



Agriculture

[Four scenarios for EU agricultural production in 2040: win-win solutions are possible](#)

A recent JRC-led article compares four different policy scenarios for EU agricultural production in 2040 and their respective impacts on European environment and biodiversity. Results show that, if appropriate land use and land management choices are put in place today, Europe could maintain its current agricultural production levels in 2040 whilst halting harm to environment and biodiversity.

[The Netherlands struggles with nitrogen headache](#)

Farmers are angry at being the main target of efforts to slash nitrogen pollution. As the Dutch government tries to comply with a court order to cut nitrogen pollution, hundreds of angry farmers hit The Hague in protest.

[Soil erosion: moss helps land to recover from fire damage](#)

Moss helps prevent soil erosion on fire-damaged land, a Portuguese study suggests. The researchers analysed water that ran off from post-fire hillsides. They found less sediment and organic matter in run-off from patches of land with high levels of moss than from those with low levels of moss. Moss quickly establishes itself on land after fires, so the study suggests that land managers could take advantage of its restorative effects by deliberately encouraging its growth.

Air Quality

[Fields of pollution: agriculture's surprising impact on urban air quality](#)

If you live in a European city, you probably feel the air gets too thick at times – and not without reason: 9 out of 10 Europeans living in cities breathe air which is harmful for their health. Urban air pollution can be suffocating, and as city dwellers we often find ourselves dreaming of a countryside escape, to take a breath of fresh air away from traffic fumes. What we don't know is that a big share of the pollution that makes our air hard to breathe originates right there, in the fields.

[Air pollution: New figures reveal extent of problem, but ten governments failing to plan](#)

Poor air quality is putting our health at stake, reveals the European Environment Agency in a new report – but campaigners warn national action is still too little and too slow. Czechia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxemburg, Malta, Romania and Slovakia are failing to deliver crucial air pollution control plans.

[Denmark calls for EU plan to phase out diesel and petrol cars](#)

Denmark, backed by 10 other European Union countries, has called for a strategy to phase out diesel and petrol cars, including allowing the ban of sales at national-level by 2030 to combat climate change.

Biodiversity

[Demand is key to efficiently conserving ecosystems and their services](#)

Ecosystems provide myriad services upon which human societies and economies depend. However, most efforts to quantify and conserve these ecosystem services (ES) focus more on service 'supply' (functions which potentially benefit humans) than on 'demand' (human desire for that supply). This study maps supply and benefit for three ES — flood mitigation, crop pollination, and nature-based recreation and finds that efforts to conserve ES could be more efficient if policymakers consider 'demand', whilst also decreasing trade-offs with biodiversity protection and conservation.

Circular Economy

[Food waste: a reduction of up to 50% could reduce EU household expenditure and environmental impact](#)

As the global population increases, it is increasingly urgent that policymakers and other actors facilitate feasible, sustainable solutions to the issue of food waste.

[Circling Round](#)

The Commission should impose more stringent measures on producers to protect the environment and consumers. Making producers responsible for their products throughout their whole life cycle benefits us all.

[New report shows how EU countries can quit single-use plastics and switch to reusables](#)

Simple reusable solutions to throwaway plastic cups, plates, cutlery and takeaway boxes are working across Europe – but need governments' backing to take off and power the #ReuseRevolution

Climate Action

[€24bn in fossil fuel subsidies 'a perverse incentive' for shipping pollution](#)

One of the most polluting forms of transport is benefiting from what is effectively a fossil fuel subsidy of €24 billion a year. Shipping, which still runs largely on dirty heavy fuel oil, is exempt from energy taxes under the EU's Energy Tax Directive (ETD). The Report describes this as 'a perverse incentive for climate pollution' and recommended including shipping in the EU emissions trading system (ETS) to end this historical anachronism.

[Air travel growth suggests 'sustainable' and 'development' are not compatible](#)

Air travel is not the only threat to life on earth, but it is a useful barometer of runaway economic growth and development that, if allowed to continue unmitigated, will irreparably harm the planet. (Euroactiv)

Energy

[Storing renewable energy to improve consumption](#)

Storing energy, particularly on an industrial scale, is a key advantage in the efficient use of renewable energy. Funded by the EU, the H2020 CryoHub project has brought together 13 European partners with the aim of demonstrating the relevance of cryogenic energy storage. This is an innovative process that combines storing and redistributing renewable electricity with cold production, all with a low environmental impact.

Environmental Governance

[Brexit: Implications for trade and environmental policies](#)

EU leaders want phase 1 of Brexit over: but we need to make sure we set the right precedents for trade and environment. But IEEP sounds a note of alarm.

Land Use

[Energy garden of the future combines sustainable energy generation, nature and landscape](#)

Energy generation can be of value for landscape and environment. That is what the Dutch Nature and Environment Federations and Wageningen University & Research want to show with the project of Energy gardens in the Netherlands. In the Energy garden, large-scale sustainable energy production coincides with nature, landscape, recreation and education.

Marine

[EU makes 22 new commitments for clean, healthy and safe oceans and launches The Ocean Tracker](#)

The EU has announced 22 new commitments at the 2019 edition of Our Ocean conference for better governance of the oceans. In addition, the EU is also launched 'The Ocean Tracker', an interactive map to follow the over 10 billion euros commitments already made by governments, businesses and NGOs.

Plastics

[Chemical recycling won't solve the plastic crisis](#)

Plastic has entered the fossil era, just like bronze and iron did thousands of years ago, scientists said earlier this month. We have ejected so much plastic into our environment that it is now present in the layers of sediment building up around us – and has been since the exponential rise of plastic production in the 50s.



Brexit: Updates on NIEL's EU Policy work after the UK Referendum decision can be found [here](#).