



### **Agriculture**

#### [Farm to fork strategy: The first step towards an EU sustainable food and farming policy framework?](#)

The European Commission has published its long-awaited strategy on food and farming that sets out the EU's long-term goals and direction of travel to 2030 for the agri-food sector. IEEP's agriculture researchers share their first impressions. The [Farm to Fork strategy](#) is a key and necessary element of the European Green Deal, and together with the new EU biodiversity strategy comes at an important moment as leaders get ready to decide their priorities for the next EU budget and Europe's recovery plan in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

### **Biodiversity**

#### [NASA Fosters Innovative Ways to Understand Biodiversity](#)

New tool aims to help government and nongovernment agencies make informed decisions as they work to conserve and protect our planet's most vulnerable species.

### **Climate Action**

#### [EU greenhouse gas emissions kept decreasing in 2018, largest reductions in energy sector](#)

The EU cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 23.2 % from 1990 to 2018, according to latest official data, published by the European Environment Agency (EEA). Over the period, the EU's contribution to global emissions is estimated to have decreased from 15 % to 8 %. In 2018, the EU's emissions decreased by 2.1 %.

#### [More than half of all CO2 emissions since 1751 emitted in the last 30 years](#)

Slightly over half of all cumulative global CO2 emissions have taken place since 1990, the year of the first IPCC Assessment Report. The report re-confirmed anthropogenic climate change in a way that could not be ignored and led to the creation of the UNFCCC.

#### [The European network for community-led initiatives on climate change and sustainability](#)

A new report highlights how little EU countries are using existing EU regional development funds to transition to climate neutrality. "Funding climate and energy transition in the EU: the untapped potential of regional funds" reveals how EU member states have been dragging their feet when it comes to backing their climate pledges with adequate investments.

#### [EPH announces closure of Kilroot coal plant as UK records 32 days without coal](#)

Czech energy company EPH has confirmed that it will close its 565 MW Kilroot coal-powered plant in Northern Ireland. The announcement comes amid the UK's longest coal-free run (32 days), smashing its previous record of 18 consecutive days since it began burning coal for power generation in 1882.

### **Covid-19**

#### [The EU can generate additional €381 billion to support COVID-19 recovery, show IEEP calculations](#)

According to IEEP's calculations, an additional €381 billion of revenues in "pollution dividends" could be generated to support affected workers, households, countries and regions. Pollution dividends would also produce additional benefits for the health and well-being of European citizens in the form of reduced pollution and environmental degradation.

#### [Coronavirus: Commission adopts package of measures to further support the agri-food sector](#)

The Commission has [published](#) the latest [package of exceptional measures](#) to further support the agricultural and food sectors most affected by the coronavirus crisis. The exceptional measures include [private storage aid](#) for the dairy and meat sectors, the temporary authorisation to self-organise market measures by operators in hard hit sectors, and flexibility in the implementation of [market support programmes](#). On top of these market measures, the Commission proposed to allow Member States to use rural development funds to compensate farmers and small agri-food businesses with amounts of up to €5,000 and €50,000, respectively.

## ***Freshwater***

### [Global groundwater pumping lowers the flow of water bodies and threatens freshwater and estuarine ecosystems](#)

Groundwater is the earth's largest freshwater resource and is vital for irrigation and global food production. In dry periods farmers pump groundwater to water crops, this is already happening at an unsustainable level in many places — exceeding the rate at which rain and rivers can refill the groundwater stores. This study seeks to identify where groundwater pumping is affecting stream flows and estimates where and when environmentally critical stream flows - required to maintain healthy ecosystems - can no longer be sustained.

### [To prevent water shortages in the EU, Parliament approved the Water Reuse Regulation.](#)

The new law defines minimum requirements at European level for the first time for reclaimed water (i.e. urban wastewater that has been treated in a reclamation plant) to be used for agricultural purposes in a safe way, protecting people and the environment. The new rules aim to ensure that treated wastewater is more broadly reused in order to limit use from water bodies and groundwater. The fall in groundwater levels is one of the main threats to the EU water environment.

## ***Invasive Species***

### [Routine monitoring of boats and marinas could help protect ecosystems from invasive alien species](#)

A survey of over 600 private boats docked in marinas throughout the Mediterranean showed that 71% are carrying non-indigenous species. In certain cases, non-indigenous species can become 'invasive' and have enormous and long-lasting impacts on ecosystems. The findings suggest that a common monitoring strategy may be necessary to prevent further disruptions to natural ecosystems.

## ***Soil***

### [Two new factsheets on the sustainable use of compost published](#)

The European Compost Network has published two new factsheets on 'Soil Structure & Carbon Storage' and on 'Soil Fertility & Productivity'. The first puts the focus on the benefit of regular application of compost in respect to the sequestration of high amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The rising of the nutrient level is emphasized in the second factsheet. High-quality compost from bio-waste is described as a valuable resource for nutrients and has many other positive effects on soils.

## ***Sustainable Development***

### [Global sustainable development in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

The COVID crisis has been a concrete lesson on the interdependency between the different elements of sustainability – from ecosystem integrity to health and wellbeing and the socio-economic prosperity that follows. The response to the crises needs to be equally all-inclusive, with Sustainable Development Goals providing a suitable framework.

### [Complex network of European and global developments impacts sustainability](#)

A wide variety of rapid and long-term societal developments in Europe and globally have important effects on the environment in Europe. A European Environment Agency (EEA) report analyses these 'drivers of change', providing insights on their impacts on EU sustainability ambitions.

## ***Transport***

### [New tyre label helps the climate](#)

"The new tyre label helps the Green Deal objective to involve and benefit consumers in the climate transition as it allows consumers to make informed choices while at the same time contributing towards safer and cleaner road transport", said Henna Virkkunen MEP, who is responsible for the tyre labelling law, ahead of the approval in the European Parliament.