

[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

JUNE 2019

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

Health Impacts

News

[The mental health community is bracing for the impacts of climate change](#)

Experts say we aren't prepared for the coming crisis of mental health impacts from global warming. These impacts will be a one-two punch: Increasing anxiety about the future, as well as increasing numbers of people undergoing the trauma of actual climate catastrophes like flooding and hurricanes, leading to PTSD, anxiety, depression, substance abuse and violence. – *Rolling Stone*

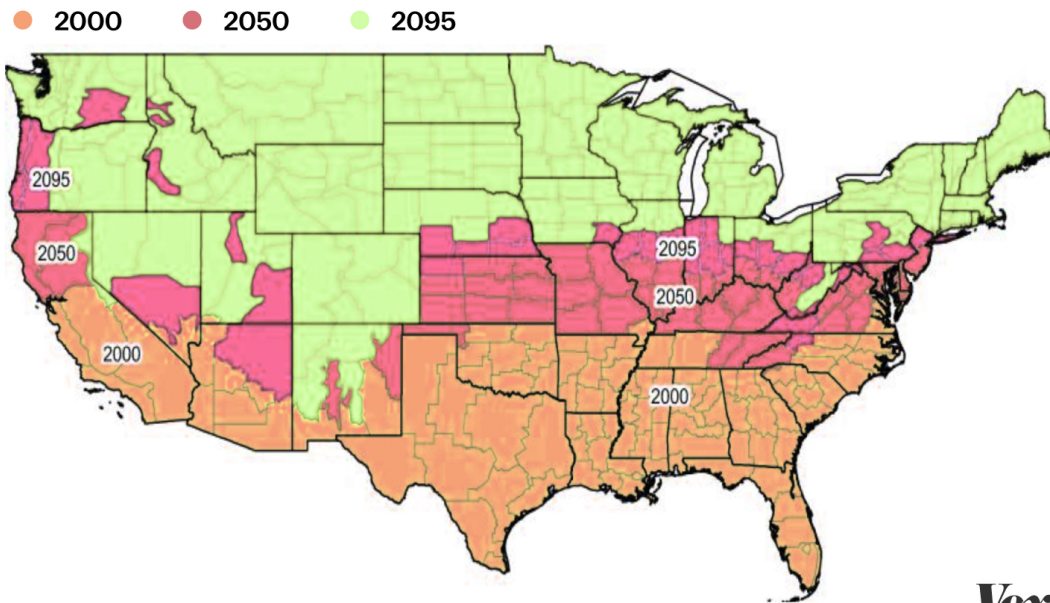


As many as 300,000 people lost their homes after Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. Puerto Ricans displaced by the storm and living in Florida after Maria were substantially more likely to exhibit PTSD symptoms than those who were able to stay on the island. Photo credit: AP/REX/Shutterstock

Read more:

- [Climate change worsens environmental conditions, increasing risk of conflict](#) – *The Economist*
- [Global warming is increasing probability of 'tornado swarms'](#) – *Inside Climate News*
- [US Midwest flooding among factors increasing food production disruption risk](#) – *Civil Eats*
- [Los Angeles wildfire season starts up again – and may never end](#) – *New York Magazine*
- [Melting glaciers threaten Asia's fresh water buffer](#) – *Thomson Reuters*
- [Global warming and the chronic kidney disease crisis](#) – *Vox*

"kidney stone risk belt" north



Source: PNAS

Vox

Our kidneys might be vulnerable to the more frequent extreme heat brought on by global warming. [Read the article here.](#)

Science

[Global heat stress at 1.5 vs 2.0°C: more health, wildfire and agriculture risks](#)

A new study finds an additional 0.5°C increase over the 1.5°C aspirational Paris Agreement target leads to: >15% of global land area exposed to heat stress levels affecting human health; almost all European countries at increased wildfire risk; and degradation in the wheat damage index. India and Brazil rank highest for integrated heat-stress exposure, while wildfire risk is particularly strong in the US, Canada, Brazil, China, Australia and Russia. – Sun et al. *Environ Int*



Ventura County on the first night of the Woolsey Fire blaze in November 2018. Photo: Stuart Palley

Read more:

- **Review:** [Heat, mental health dominate studies of climate health impacts in Chinese cities](#) – Chan et al. *Br Med Bull*
 - [Construction workers in Saudi Arabia regularly experience heat near the tolerance threshold](#) – Al-Bouwarthan et al. *Ann Work Expo Health*
 - [Warm-water seafood toxins a growing safety concern on Europe's coasts](#) – Estevez et al. *Foods*
 - [Nearly two-thirds of Bangladeshi women surviving cyclone Mora suffer depression](#) – Mamun et al. *Psychiatry Res*
 - [Temperature variability associated with increase in New England dementia admissions](#) – Wei et al. *Environ Int*
 - **Tool:** [Modeling framework tutorial for climate change-related health outcome projections](#) – Vicedo-Cabrera et al. *Epidemiology*
-

Adaptation

News

Environmental impact non-profit CDP has given highest ratings on climate action to 43 global cities (including Barcelona, Cape Town, Hong Kong, London, Paris and San Francisco) among nearly 600 cities rated. 'A' to 'D-' scores were based on how effectively they are managing, measuring and tackling greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate-related risks. – *CDP*



Barcelona was one of the cities to rank an 'A' for their measures combatting climate change.
Photo by Driftwood Journals

Read more:

- [Existential crisis: “some areas of Louisiana cannot be preserved as is,” says State – nola.com](#)
 - [UK environment agency warns flooding may force move of some coastal communities – New Scientist](#)
 - [Cities increasingly turn to urban parks to help manage heat and flooding – National Geographic](#)
 - [New air conditioning technology may help slow instead of spur climate change – City Lab](#)
 - [Tool: Launch of European Green Capital Network ‘future-proof’ toolkit – ICLEI Newsletter](#)
-



Air-conditioning units dot the facade of an apartment block in Singapore. Photo by Edgar Su/Reuters

Science

[Tracking global climate change adaptation among governments](#)

This new study proposes a conceptual framework for assessing adaptation progress by governments, identifying core components of adaptation assessment (as vulnerability, goals and targets, adaptation effort, and adaptation results) and further characterizing adaptation effort (as leadership, organizations and policy). – Berrang-Ford et al. *Nature Climate Change*



Green buildings are part of many city governments' strategies for adapting to climate change risks. [Photo source.](#)

Read more:

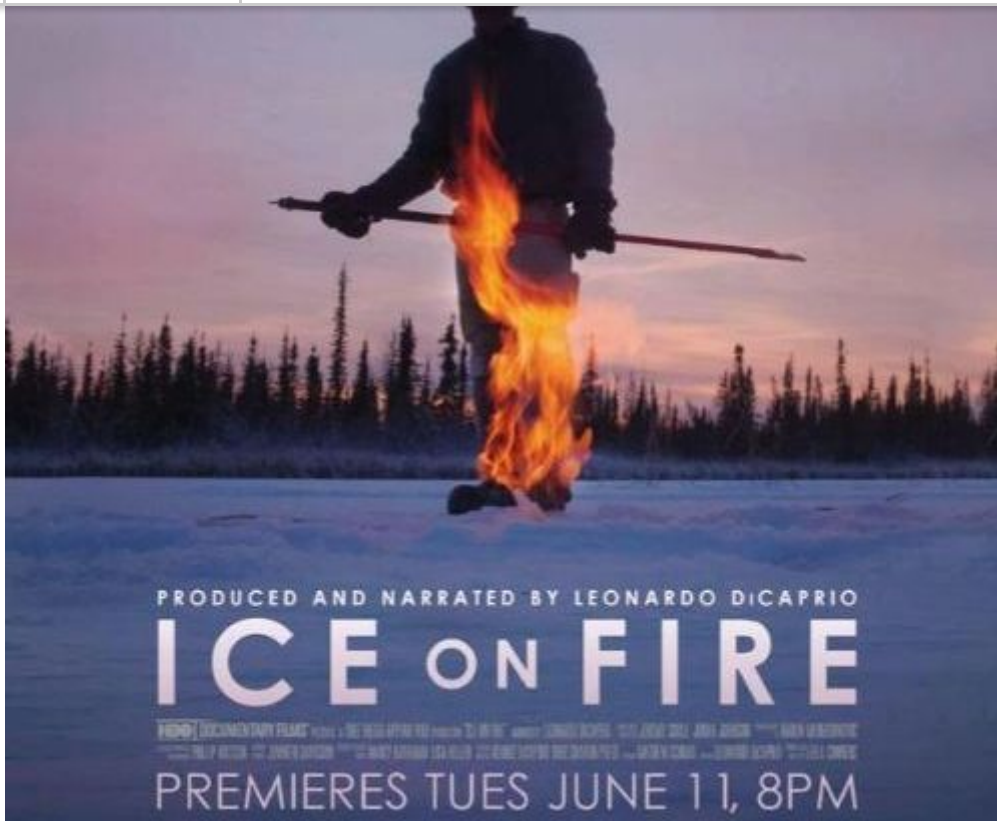
- [Supporting the strong potential of nature-based solutions for urban climate adaptation](#) - Laforzezza & Sanesi *Environ Res*
- **Review:** [Factors influencing Canadian climate-related mental health outcomes](#) – Hayes et al. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*
- **Review:** [Managing African drylands vector-borne disease risk depends on adaptive capacity](#) – Wilcox et al. *Infect Dis Poverty*
- [Urban storm drainage networks in Indian cities and changing climate conditions](#) – Andimuthu et al. *Sci Rep*

Mitigation

News

[Leonard DiCaprio's new film "Ice on Fire" gives voice to climate scientists](#) – *CBS News*

HBO has released a trailer for Leonardo DiCaprio's upcoming climate documentary. "The melting of the world's snow and ice has now triggered multiple climate tipping points, especially increasing levels of methane... My partners and I made *Ice on Fire* to give a voice to the scientists and researchers who work tirelessly on much-needed solutions for renewable energy and carbon sequestration," DiCaprio said in a press release.



Read more:

- [A new Centre for Earth Repair at Cambridge University will study geoengineering options](#) – *BBC*
 - [US, China and UK ramp up research programs on study of carbon sequestration](#) – *Yale e360*
 - [Leaders of large businesses lobby US Congress for carbon tax](#) – *Inside Climate News*
 - [New study suggests a shorter work week could reduce greenhouse emissions](#) – *The Guardian*
 - [Can AI in the energy sector help solve the climate crisis?](#) – *DW*
 - [C40 holds 'Reinventing Cities' competition to design abandoned buildings for zero carbon](#) – *FastCompany*
-

Science

[**Health co-benefits and co-harms from air pollution in global climate policies**](#)

co-harms, since the aerosols formed produce a net cooling overall. This new study finds that when both co-benefits and co-harms are taken fully into account, optimal climate policy results in important net benefits globally, suggesting economically optimal levels of mitigation may be consistent with a target of 2°C or lower. – Scovronick et al. *Nat Commun*



Chinese tourists wear facemasks during a visit to Tiananmen Square as heavy air pollution continues to shroud Beijing. Photo by Agence France-Presse/GETTY IMAGES

Read more:

- [Population health impacts of China's Intended Nationally-Determined Contribution](#) – Woodward et al. *Environ Res*
- [The shift to climate change mitigation in the health care field](#) – Shilt-Moody & Tsai *J Healthc Risk Manag*

Economics & Finance

News

[How much \(and how...\) does the world subsidize fossil fuels?](#)

2017, up from estimated \$4.7 in 2015. The study defines “subsidy” as economists do, to account for how much consumers would pay if oil prices fully reflected supply costs plus the taxes needed to account for environmental impacts and human health harms. If fossil fuels had been thus priced in 2015, global carbon emissions would have been 28 percent lower, and deaths from fossil fuel-linked air pollution would have dropped by nearly half. – *Rolling Stone*



The dome of the U.S. Capitol is seen behind the smoke stacks of the Capitol Power Plant, the only coal-burning power plant in Washington, D.C. Photo: Jim Lo Scalzo/EPA/REX/Shutterstock

Read more:

- [European Central Bank says mispricing climate change may hurt financial stability](#) – *Bloomberg*
- [30-year home mortgages coming under scrutiny due to future flood risk in Florida](#) – *Bloomberg*
- [Study finds renewables could replace 75% of US coal plants, bringing immediate financial savings](#) – *E&E News*
- [Fossil fuel companies taking lower emissions seriously, thanks to pushy investors](#) – *Business Insider*

Science

[**Global warming has already increased economic inequality.**](#)

century, global warming has slowed that decrease. Although there is uncertainty regarding gains in some wealthier countries, for most poor countries there is over 90% likelihood that per capita GDP is lower today than if global warming had not occurred. – Diffenbaugh & Burke *Proc Natl Acad Sci*

Relationship between the economic impact of historical global warming and temperature, wealth, and cumulative carbon emissions

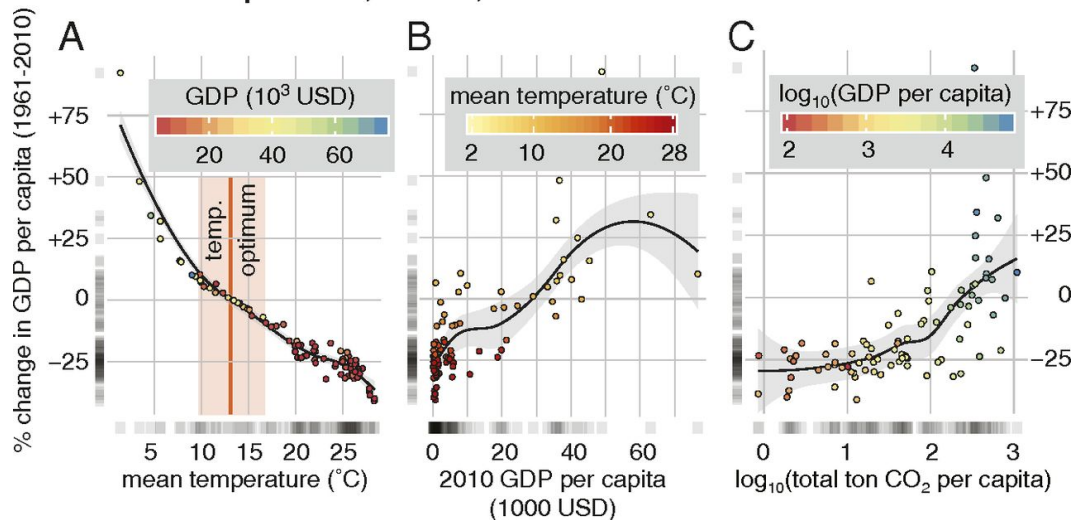


Fig. 3. Relationship between economic impact of global warming and country-level temperature, GDP, and cumulative CO₂ emissions.

Read more:

- [Warmer temperatures have increased tourism flows to small Mediterranean islands](#) – Katircioglu et al. *Environ Sci Pollut Res Int*

Communication

News

[Greta Thunberg's radical approach to her own mental health](#)

With her stern rebuke of world leaders at the COP24 conference – saying “you are not mature enough to tell it like is, even that burden you leave to us children” – Greta Thunberg has become the fearless and influential face of a global movement of young people enraged that careless decisions of previous generations may doom their futures.



Greta Thunberg has been at the head of worldwide climate school strikes. Photo: Getty Images

Read more:

- [Britain declares a 'climate emergency' calling for 'rapid and dramatic action' following massive 11-day climate protests](#) – Reuters
 - [Ireland joins the UK and others in declaring a 'climate emergency'](#) – BBC
 - [UN head Guterres says "climate change is running faster than we are"](#) – DW
 - [Pope decries "startling inaction" on climate change](#) – NCR
 - **Editorial:** ["We're in a remarkable moment... climate is rising to the top of the political agenda"](#) – Bill McKibben, *The New Yorker*
-

Science

[Limiting global warming to 1.5°C - a unique role for health professionals](#)

"...Actions taken by all nations over the next decade will determine whether global health will continue to improve or whether it will instead decline – possibly catastrophically so – as a result of climate change... Health professionals and the organizations... must become tireless champions for three objectives – clean energy, carbon drawdown, and

public and policy makers understand this...” – Edward Maibach et al. *PLOS Medicine*



Copyright © 2019 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)