

[View this email in your browser](#)

Climate & Health News

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



JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY

PUBLIC POLICY CENTER



Universitat
Pompeu Fabra
Barcelona

DECEMBER 2018

Health Impacts

News

[The Lancet 2018 report warns of cascading health risks globally](#)

The newly-released Lancet *Countdown on Health and Climate Change*, authored by 24 universities and UN agencies, sends a serious warning that climate change is already posing major, interconnected health risks globally. Crop yields are declining; tropical diseases like dengue fever are expanding; tens of millions of people are exposed to extreme heat; rural labor productivity is declining. Cascading hazards could soon face millions more people in both rich and poor countries around the world. – *New York Times*



Workers paving a road in Ourense, Spain. An estimated 153 billion hours of labor were lost to heat in 2017, according to a new study. Credit Brais Lorenzo/EPA, via Shutterstock

Read more:

- [Warmer drier climate makes wildfires more likely in California](#) – *National Geographic*
- [California Paradise fire leaves 100,000 displaced](#)– *thinkprogress.org*
- [Miami's future is "catastrophic"](#)– *The Independent*
- [Multiple, simultaneous climate crises will threaten by end of century](#)– *New York Times*
- [Saline infiltration and miscarriages in Bangladesh](#)– *BBC*
- [A future urban ratpocolypse](#)– *Newsweek*



Victims of the camp fire live in tents of the parking area of Walmart in Chico of Butte Country, California, The United States, Nov. 18, 2018. Credit: Xinhua/Wu Xiaoling via Getty Images

Science

Review: Wildfire smoke and respiratory disease

This review covers respiratory health impacts from wildfire smoke exposure. The clearest evidence is for exacerbations of asthma; evidence for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and respiratory infections is mixed. Few studies have estimated future health impacts of wildfires under likely climate change scenarios. Since wildfire activity is likely to increase, more research is needed to understand population vulnerability to wildfire smoke exposure.

Reid CE & Maestas MM (2018). Wildfire smoke exposure under climate change: impact on respiratory health of affected communities. Curr Opin Pulm Med Nov 15 epub.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Rescue workers search for remains in Paradise, California, which was destroyed by the Camp Fire, the deadliest wildfire in the state's history. Photograph by Marcus Yam / Los Angeles Times / Getty

Read more:

- [Review: Heat, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*](#)
- [Heat, obesity and diabetes](#)
- [Heat exposure differs by city, demography and activity \(US\)](#)
- [Heat, socio-geographic disparities and cardiorespiratory morality \(US\)](#)
- [Floods, typhoid fever and vulnerability \(China\)](#)
- [Scoping review: Chikungunya virus](#)

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

A seaside neighborhood in Mexico Beach, Fla., devastated by Hurricane Michael this year. Credit Scott Olson/Getty Images

Adaptation

News

[Preparing for California's wildfire crisis– *The New Yorker*](#)

[Marching toward a world that is uninsurable? – *New York Times*](#)

[New air conditioning projected to add 0.5 degree C warming by 2050–
Inside Climate News](#)



Air conditioning units, like these lining a street in New Delhi, India, contribute to global warming through the energy they use and their use of HFCs as a coolant. New efforts are underway to increase energy efficiency and phase down HFCs, but it may not be enough. Credit: Roberto Schmidt/AFP/Getty Images

Science

[Review: Climate change and health vulnerability/adaptation assessments](#)

Health authorities are increasingly conducting climate change and health vulnerability and/or adaptation assessments. However, results are often not integrated into adaptation decision making. This review examines the evolution of climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessments. It finds the health sector needs capacity building and additional resources and partnership opportunities, particularly in developing countries.

Berry P, Enright PM, Shumake-Guillemot J, Villalobos Prats E, Campbell-Lendrum D (2018). Assessing health vulnerabilities and adaptation to climate change: a review of international progress. Int J Environ Res Public Health 15(12). pii: E2626.

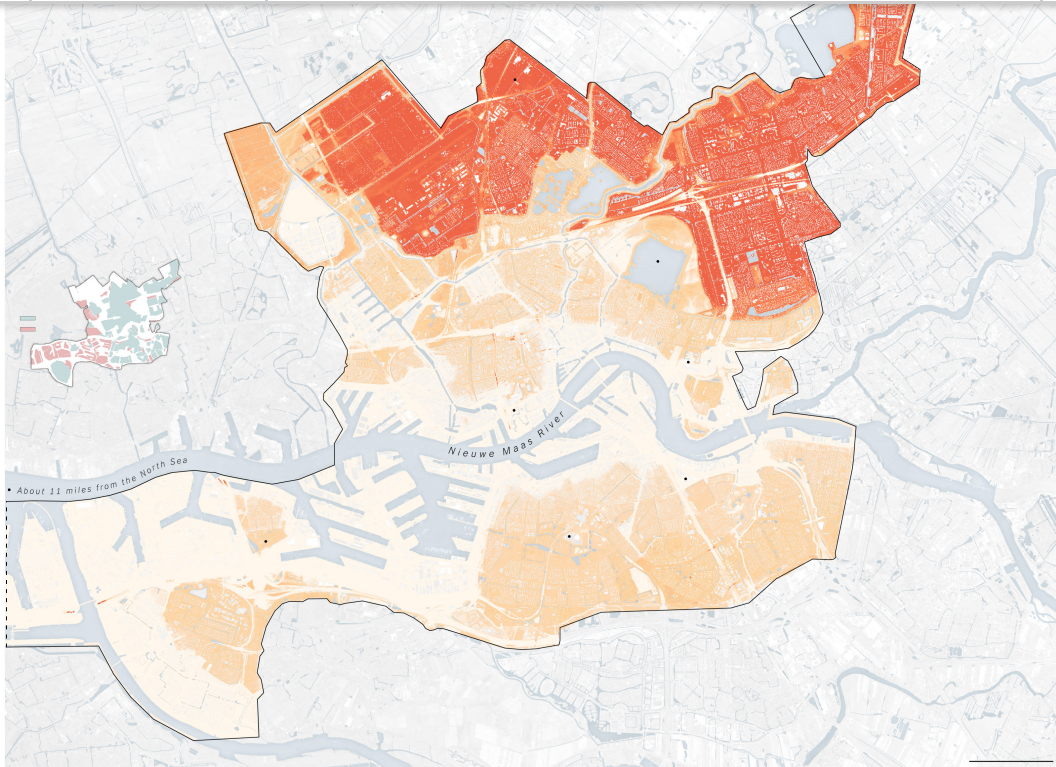


A woman, right, suffered from heat stroke symptoms in a New Delhi hospital in June. Credit: Saumya Khandelwal for The New York Times

Transformative climate governance: New York City and Rotterdam

Climate change actions in cities worldwide are driving deep changes in urban governance. This study examines transformative climate governance in Rotterdam and New York City, and finds that integrated, experimental and inclusive approaches are emerging which cross multiple policy sectors and domains (e.g. transport, energy, health, justice), involve a variety of actors, and facilitate innovative solutions.

Hölscher K, Frantzeskaki N, McPhearson T, Loorbach D (2018). Tales of transforming cities: Transformative climate governance capacities in New York City, U.S. and Rotterdam, Netherlands. J Environ Manage 231:843-857.



Areas of Rotterdam below sea level. Darkest = -5 meters, lightest = 0 meters. Source: Municipality of Rotterdam (Elevation data is only shown Rotterdam city limits).

Read more:

- [Review: Adaptation and severe weather](#)
- [Enabling local public health adaptation](#)
- [Water reuse and public health](#)



The aftermath of the Camp Fire in Paradise, Calif. The blaze has destroyed more than 12,000 homes. Credit: Eric Thayer for The New York Times

Mitigation

News

[Global food systems are failing humanity and speeding up climate change](#)

The global food system leaves billions either underfed or overweight and is responsible for 30% of greenhouse gas emissions (more than emissions from transport, lighting and air conditioning combined), according to 130 national academies of science and medicine across the world. Providing a healthy and environmentally sustainable diet for all people will require a radical transformation of the system, says the [new report](#) by the InterAcademy Partnership. – *The Guardian*



A family cooking amid floodwater in Lalmonirhat, Bangladesh, 2017. Photograph: Zakir Chowdhury/Barcroft Images

Read more:

- [Spain's electricity to be 100% renewable by 2050](#)– *The Guardian*
- [Reforestation and land stewardship could cancel 20% of US emissions](#)– *Inside Climate News*
- [Road map for a “green New Deal” to decarbonize](#)– *The New Yorker*
- [Climate friendly air travel](#)– *DW*



El Bonillo solar plant, Albacete. The Spanish government aims to install at least 3,000MW of wind and solar power capacity yearly in the next decade. Photograph: Pablo Blazquez Dominguez/Getty Images

Science

[Air quality health benefits offset cost of Paris Agreement targets](#)

Local air quality co-benefits can provide complementary support for ambitious climate action. This paper shows the transformation of the energy system implied by the emission reduction pledges under the Paris Agreement substantially reduces local air pollution across the globe; air quality co-benefits on morbidity, mortality, and agriculture could globally offset the costs of climate mitigation policy.

Vandyck T, Keramidas K, Kitous A, Spadaro JV, Van Dingenen R, Holland M, Saveyn B (2018). Air quality co-benefits for human health and agriculture counterbalance costs to meet Paris Agreement pledges. Nat Commun. 9(1):4939.



As the window for large-scale action on climate change closes, direct government intervention in other parts of the carbon economy will become more urgent. Photograph by Jose Carlos Fajardo / The Mercury News / Getty

Read more:

- **[Ubiquitous parasite responsible for 33% increase in methane from livestock](#)**
- **[Change in household fuels responsible for decrease in PM2.5 exposure in China](#)**

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼

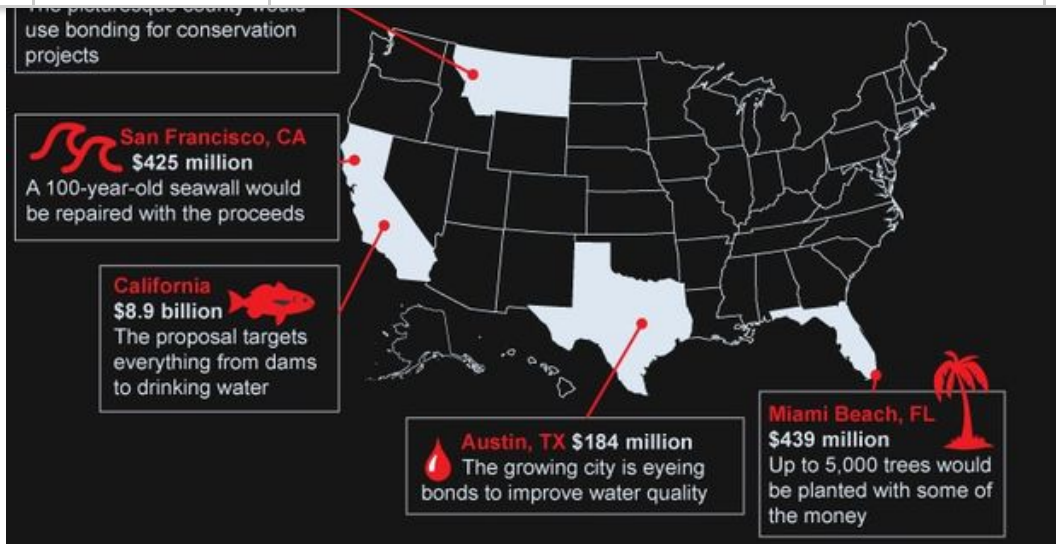
Image: Pexels

Finance

News

[US states and cities seek to borrow billions for climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

Nationwide, states and local governments are asking voters to approve billions of dollars of debt for environmental projects, including those aimed at protecting against the impact of rising global temperatures. —*Bloomberg*

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼

Map: Cities and states are asking voters to approve a variety of bond measures for environmental projects.

Read more:

[Bipartisan carbon tax proposed in US Congress](#)



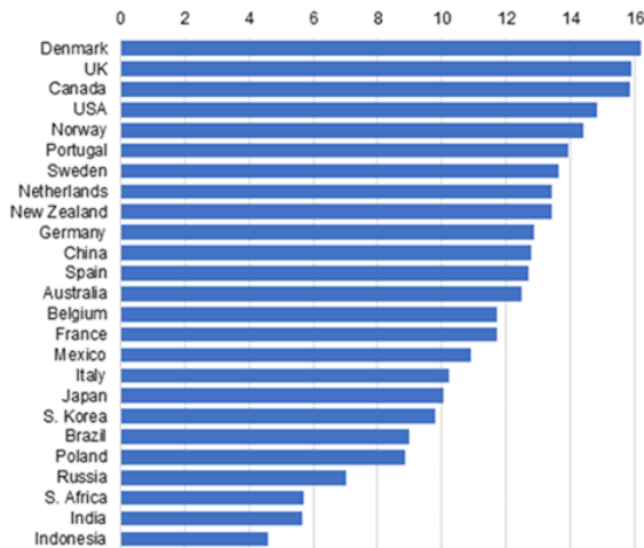
The bipartisan Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act would tax carbon emissions and return the money raised to every American in the form of a dividend. Gerald Herbert AP

Communication

News

[UN annual “climate gap” assessment singles out climate deniers for blocking progress](#)

The United Nations’ annual global [emissions gap report](#) on climate change delivers familiar bad news this year – the problem is getting worse. But there is a new twist: For the first time, political ideology is singled out for obstructing changes that would slow global warming. The report lays new blame on behaviors that lead some nations, including the U.S., to fall short on goals. – *Bloomberg*



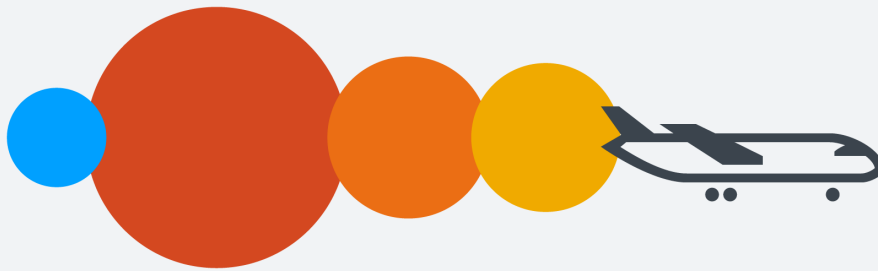
Countries’ ranking based on clean power, fossil-fuel use, electric vehicles, carbon storage, energy efficiency. Source: Imperial College London

[New reports use health impacts to communicate action on climate is urgent](#)

The US *Fourth National Climate Assessment* and The Lancet *Countdown* report both aim to show climate change happening now, today – and to actually spur people to do something about it. They do this by showing people how climate change affects them personally, and describing those effects in ways that transcend politics. – *Wired*

How planes heat up the planet

Relative climate impacts from air travel



- CO₂
- Ozone and soot
- Cloud formation and contrails (eliminated on optimized routes)
- Cooling effect of methane reduction

Source: Lee/Fahey, German and Austrian Environment Agencies, DLR

© DW

Read more:

[Using satire to communicate on climate change– undark.org](https://undark.org)



[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼



Copyright © 2018 Climate Change and Wellbeing Research Group, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)



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

Managing Editor: Aeve Ribbons (aeve.ribbons@upf.edu)