emit greenhouse gases, developing countries are experiencing massive damage due to heavy rain and floods. We live in a developed country and need to be aware of our responsibility. We need new values in order to live in a new way, a way that knows when enough is enough. There is only one earth; we want to protect it.”

### Resources

Climate Action Network Japan (CAN-Japan)  
<https://www.can-japan.org/>

FoE Japan  
<https://foejapan.org/>

Kiko Network

<https://kikonet.org/>

Fossil Free Japan

<https://fossilfreejapan.org/>

350 Japan

<https://world.350.org/ja/>

GreenFaith

<https://greenfaith.org/japan/>

## Books

The Climate Book by Greta Thunberg

Reading list around how different theories of the climate crisis shape our understanding of what must be done

<https://www.versobooks.com/lists/5201-theorizing-the-climate-crisis>

The Forests Move Out (For six-year-olds and older)

<https://www.yomo-ehon.com/products/846>

## Webinars

The religious sector and the LSAP

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Zlxc\\_LfQQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Zlxc_LfQQ)

Catholic Climate Covenant

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/?tid=18>

Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology

<https://fore.yale.edu/Climate-Emergency/Multimedia>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfoNnUIQBvM1Uzx6Z6B3mVx2S8TzlohER>

Archdiocese of Sydney - Laudato Si' Action Toolkit

<https://justiceandpeace.org.au/laudato-si-kit/>

The Institute on Religion in an Age of Science

<https://www.iras.org/webinar-archive.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baKeAPXR1Oo>

Jeff Goodell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7ZVqXuBXHk>

Board games about climate change

Solutions

Kyoto

Carbon City Zero

Somewhere Everywhere Water Rising

Nunami

<https://theconversation.com/what-can-board-games-teach-students-about-climate-change-213601>

For more talks, webinars, conferences, symposia, demonstrations, petitions, etc., see the websites of the above CSOs.