



April 2020

Agriculture

[Shifts in cropland and trade patterns could feed the world in 2050](#)

How can we grow more crops without taking too much water away from freshwater ecosystems for irrigation? A new study indicates that it is possible to double crop production by 2050 without exceeding set limits for water extraction if more crops are grown in regions with higher rainfall and with corresponding shifts in international trade and agricultural management. However, without appropriate safeguards, and if we follow the current business-as-usual scenario, this could come at the ecological cost of converting natural land and forest into cropland. This research provides a 'first-step' in analysing potential trade-offs in the global food-trade-water nexus.

[Artificial saltmarsh ecosystems: the answer to farmland degradation](#)

Seawater Solutions turn salinised and degraded farmland into artificial saltmarsh ecosystems where food can be grown and carbon can be captured.

Air Quality

[Public consultation to gather stakeholder views on EU 2030 climate ambition increase](#)

The European Commission is inviting all stakeholders and citizens to submit views on the EU's 2030 climate ambition increase and on the action and policy design necessary for deeper greenhouse gas emission reductions. As part of the European Green Deal, the Commission will put forward a comprehensive plan to increase the EU's 2030 climate target in September this year.

Biodiversity

[Halt destruction of nature or suffer even worse pandemics, say world's top scientists](#)

The coronavirus pandemic is likely to be followed by even more deadly and destructive disease outbreaks unless their root cause - the rampant destruction of the natural world - is rapidly halted, the world's leading biodiversity experts have warned.

[IUCN Member Rewilding Europe calls for large-scale nature recovery across Europe](#)

Europe's nature is in an increasingly poor state and is under continuing pressures. IUCN Member Rewilding Europe calls for nature recovery across Europe's degraded landscapes to improve connectivity between existing ecosystems and increase the amount of land in good ecological condition.

Circular Economy

[Robust monitoring and targets are key in shifting Europe to a more circular economy](#)

Policy instruments Resource efficiency and waste Sustainability transitions

Introducing more robust monitoring and targets to spur Europe's move to a circular economy would help improve resource efficiency, according to a European Environment Agency (EEA) report.

[The future of waste incineration in a modern circular economy](#)

A recent study shows how waste prevention, recycling, and the implementation of existing waste legislation could significantly reduce waste incineration capacities needed in Germany.

[Food waste: prevention in the service sector would have major environmental benefits](#)

Approximately 88 megatonnes (Mt) of food are wasted every year in the European Union, causing 186 metric tons (Mt) carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂-eq) — a universal measure for all greenhouse gases. The impact of food waste on the climate, acidification and eutrophication is around 15–16% of the environmental impact of the entire food chain. In developed countries, food waste is high at the point of consumption— so significantly reducing food losses would require a food-waste reduction in households and the food-services sector.

Climate Action

[Coronavirus shows the enormous scale of the climate crisis](#)

The coronavirus pandemic is likely to cause the biggest-ever annual drop in carbon emissions, but how we recover will determine the future of the climate crisis

[World's glaciers melting fast: 9.6 trillion tonnes of ice lost in last 50 years](#)

The most comprehensive glacier assessment yet reveals that glacier melt was responsible for 27 mm of sea level rise between 1961 and 2016. Ice loss from glaciers is now the second biggest contributor to rising sea levels after warming water. If glaciers continue to melt at current rates, most — including many in central Asia, central Europe, western Canada and the USA — will vanish during the second half of this century.

Covid-19

[Life under COVID-19: Role of nature for mental and physical well-being](#)

Aiming to stop the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, governments across Europe are advising – or requiring – people to stay indoors unless absolutely necessary. According to the World Health Organization, the lockdown measures will have a negative impact on people's mental health, but just how important is access to the outdoors for one's overall well-being?

[Covid-19 recovery plan calls for consumer savings and environmental commitments](#)

A resilient future requires a responsible industry and sustainable supply chain. In this article, green groups and repair activists reject business groups' calls to halt environmental rules for electronics and home appliances in the aftermath of the Covid-19 crisis.

[Turning fear into hope: Corona crisis measures to help build a better future](#)

As governments start thinking beyond the Covid-19 crisis, the European Environmental Bureau has published a position paper about how to transform fear into hope.

Economy

[Europe's recovery plans must pass five sustainability tests](#)

Faced with the emergency of the COVID-19 crisis, there is a great temptation for recovery plans to prop up yesterday's economy instead of "building back better". Instead, recovery plans and any economic stimulus must pass five tests, argue European sustainability think tanks.

Marine

[As the ocean warms, marine species relocate toward the poles](#)

Since pre-industrial times, the world's oceans have warmed by an average of one degree Celsius (1°C). Now researchers report that those rising temperatures have led to widespread changes in the population sizes of marine species. The researchers found a general pattern of species having increasing numbers on their poleward sides and losses toward the equator.

[Extinction of threatened marine megafauna would lead to huge loss in functional diversity](#)

In a paper published in Science Advances, an international team of researchers have examined traits of marine megafauna species to better understand the potential ecological consequences of their extinction under different future scenarios.

Transport

[Sustainable urban mobility: a new urban grouping framework can help inform city planners](#)

While cities worldwide are expanding so is the significant carbon dioxide footprint of urban transport. Consequently, there is an urgent need for sustainable urban mobility solutions. A thorough analysis of the variables and dynamics of urban mobility in cities can aid in planning sustainable mobility policy. This study used a new system of classification by type (typologisation) relevant to urban mobility in global cities, with data from 331 cities in 124 countries covering 40% of the global urban population (as of 2016).