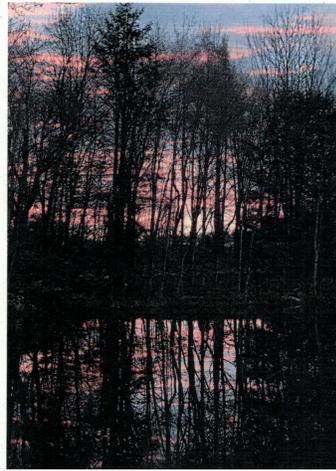


Conservation in the News October 2018

Courtesy: Margie d'Esterhazy



EC AND BILL GATES LAUNCH EUR 100 MILLION CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENT FUND

“On October 17, the European Commission and Bill Gates-led Breakthrough Energy have



signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish Breakthrough Energy Europe (BEE) – a joint investment fund to help innovative European companies develop and bring radically new clean energy technologies to the market...“We are delivering on our commitment...to achieve significant and lasting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions,” Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, stated.

With this initiative, the Commission takes action to continue leading in the fight against climate change and to deliver on the Paris Agreement – giving a strong signal to capital markets and investors that the global transition to a modern and clean economy is here to stay.

If Europe is to have a future that can guarantee the well-being of all its citizens, it will need to be climate-friendly and sustainable,” President Jean-Claude Juncker said. The scientists and entrepreneurs who are developing innovations to address climate change need capital to build companies that can deliver those innovations to the global market. Breakthrough Energy Europe is designed to provide that capital,” Bill Gates, Chairman of Breakthrough Energy Ventures, added...Breakthrough Energy Europe is expected to be operational in 2019. Half of the equity will come from Breakthrough Energy and the other half from InnovFin – risk-sharing financial instruments funded through Horizon 2020, the EU’s current research and innovation programme.

<https://energyindustryreview.com/energy-efficiency/ec-and-bill-gates-launch-eur-100-million-clean-energy-investment-fund/>

PRESIDENT TRUMP APPROVES INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION INTO OROVILLE DAM

“It's important that we have especially since we're talking potential federal dollars that we have our own unbiased review. And not only the spillway but the dam itself,” LaMalfa said... The bill says the independent investigation conducted by the FERC will take place in 2019. The FERC is a Federal agency that regulates the transmission of electricity and natural gas.

<http://www.actionnewsnow.com/content/news/President-Trump-Approves-Independent-Investigation-into-Oroville-Dam-494754651.html>

(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KNVN>)

HOW A CONSERVATION FUNDER PROTECTS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LAST GREAT WILDERNESSES **JULIA TRAVERS**



PHOTO: ROBERT FRASHURE/SHUTTERSTOCK

This is not an easy time for environmentalists in the United States. The current GOP majority in Washington, D.C. heavily favors fossil fuel industries and is waging an intense attack on environmental regulations.

But the picture can look quite different at the local level, where diverse leaders from government, business, and civil society often work together on environmental issues, especially in relation to climate change and land conservation.

A great example is the work of the Alaska Conservation Foundation (ACF), which was formed in 1980—the same year Congress protected more than 100 million acres through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. ACF's founders, Celia Hunter and Denny Wilcher, were veteran conservationists who fought hard for this landmark environmental protection. Despite that success, Alaska faces recurrent threats to its environment, including old-growth logging, controversial hunting allowances, and oil drilling... A Staggering Diversity of Life “With its vast mountain

ranges, rugged coasts, and prolific wildlife, Alaska is one of the world's last places with a staggering diversity of intact wild ecosystems,” according to ACF. The current political regime, the foundation says, puts Alaska “under threat like never before.” As we’ve noted about other environment funders working at the community level, a major question is whether they can be effective in the face of larger political forces through local, inclusive action. Hard-core conservationists like the ACF have little choice but to try. In fact, one powerful byproduct of recent assaults on environmental regulations is that they’re helping spur new innovative, collaborative, and grassroots efforts—like the ones we see from the Alaska Conservation Foundation.

PRINCE WILLIAM PROMOTES WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN AFRICA TOUR



The prince paid keen attention to wildlife conservation efforts and relations with the local communities...Muriithi lauded the prince’s engagement in tourism, saying it would go a long way in boosting wildlife conservation...Prince William ended his trip to Africa with a visit to British soldiers and schoolchildren in Laikipia County. The leaders highlighted key issues such as food security, education and general security, with the prince saying he would help intervene where possible. Among the issues raised by the ranchers, the prince paid keen attention to [wildlife conservation](#) efforts and relations with the local communities.....This, according to officials, was a centre of focus in line with his trip to Africa...The British royal’s trip to Namibia, Tanzania and Kenya was largely focused on conservation ahead of the 2018 Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference in London happening in ten days’ time. “The Prince is a crusader of conservation and his tour is largely focused on that. Laikipia is a county that is home to wildlife, and this is key to us,” the governor said.

<https://www.nation.co.ke/news/William-promotes-wildlife-conservation-in-Africa-tour/1056-4785310-tcy4iz/index.html>

THIS TIME, REPUBLICANS MAY FINALLY KILL THE BELOVED ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. OPINION: TRUMP AND THE REPUBLICAN-LED HOUSE HAVE LAUNCHED TWIN ATTACKS ON THE LEGISLATION THAT HELPED SAVE THE BALD EAGLE.



(Photo: Michael Ging, AZR)

Republicans in Congress have long been gunning for the [\(Not a link\) Endangered Species Act](#), but this time they may bring down the powerful, popular environmental law that [saved the Bald eagle](#).

...And it's not just because the Trump administration is taking aim, too...Don't look away now...It's because Trump's parade of dysfunction has Americans' heads

spinning. That gives the tree-haters an opportunity to gut this iconic law while people are distracted... **So don't look away now....** Proposed changes to Section 7 regulations "will significantly limit the designation of critical habitat for threatened and endangered species" and expand the circumstances when designating critical habitat would be deemed "not prudent."... Another planned rule change would insert economic considerations into decisions that the Endangered Species Act says should be made "solely on the basis of the best scientific and commercial data available. This would result in "limiting protection to numerous animals and plants because the short-term negative economic impacts are perceived to be too high."

(<https://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/lindavaldez/2018/09/30/endangered-species-act-house-bills-trump-rules/1438044002/>) This source is a subsidiary of USA Today. Found no review but Review of USA Today: <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/usa-today-2/>

**THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA CONSERVATION AND NAL COMMITTEES LISA OTT, VICE CHAIRMAN NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS SEPTEMBER 2018:
THE CHALLENGES CONTINUE**



Intrigue and challenges abound for National Parks and Public Lands. What with the downsizing of the Bears Ears National Monument by more than a million acres and opening it up for uranium mining to threats to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), to the rolling back of landmark protections like the bedrock of conservation in the U.S., the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), to the use of harmful chemicals such as neonicotinies in national wildlife refuges, this year has been more than challenging for the health of our environment and our public places.

<https://www.gcamerica.org/index.cfm/members:main.getprotectedfile?contentpageresource/2018%20Sept%20National%20Parks%20VC%20Report%20final.pdf> (Only reviews are of the Book on The Garden Club of America sold now on Amazon...)

BOLD MALE BIRDS FALL FASTER AND HARDER FOR THEIR PARTNERS



... “A new study from the Department of Zoology, Oxford University, has found that the individual personalities of male great tits influences how they bond with their future breeding partner....The researchers hope that the findings will promote more studies into how individual behavioural differences can shape social relationships across many species, and what consequences this might have for the structure of societies.

A new study from the Department of Zoology, Oxford University, has found that the individual personalities of male great tits influences how they bond with their future breeding partner. The bolder, more proactive, males choose their future partners sooner, as well as putting more effort into their relationship before the breeding season begins. Shy males are less devoted to forming a strong pair bond, and instead spend more of their time flocking with other females.

”<https://phys.org/news/2018-10-bold-male-birds-fall-faster.html>

(review at:<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/phys-org/>)

The Energy 202: Republicans and Democrats both like this conservation fund. But they just let it just expire.



VISITORS TO ACADIA NATIONAL PARK NEAR BAR HARBOR, MAINE. (PHOTO BY MATT MCCLAIN/ THE WASHINGTON POST)

For more than a half-century, the federal government has used money collected from oil and natural gas drilling to buy swaths of wilderness and other land and set them aside for recreation and wildlife conservation. But on Monday, Congress let that long-lasting and popular program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, expire despite broad support within both parties for its continuation... Since its inception in 1965, the program has protected millions of acres nationwide, including according to one analysis at least 491,000 acres between 2014 to 2017 alone. Federal agencies and state governments have used the conservation fund to do everything from building swimming pools and basketball courts in cities to expanding wildlife refuges and national parks like Acadia in Maine and Grand Canyon in Arizona... President Trump's administration has officially weighed in to support permanent reauthorization. But the White House's budget proposals have called for cutting funding for the program down to just \$8 million — a suggestion that has rankled even some Republicans... 'I'm disappointed to see the significant reduction in proposed funding for LWCF,' Daines, the Senate Republican from Montana, told Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in May during an appropriations hearing.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2018/10/02/the-energy-202-republicans-and-democrats-both-like-this-conservation-fund-but-they-just-let-it-just-expire/5bb25d6a1b326b7c8a8d179e/?utm_term=.56a63f73cef4 (Review at: <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/washington-post/>)

THE ENERGY 202: TRUMP HAS DISMISSED CLIMATE CHANGE AS 'NONSENSE.' HIS ADMINISTRATION JUST SAID OTHERWISE.



DUCKS SWIM THROUGH A STREET THE MORNING AFTER HURRICANE IRMA SWEEPED THROUGH THE NAPLES, FLA. AREA IN 2017. (PHOTO BY SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES)

Since President Trump took office, environmentalists have accused his administration of burying its head in the sand when it comes to climate change. In public, President Trump and his deputies have downplayed or outright dismissed rising sea levels, more frequent droughts and other effects of man-made global warming. However, deep in an 500-page government document, the administration makes a remarkable admission. Trump's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) foresees Earth's average temperature rising seven degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century.

The administration goes on to argue that the rise in global temperatures will be so large — and so inevitable — that it is useless to try to curb carbon emissions from automobiles, according to [a report](#) over the weekend by The Post's Juliet Eilperin, Brady Dennis and Chris Mooney. The line of thinking in the document underscores not only the sheer difficulty of mitigating climate change and the severity of its impacts, but also the Trump administration's mixed messages on the issue.... Yet Trump's former EPA chief, Scott Pruitt, has made the opposite argument, [questioning](#) whether global warming "necessarily is a bad thing."

"Do we really know what the ideal surface temperature should be in the year 2100, in the year 2018?" Pruitt told a Las Vegas television station in February. "That's fairly arrogant for us to think that we know exactly what it should be in 2100."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2018/10/01/the-energy-202-trump-has-dismissed-climate-change-as-nonsense-his-administration-just-said-otherwise/5bb14e8d1b326b7c8a8d177e/?utm_term=.2d44edb7aad8 (Review at: <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/washington-post/>

Message from Hurricanes Michael and Maria: Renewable energy makes more sense than ever.....

As hurricanes tore apart Caribbean islands and crippled their energy infrastructure, renewables consistently outperformed fossil fuels.

“Climate change has created a terrifying new normal of severe weather patterns in many regions, and it seems we are now facing once-in-a-lifetime storms on a regular basis. To face this growing threat, we can no longer rely on old energy systems — we must develop infrastructure that can withstand increasingly frequent climate hazards. This gives us an opportunity to build in a smarter, more sustainable way.”

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2018/10/14/hurricane-michael-maria-renewable-energy-infrastructure-sustainable-solar-wind-column/1575967002/> Review at <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/usa-today-2/>

Ease financial burden on public to steadily spread renewable energy

In its basic energy plan, the government has designated renewable energy as a base-load source of electricity for the future. Quick efforts should be made to diversify the types of renewable energy, rectifying the disproportionate emphasis on solar power. The government should implement assistance measures, such as supporting technological development for wind and biomass power generation, which has been delayed.

<http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0004894908> (No review found)

THE ENERGY 202: THIS PANEL REJECTED TRUMP'S PLAN TO SAVE COAL. NOW ONE OF THE OFFICIALS INVOLVED MAY JOIN IT.

On Wednesday, President Trump **nominated** the Energy Department's Bernard McNamee to be one of five commissioners on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. FERC Commissioner Robert Powelson **announced** his retirement over the summer.

With coal-fired and nuclear power steadily being edged out of the electricity market by stiffer anti-pollution regulations and tighter competition from cheap natural gas and renewable energy, the Energy Department urged FERC last year to approve a plan favoring power plants able to store fuel on site. Only coal and nuclear plants are able to do that at scale...

But the rest of the energy industry, including **a rare alliance** of oil, renewable energy and environmental interests, regarded the plan as a veiled rescue of politically favored energy producers.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2018/10/04/the-energy-202-this-panel-rejected-trump-s-plan-to-save-coal-now-one-of-the-officials-involved-may-join-it/5bb520ef1b326b7c8a8d17f9/?utm_term=.c4413494092f (Review at: <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/washington-post/>

Continue on same link to find article below:



Emissions rise from the American Electric Power Co. coal-fired John E. Amos Power Plant in Winfield, W.Va., on July 18. (Luke Sharrett/Bloomberg News)

— **Trump could revamp how government values human health:** The EPA has sent a proposal to the White House to ease existing rules on curbing power plants' mercury emissions in a change that would alter how the cost and benefits of curbing pollutants are measured. The proposed rule "would reverse a 2011 Obama administration finding that the agency must factor in any additional health benefits that arise from lowering toxic pollutants from coal plants when evaluating the rule's costs and benefits," The Post's Juliet Eilperin and Brady Dennis [report](#). The change would not outright eliminate mercury emissions limits but could "severely weaken" the underlying public health justification for them. The New York Times [first reported](#) the news Sunday

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2018/10/01/the-energy-202-trump-has-dismissed-climate-change-as-nonsense-his-administration-just-said-otherwise/5bb14e8d1b326b7c8a8d177e/?utm_term=.b6ece25593af Review at: (Review at:<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/washington-post/>

To honor an elephant, Indian temples are going plastic-free

To honor an elephant, Indian temples are going plastic-free

“We are trying to go back to the ancient days, when there was no threat of plastic,” says A. Padmakumar, president of the Travancore Devaswom Board, an administrative body that oversees all 1,058 temples, and resident of Aranmula village. It was his idea to phase out plastic throughout Kerala temples, though he says religious leaders had been advocating for a ban for years.”

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2018/10/kerala-india-hindu-temples-go-plastic-free/>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2018/10/kerala-india-hindu-temples-go-plastic-free/>

(No review found)

EPA APPROVES NEW INSECTICIDE FOR SOYBEANS AND OTHER CROPS



The EPA has approved BASF's Inscalis insecticide. The new insecticide controls piercing-sucking insect pests in various row and specialty crops, including soybeans, cotton, and citrus. The Sefina Inscalis formulation is labeled for soybean aphids, a major soybean pest.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/energy-environment/2018/10/01/rollback-mercury-rule-trump-could-revamp-how-government-values-human-health/?utm_term=.460a0ea564b7

(Review at:<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/washington-post/>

UC Berkeley professor co-authors study revealing that Clean Water Act reduced pollution in US waterways

“The Clean Water Act, passed in 1972, regulates the discharge of pollutants into U.S. surface waters, including rivers, lakes and wetlands. The research, which analyzed data gathered from 240,000 sites between 1962 and 2001, found there was an increase in water quality partly because of the Clean Water Act. The research also found that the number of rivers safe for fishing increased by 12 percent from 1972 to 2001...’What is so impressive about this research is that it is a clever application of big data to document something we all hope – that innovative environmental protection can not only safeguard the environment – but actively lead to its restoration,’ said Daniel Kammen, professor of energy and chair of the campus Energy and Resource Group, in an email.”

<http://www.dailycal.org/2018/10/11/uc-berkeley-professor-co-authors-study-revealing-that-clean-water-act-reduced-pollution-in-us-waterways/>

Japan transfers excess renewable power between regions for first time

TOKYO (Reuters) - “Japan transferred excess renewable energy supplies between two of its electricity regions for the first time since a major shakeup of its power sector, the country’s grid monitor told Reuters...The government changed regulations in 2015, allowing the old utilities to restrict supplies of renewable energy from their solar or wind farms if they deem it necessary to maintain grid stability...The orders can be made at short notice and without having to pay compensation, however restrictions can only be made after first curbing hydro and fossil fuel power output or transferring excess supplies.”

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-japan-nuclear-renewables/japan-transfers-excess-renewable-power-between-regions-for-first-time-idUSKCN1MD0DD>

The Energy 202: This panel rejected Trump's plan to save coal. Now one of the officials involved may join it.

On Wednesday, President Trump [nominated](#) the Energy Department's Bernard McNamee to be one of five commissioners on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

FERC Commissioner Robert Powelson [announced](#) his retirement over the summer. With coal-fired and nuclear power steadily being edged out of the electricity market by stiffer anti-pollution regulations and tighter competition from cheap natural gas and renewable energy, the Energy Department urged FERC last year to approve a plan favoring power plants able to store fuel on site. Only coal and nuclear plants are able to do that at scale... But the rest of the energy industry, including [a rare alliance](#) of oil, renewable energy and environmental interests, regarded the plan as a veiled rescue of politically favored energy producers.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2018/10/04/the-energy-202-this-panel-rejected-trump-s-plan-to-save-coal-now-one-of-the-officials-involved-may-join-it/5bb520ef1b326b7c8a8d17f9/?utm_term=.c4413494092f. (Review at:<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/washington-post/>)

TRUMP ANNOUNCES INTENT TO NAME DOE'S MCNAMEE TO FILL FIFTH FERC SEAT

Having a fifth member on the commission would lower the likelihood of a 2-2 split on natural gas infrastructure approvals or major policy initiatives currently pending at FERC, including on grid resilience and pipeline review policy. FERC has had two Republicans and two Democrats on board since mid-August, when Robert Powelson left the commission... "FERC has a longstanding commitment to fuel-neutral regulation, but Mr. McNamee's past writings and career track record suggest that he would seek every opportunity possible to support fossil fuels," said John Moore, director of the Sustainable FERC Project at the Natural Resources Defense Council. "He even went so far as to state in an op-ed ... that fossil fuels 'dramatically improve' the human condition."

<https://www.spglobal.com/platts/en/market-insights/latest-news/electric-power/100318-trump-announces-intent-to-name-does-mcnamee-to-fill-fifth-ferc-seat> (Review at:<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/washington-post/>)

North Carolina Produces 60% of the Country's Sweet Potatoes. The Crop Is in Trouble.

North Carolina Produces 60% of the Country's Sweet Potatoes. The Crop Is in Trouble.



[The Charlotte Observer](#) dives deep into this year's sweet potato crop, finding that the rainfall from Florence fell at just the wrong time, and in just the wrong way. The sweet potato crops are near harvest, unlike the previous nasty hurricane, Matthew, which came in early October of 2016. Also unlike Matthew, Florence dropped a great deal of water over an extended three-day period, not allowing the floodwater to drain off.

<http://modernfarmer.com/2018/09/north-carolina-produces-60-of-the-countrys-sweet-potatoes-the-crop-is-in-trouble/>

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UN report on global warming carries life-or-death warning

The Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued its gloomy report at a meeting in Incheon, South Korea.

In the 728-page document, the U.N. organization detailed how Earth's weather, health and ecosystems would be in better shape if the world's leaders could somehow limit future human-caused warming to just 0.9 degrees Fahrenheit (a half degree Celsius) from now, instead of the globally agreed-upon goal of 1.8 degrees F (1 degree C). Among other things:..

- Half as many people would suffer from lack of water
- There would be fewer deaths and illnesses from heat, smog and infectious diseases.
- Seas would rise nearly 4 inches (0.1 meters) less.

- Half as many animals with back bones and plants would lose the majority of their habitats.
- There would be substantially fewer heat waves, downpours and droughts.
- The West Antarctic ice sheet might not kick into irreversible melting.
- And it just may be enough to save most of the world's coral reefs from dying.

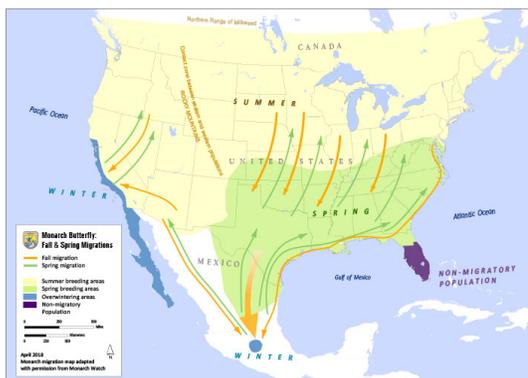
http://www.philly.com/philly/health/science/20181007_ap_de0bbfb74e544823a3fe2b375cf7e4eb.html?arc404=true

Monarch Monitoring Project (MMP), established in 1990, is a research and education program focusing on the fall migration of monarch butterflies along the Atlantic coast

For over two decades the MMP has gathered data on monarchs moving through Cape May during September and October. MMP staff and volunteers also conduct informational programs on monarch biology and tagging.



CAPE MAY MONARCH FESTIVAL OCTOBER 7, 2018



<http://www.monarchmonitoringproject.com/>

<https://www.fws.gov/midwest/news/MonarchCitizenScience.html>

Milkweed:

Milkweed is also a host plant for a wide variety of other insects. Planting a milkweed patch creates an entire community of organisms that both depend on the milkweed and each r for survival. If you have a patch of milkweed at home, keep a lookout for these other milkweed dependent bugs, and you can start to look at the milkweed patch not only as food for monarchs, but as a village with many different residents!...



**MILKWEED
LEAF
BEETLE**

Planting a milkweed patch creates an entire community of organisms that both depend on the milkweed and each other for survival. If you have a patch of milkweed at home, keep a lookout for these other milkweed dependent bugs, and you can start to look at the milkweed patch not only as food for monarchs, but as a village with many different residents!

<https://capemaymonarchs.blogspot.com/>



Monarch Numbers Increase, But Work To Restore Butterflies Is Not Over



OVERWINTERING MONARCH COLONY IN MEXICO. PHOTO COURTESY OF PABLO LEAUTAUD/ CREATIVE COMMONS.

“The 2015-16 monarch butterfly population estimates were released today by our partners in Mexico. Numbers reflect a 255% increase in the area occupied by monarchs in the overwintering habitat since last year. Overwintering monarch butterflies occupied approximately 10 acres of habitat in Mexico this year compared to last year’s estimate of 2.8 acres. This is great news but more work is needed to restore the eastern population of



Director Benjamin Tuggle, Midwest Regional Director Tom Melius and Director Dan Ashe, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, visiting the Piedra Herrada Sanctuary for monarch butterflies in Mexico. Photo by USFWS.

monarchs... Long story short, monarchs are still struggling but as we work with Mexico and Canada, we are making a difference to restore their habitat. In recent years, monarchs have decreased by 90% since peak populations in the mid-90s. Loss of prairie habitat in the United States, along with [loss of overwintering habitat in the grounds](#) have contributed to the decline of this incredible insect.

THE MONARCHS CLUSTER IN MEXICO'S RARE OYAMEL FIR FORESTS, OCCASIONALLY TAKING SHELTER IN PINES AND OTHER TREES. THE OYAMEL TREES PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED REFUGE AND PROTECT THE BUTTERFLIES FROM EXTREME TEMPERATURES, RAIN, SNOW AND PREDATORS.

Mexico established the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve in 1980 to protect the monarch's mountainous home. Just over 60 miles from Mexico City, the 138,000 acre reserve is sectioned off into several sanctuaries that provide winter refuge to the millions of monarchs who migrate to Mexico each fall. From roughly late October through February, monarchs live in the forested mountains of Mexico, where temperatures are mild enough for survival. This habitat is only found on 12 mountaintops on the planet, and is essential to the persistence of the monarch and its migration.

<https://www.fws.gov/midwest/news/monarchpopulation2016.html>

<https://monarchjointventure.org/get-involved/stud>

US green groups carry out Russia's bidding in fracking fight

Congressional investigators have identified the San Francisco-based Sea Change Foundation as a major conduit of Russian financial support for U.S. environmental groups. The “paperless money trail” that flows from Russian President Vladimir Putin’s government into a shell company in Bermuda and from there into the Sea Change Foundation has been the subject of [several reports](#) from the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, who chairs the committee, has warned against Russian efforts to spread propaganda through compliant environmental advocacy groups that received grants from the Sea Change Foundation that ultimately originated from foreign sources. As I [previously reported](#), the Russian motivations are evident since U.S. natural gas exports threaten Putin’s oil and gas monopoly in Eastern Europe. What’s a little less evident is the growing long-term threat of China, which has also cultivated close ties with many of the same environmental activists tied in with the Sea Change Foundation. There is, for example, the Natural Resources Defense Council that continuously steers lawsuits against the U.S. military that work to China’s advantage. The NRDC is also among the top recipients of Sea Change funding...Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, who chairs the House Committee on Natural Resources, recently [sent letters to the NRDC](#) and other green groups asking them if they were in compliance with the [Foreign Agents Registration Act](#), which requires individuals and organizations working on behalf of foreign governments to disclose these relationships. The questions Bishop raised in those letters are applicable to a September hearing before the Pennsylvania Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee in Harrisburg that probed into “Foreign Influence on Natural Gas Development in PA.”...(I took part in the hearing as a witness along with several other stakeholders in Pennsylvania. The video and written testimony can be [found here](#).)

Many of the environmental groups identified as top recipients of Sea Change Foundation money are active in Pennsylvania, so Harrisburg lawmakers are understandably concerned about the impact well-funded narrow special interests could have on energy policy. Thomas Murphy, director of the Penn State Marcellus Center for Outreach and Research, told state senators during his testimony that Pennsylvania is now the top U.S. producer of shale gas. The Marcellus and Utica shale gas resources that cut across parts of the commonwealth are providing 35 percent of the U.S. total dry natural gas production, Murphy points out. If you’re a Russian oligarch looking to suppress America’s natural gas revolution, Pennsylvania is a place where you will want to concentrate resources...Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, who chairs the House Committee on Natural Resources, recently [sent letters to the NRDC](#) and other green groups asking them if they were in compliance with the [Foreign Agents Registration Act](#), which requires individuals and organizations working on behalf of foreign governments to disclose these relationships. The questions Bishop raised in those letters are applicable to a September hearing before the Pennsylvania Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee in Harrisburg that probed into “Foreign Influence on Natural Gas Development in PA.”...(I took part in the hearing as a witness along with several other stakeholders in Pennsylvania. The video and written testimony can be [found here](#).)

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<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/us-green-groups-carry-out-russias-bidding-in-fracking-fight>.

Review: <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/washington-examiner/>

<http://www.dailycal.org/2018/10/11/uc-berkeley-professor-co-authors-study-revealing-that-clean-water-act-reduced-pollution-in-us-waterways/>

UC Berkeley professor co-authors study revealing that Clean Water Act reduced pollution in US waterways

“The Clean Water Act, passed in 1972, regulates the discharge of pollutants into U.S. surface waters, including rivers, lakes and wetlands. The research, which analyzed data gathered from 240,000 sites between 1962 and 2001, found there was an increase in water quality partly because of the Clean Water Act. The research also found that the number of rivers safe for fishing increased by 12 percent from 1972 to 2001...’What is so impressive about this research is that it is a clever application of big data to document something we all hope – that innovative environmental protection can not only safeguard the environment – but actively lead to its restoration,’ said Daniel Kammen, professor of energy and chair of the campus Energy and Resource Group, in an email.”

<http://www.dailycal.org/2018/10/11/uc-berkeley-professor-co-authors-study-revealing-that-clean-water-act-reduced-pollution-in-us-waterways/>

Del., Pa. slaughterhouses illegally dumping wastewater, pollution report finds

Released this week by the [Environmental Integrity Project](#), “Water Pollution from Slaughterhouses” looked at EPA enforcement and compliance data for 98 large slaughterhouses across the country, focusing on those that discharge more than 250,000 gallons of waste a day.

Between Jan. 1, 2016, and June 30 this year, three-quarters of those slaughterhouses violated the Clean Water Act by improperly disposing of wastewater contaminated with blood, fat and feces.

High nitrogen levels can lead to algae blooms and deplete oxygen, which makes it difficult for plants and fish to survive. High bacteria levels threaten public health. tproblems.”

He said a dearth of resources at the EPA and state agencies accounts for part of the lack of enforcement. Most of the violations of Clean Water Act permit limits were reported on the company's own discharge monitoring reports.

“You don’t have to be Sherlock Holmes to find these cases,” he said. “But you still need people to bring them.”

“The first thing that you do is turn off the spigot, so the water can’t keep overflowing,” she said. “At some point somebody has to say, we need to turn these spigots off until we get this under control.”

The Environmental Integrity Project’s Schaefer said not all slaughterhouses were violating the Clean Water Act. Many plants within the same industry are doing better, sometimes within the same company.

“What that tells you is that these slaughterhouses can be run more cleanly,” he said. “[Often] the company knows how to get the nitrogen down when required to, and that means there is a solution here.”

<https://why.org/articles/del-pa-slaughterhouses-illegally-dumping-wastewater-pollution-report-finds/>

BIRD BANDING, BIRD ECOLOGY, MIGRATION **Something to Chat About**



YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (HATCH YEAR) BANDED ON TUESDAY AT RUSHTON. PHOTO BY BLAKE GOLL

Another dreary, drippy morning on Tuesday surprisingly produced a season record of 54 birds spanning a dazzling 20 species. Highlights included Gray-cheeked Thrushes, another prized Connecticut Warbler, the first Yellow-rumped Warbler of the season, and an increase in

numbers of individuals of several species as compared to previous years—including Black-throated Blue Warblers, Indigo Buntings, and Eastern Towhees. The grande finale was a glorious Yellow-breasted Chat, the second ever for Rushton!

The Yellow-breasted Chat is a large, chunky warbler with an atypical song that is more similar to the varied, staccato songs of catbirds and mockingbirds than to its more refined sounding relatives in the warbler family. Dining mostly on spiders and insects in dense thickets, it also feasts on berries as evidenced by the traces of wild grapes on this chat's bill....Students from Strath Haven High School experienced nature like never before as they crowded around the banding table in their pajamas (they mumbled something about homecoming school spirit week). They were touched by these creatures as they guessed how many nickels a Common Yellowthroat weighed and learned of their arduous journeys to Central America.

<https://wctbirds.wordpress.com/2018/10/12/something-to-chat-about/>

As oil and gas exports surge, West Texas becomes the world's 'extraction colony'

This boom is engulfing the rest of West Texas, too, extending to areas that drilling hasn't touched before. As communities welcome the jobs and the new business, they're struggling with an onslaught of problems that include spikes in traffic accidents and homelessness. What's happening is unprecedented. In December, companies in the Permian Basin — an ancient, oil-rich seabed that spans West Texas and southeastern New Mexico — were producing twice as much oil as they had four years earlier, during the last boom. Forecasters expect [production to double](#) again by 2023.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and others say the drilling spree is ushering in a new era of American energy independence, but American demand isn't driving it. Foreign demand is.

In late 2015, Congress cut a deal to lift 40-year-old restrictions on the export of crude oil. That opened the floodgates. The U.S. sold 230 million more barrels of crude to other countries in the first half of this year than it did three years earlier — a surge made possible by a virtually identical spike in Permian production.

2013

Canada

49M barrels

2013

Crude oil exports from the United States

(Millions of barrels)

The U.S. exported its crude oil to only a few countries while restrictions set in 1975 remained in place. Canada was the lone destination in 2010.

Pratheek Rebala/The Center for Public Integrity

The U.S. just surpassed Russia as the world's [top oil producer](#). The [International Energy Agency](#) predicts that American oil — most of it from the Permian — will account for 80 percent of the growth in global supply over the next seven years. That's bringing big profits to oil companies as well as lung-searing pollution to places where drilling has skyrocketed, while threatening to exacerbate climate change...But there are major trade-offs — and not just for locals. Scientists warn this drilling rush almost certainly will worsen climate change by increasing the world's fossil fuel use at a fraught time. They say drastic reductions in [greenhouse gases](#) are needed to avoid intensifying climate-linked disasters already pummeling the planet.



“Climate change exacerbates the risks we already face,” said Katharine Hayhoe of Texas Tech University — including wildfires, hurricanes and flooding. (Newsy)

Two massive wildfires in California this summer were among the [largest](#) in state history. [Record-high temperatures](#) in Japan killed more than [100 people](#) in July. In September, as [Hurricane Florence](#) pounded the Carolinas with devastating rain, a typhoon tore through the [Philippines](#) and forced more than 3 million people to evacuate in [China](#). And in Texas, Gulf Coast communities are still struggling to recover from last year’s super-powered [Hurricane Harvey](#), which broke all previous U.S. rainfall records and caused \$125 billion in [property damage](#).

On Monday the United Nations’ [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) warned that the “next few years are probably the most important in our history” because extreme weather will imperil even more people without “deep emissions reductions.”

“Climate change exacerbates the risks we already face,” said [Katharine Hayhoe](#), who directs the Climate Science Center at Texas Tech University. “Every additional gigaton of carbon that we produce as a global society carries with it a very real cost.”

Oil — and natural gas, which comes up with it in the Permian — releases carbon dioxide when burned.

On top of that, [methane](#) — an even more potent greenhouse gas — leaks from wells, pipelines and other parts of the supply chain.

- Climbing production hasn’t boosted local tax revenues fast enough to address all the increased needs that come with it, from crowded classrooms to wrecked roads. Schools, police departments and hospitals are struggling to keep employees lured by better-paying jobs in the oilfield.
- The state often fails to step in when oil and gas operations foul the air. Unpermitted air pollution is higher in West Texas counties than in much of the state, and regulators are giving operators the OK to burn off far more excess natural gas there than was allowed a decade ago.

- The industry is consuming water in an arid region at an unsustainable rate: Permian Basin operators used eight times as much water to frack and drill last year as they did in 2011; the ultimate consequences are unknown because the state doesn't require companies to disclose basic information that would allow scientists to understand the risks of all this consumption.

With the boom has come a building spree of plants, terminals and other major oil and gas facilities — more than 100 have been added, or will be, in Texas alone. Companies are laying enough pipeline in the state to stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific three times over, more than 8,000 miles in all...When Franklin moved to Reeves County in 2010, this remote area roughly 100 miles southwest of Midland was a modest oil and gas producer by Texas standards. Now it ranks third in the state for both. Oil production in the county — which has fewer than 16,000 residents and more land than Delaware — shot up from 1.6 million barrels in 2010 to more than 60 million last year, the biggest upturn in the Permian.

Now the Franklins can see up to 20 oil wells burning off excess natural gas day and night from their double-wide mobile home on the prairie. A persistent haze hangs on the southern horizon, blurring their view of the Davis Mountains, a range often called the Texas Alps.

A sign near one of the wells, less than a mile from the Franklins, warns of the presence of hydrogen sulfide, a contaminant in crude oil and natural gas. In high concentrations it can kill almost instantly; at low levels it can cause chronic illness.

A chemical stench hangs in the air here.

“When we went past that site yesterday, I could not believe how bad it was,” Suzanne Franklin said in April. “I just had to stop breathing.”

<https://apps.publicintegrity.org/blowout/#correction>

<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/center-for-public-integrity/>

Leaving Soils Better for the Next Generation

“It’s always great to see a no-tiller who ‘walks the walk’ when it comes to improving soil health get recognition they deserve. That was the case last month when Waco, Neb., grower Scott Gonnerman received the Master Conservationist Award from the *Omaha World-Herald* for the conservation work he’s done on his 250-acre farm...Gonnerman has stopped using gravity irrigation and switched to a center pivot as water infiltration rates improved through no-till, which in turn helps him conserve water.

- He’s raising non-GMO corn, soybeans and small grains and has eliminated the use of insecticides and fungicides.
- He turned to seeding cover crops in 2009 with annual ryegrass being his first species, as he worked to improve soil tilth and health. But covers have done more than that, as he’s been able to stop using insecticides and lean more on natural predators.

“My farm has to have insect paths and bad fungi, because that’s what the beneficial insects survive on,” Gonnerman told the *World-Herald*. “If we create the right habitat, then when all the insects and pests come, they will balance themselves out.

<https://www.no-tillfarmer.com/blogs/1-covering-no-till/post/8227-leaving-soils-better-for-the-next-generation> (no review bias found)

Colonial Pipeline prepares as Hurricane Michael heads toward Florida Panhandle

“Colonial is taking precautions on stubline Line 17 ahead of the storm. The line runs south from Atlanta to Bainbridge, Georgia.

"Plans are set to safely restore [service] promptly should Line 17 be forced to temporarily shut down due to a loss of power or for other reasons," the statement said...Colonial said that due to expectations of high winds and heavy rainfall in South Carolina and North Carolina, it is "on alert taking precautions to ensure safety of operations and personnel."

<https://www.spglobal.com/platts/en/market-insights/latest-news/oil/101018-colonial-pipeline-prepares-as-hurricane-michael-heads-toward-florida-panhandle> (https://www.glassdoor.com/Reviews/sp-global-inc-reviews-SRCH_KE0,13.htm

Pennsylvania Senators Working on Pipeline Siting Legislation

Democratic Sen. Andrew Dinniman and Republican Sens. John Rafferty and Tom Killion are seeking co-sponsors for the bill. The lawmakers represent parts of southeast Pennsylvania, where residents living near the Mariner East (ME) 2 pipeline project have dealt with repeated spills, violations and other issues during construction of the natural gas liquids system. “Public policy leadership is essential to ensuring that Pennsylvania puts in place an oversight framework that is consistent with the pace and scale that science demands to avoid the worst effects of bad pipeline management -- a framework flexible enough to adapt to technology innovation and advanced leak detection,” the senators said in the memo... The memo is the [latest call](#) to increase oversight of pipelines in the state as the natural gas infrastructure build-out continues...The senators noted that more than one million people live or work near oil and natural gas infrastructure in Pennsylvania. While the memo was short on details, the senators said the legislation would require advanced leak detection and transparent safety management.

<https://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/116074-pennsylvania-senators-working-on-pipeline-siting-legislation> (No review of bias found)

STATE'S \$5.1 MILLION DEAL PRESERVES 2,200 ACRES OF WATERSHED

“In the largest preservation deal in six years, the state and various partners have agreed to acquire more than 2,200 acres of watershed land in the New Jersey Highlands. The \$5.1 million acquisition by the Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey Highlands Council, and nonprofit groups will preserve 2,218 acres of rolling woodlands in Sussex County known as the Hudson Farm properties...“It’s a rare day when you can protect 8 percent of a watershed with one single transaction,” Peter Howell, executive vice president of the Open Space Institute, referring to the Musconetcong Watershed. “Protecting the unspoiled forests surrounding the Delaware River headwaters is critical if we want to preserve the drinking water of the watershed’s 15 million residents,” Howell said. The state has protected more than 650,000 acres of land through its Green Acres program over the past few decades.”

<https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/18/10/10/states-5-1-million-deal-preserves-2-200-acres-of-watershed/> (No review of bias found)

Trump's Trade War With China Is Hurting Those Energy-Producing States He Won

“...Take Pennsylvania, where 1.6 million of its people have jobs dependent on foreign trade: That includes those in natural gas production as well as steel and agriculture. The natural gas, for example, could get exported to China, which will now get it from Qatar, United Arab Emirates or Russia. Pennsylvania is already feeling pain from the [solar tariffs](#) imposed earlier in the year. Overall, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce says that tariffs could cost the state \$1.7 billion...“They are the collateral damage. And the potential harm to America’s industrial and [agricultural heartland](#) is about to get much worse,” writes Lucy Wolfe in a story called, “Real Ugly, Real Quick: [3 Pennsylvania Industries Feeling the Sting of Tariffs](#)” for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce....”

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kensilverstein/2018/10/11/trumps-trade-war-with-china-is-hurting-those-energy-producing-states-he-won/#afbd9aa35958>. (<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/forbes/>)

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kensilverstein/2018/10/11/trumps-trade-war-with-china-is-hurting-those-energy-producing-states-he-won/#afbd9aa35958>. (<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/forbes/>)

PA coalition spells out key conservation issues before election



THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER FLOWS BY THE PENNSYLVANIA CAPITOL IN HARRISBURG. (DAVE HARP)

“...We need more investment in clean water, clean-energy jobs and [we need to] restore the funding that has been cut from state agencies dealing with environmental issues.”

The letter also reminds the candidates of the 1971 Environmental Rights Amendment to the state constitution, which establishes Pennsylvanians’ right to “clean air, pure water, and the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment.” Public natural resources are common property, the amendment says, and it is the state government’s responsibility to “conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.”

In a legal challenge last year, the amendment was upheld by the state Supreme Court...

“Pennsylvania has the third worst air quality in the United States,” PennFuture states in its executive summary of the agenda, and is “among the states with the highest risks for lead-

contaminated water. Nineteen thousand miles of our streams and rivers are unsafe for drinking, recreation, aquatic life, agriculture, or industrial use."

Many of those problems have been worsened by several years of budget reductions, which have undercut the missions of the state's Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The conservation agenda addresses that issue, offering sobering statistics on budget cutbacks since the early 2000s. "Between [2003 and 2016] the Department of Environmental Protection saw a 40-percent budget reduction, dropping from a high of \$245.6 million to \$142.6 million," the document points out. "As a result, the department retired more than 700 positions."

Other key items on the agenda include a call for improving state agencies' ability to protect citizens from the "immense new threats" posed by the Marcellus shale natural gas (fracking) boom; a much stronger effort to prevent drinking water pollution; a push for a 21st century workforce through green jobs; a focus on environmental justice to protect poor communities from bearing the brunt of pollution problems; more investment in the state's Growing Greener program; and greater investments in clean energy.

National groups with a presence in Pennsylvania, such as the Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy and Sierra Club, have signed on in support of PennFuture's agenda, as have the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Environmental Defense Fund. To help keep these issues in the political conversation, PennFuture is also seeking citizens who are willing to ask agenda-related questions of the candidates in public forums.

<https://www.bayjournal.com/article/pa-coalition-spells-out-key-conservation-issues-before-election>. (No review of bias found)

Florida's Panhandle coast devastated by historic Hurricane Michael



BENNY HOBSON, 69, SITS IN HIS RECLINER AFTER LOSING THE FRONT WALL OF HIS HOUSE IN PANAMA CITY, FLA., DURING HURRICANE MICHAEL. HOBSON RODE OUT THE STORM AT HIS HOME WITH HIS WIFE AND THREE DOGS. (JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST)

SPRINGFIELD, Fla. — Entire oceanfront communities in the Florida Panhandle were virtually obliterated, an Air Force base suffered “catastrophic” damage and at least six people were killed by Hurricane Michael, a sucker-punch of a storm that intensified suddenly and now ranks as one of the four most powerful hurricanes ever to strike the United States... “This one just looks like a bomb dropped,” said Clyde Cain, who is with the Louisiana Cajun Navy, a group of volunteer search-and-rescue teams that went to Florida to help in Michael’s wake, just as they did last month during Hurricane Florence in the Carolinas.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/floridas-forgotten-coast-devastated-by-historic-hurricane-michael/2018/10/11/ef9d127a-cd6f-11e8-a360-85875bac0b1f_story.html?utm_term=.fbc7bd7b63dc&wpisrc=nl_rainbow&wpmm=1. (Review at:<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/washington-post/>)

EPA Cuts Science Panel That Reviewed Deadly Air Pollutants

It seems that every day scientists discover more about the dangers of **air pollution**. It is well known that it causes heart and lung disease, but studies this year have linked it to **dementia** and found **soot particles in placenta**. Most recently, a study published in

the *Journal of Investigative Medicine* found a connection between particulate matter and mouth cancer risk.

But the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) doesn't seem to be paying attention. The agency, under the direction of former coal lobbyist Andrew Wheeler, is moving to disband a panel of scientists that advise the agency on setting safe levels of particulate matter pollution, *The New York Times* reported Wednesday...An EPA official confirmed to *The New York Times* that the 20-person Particulate Matter Review Panel, which advises the agency on setting safe levels of the microscopic pollutants, was not listed as continuing to meet next year... "To me this is part of a pattern," Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) Research Director Gretchen Goldman told *The New York Times*. "We're seeing EPA trying to cut science out of the process."...Goldman cited recent agency decisions such as nixing the senior science advisor position and issuing a proposal that would limit the types of scientific studies the EPA can use to make decisions. In the case of particulate matter, this could have deadly consequences, as Goldman explained in a Twitter thread about the decision...

https://www.ecowatch.com/epa-science-panel-air-pollution-2611852549.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=02d9aa33fa-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-02d9aa33fa-85327165

How to Feed 10 Billion by 2050 Without Destroying the Planet

By 2050, there will be 10 billion people on the earth, and global income will triple. Feeding more people with more money will increase the environmental pressures put on the planet by the global food system by between 50 and 92 percent. If nothing is done, those pressures will push Earth "beyond the planetary boundaries that define a safe operating space for humanity." That's the starting point of a major new study published in *Nature* Wednesday that is the first to quantify how food production and consumption impacts the planet's ability to sustain human life.

The food system gobbles up planetary resources in four key ways:

1. It is a major contributor to climate change.
2. Land use changes required for farming drive biodiversity loss.
3. Agriculture uses up lots of fresh water.
4. Nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizer pollute land and water.

Luckily, the study also mapped a way out of this mess.

"Feeding a world population of 10 billion is possible, but only if we change the way we eat and the way we produce food," research participant professor Johan Rockström at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany told *The Guardian*. "Greening the food sector or eating up our planet: this is what is on the menu today."...To keep warming below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the world will have to change how it eats. What that means is different for the population at large and for people in wealthy countries like the U.S., but overall, researchers recommended a "flexitarian" diet that eschews meat in favor of beans and nuts.

For people in the U.S., that will mean: Eating 90 percent less beef, pork and lamb Eating 60 percent less poultry, milk and sugar Eating more than four times more nuts and seeds...2.

Waste: It's not just about how much we eat, but about how much we throw away. The researchers found that cutting food waste in half would reduce the environmental impacts of agriculture by 16 percent, *BBC News* reported.

https://www.ecowatch.com/food-production-world-population-2611643301.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=02d9aa33fa-

27 Injured, 300,000 Without Power as Leslie Becomes Strongest Storm to Hit Iberian Peninsula Since 1842

"I have never seen anything like it," one Figueira da Foz resident told SIC television, as [BBC News reported](#). "The town seemed to be in a state of war, with cars smashed by fallen trees. People were very worried."

The storm, which was one of the most powerful to ever hit Portugal, canceled flights, caused [flooding](#), uprooted 1,000 trees and blocked roads including, for a time, the main A1 highway. The area around the capital of Lisbon, as well as the districts of Coimbra and Leiria, were the most impacted. In the north, Aveiro, Viseu and Porto also suffered damage. In one incident, the roof was blown off the stadium of the women's European roller hockey final....Tropical Atlantic storm systems do not usually head towards Europe. The last hurricane to impact the Iberian peninsula was the Spanish hurricane of 1842. The last named storm system to make landfall was Vince in 2005, according to [The Washington Post's Capital Weather Gang](#).

<https://www.ecowatch.com/leslie-storm-portugal-spain-2612513697.html>

The Energy 202: Trump puts former BP oil spill lawyer in charge of environmental law enforcement

The office in the Department of Justice that sued BP after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill will soon have a new leader. He is one of the very lawyers who helped defend the oil giant in court after that massive accident in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010.

On Thursday, the Senate confirmed Jeffrey Bossert Clark to run the department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. Clark was approved by a narrow 52-to-45 margin, with only Democratic Sens. [Joe Manchin III](#) of West Virginia and [Claire McCaskill](#) of Missouri joining every Republican present to vote to confirm him...**Clark is the latest in a series of officials who have taken top environmental jobs within the Trump administration after previously working on behalf of the sort of businesses often criticized by environmentalists for pollution.** They include former coal- and uranium-mining lobbyist [Andrew Wheeler](#), currently in charge of the Environmental Protection Agency, and another ex-energy lobbyist, [David Bernhardt](#), now the No. 2 official at the Interior Department...."Although Mr. Clark does have experience in the environmental space, his record at both DOJ and in private practice shows him to have strong opposition to critical environmental protections," Delaware Sen. Thomas R. Carper, the top Democrat on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, said in a statement...**Before Clark's arrival, the Trump administration already curbed some environmental law enforcement efforts that Republicans considered a form of federal overreach.** Earlier this year, for example, the Interior Department limited the application of a century-old law protecting birds. Under the administration's [new interpretation](#) of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the law would no longer apply even after catastrophes like the Deepwater Horizon oil spill....Clark did... say he stood by a comment in which he called climate science "contestable."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2018/10/12/the-energy-202-trump-puts-former-bp-oil-spill-lawyer-in-charge-of-environmental-law-enforcement/5bbf88411b326b7c8a8d1948/?utm_term=.549473c8d38c. Review at:<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/washington-post/>

Republicans hurry nomination of coal bailout backer for position at energy regulatory agency

Senate Republicans are being criticized for rushing the confirmation process for Bernard McNamee, whose hearing is scheduled for October 16, less than two weeks after President Donald Trump nominated him to serve as a commissioner on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

FERC, an agency that operates independently from the White House, has a 25-year history of supporting market-oriented solutions for operating the nation's power system. McNamee, however, is an advocate of Trump's push for government-mandated subsidies for troubled coal and nuclear power plants.

Critics of the coal bailout plan view the rushed confirmation process for McNamee as a clear move by Republicans to inject the Trump administration's political agenda into a historically independent agency.

<https://thinkprogress.org/republicans-hurry-nomination-of-coal-bailout-backer-for-position-at-energy-regulatory-agency-955d8f5ba89f/>

Unusual birds may appear in Kentucky, Indiana after Hurricane Michael

Leaders at the Louisville Nature Center said some unusual migrating birds may be seen in the region.

"A hurricane can devastate their food source," Executive Director Rebecca Minnick said. Habitats can be hit hard too. She said that means migrating birds may be off track in Kentucky, avoiding storms and searching for food..."It can delay their migration because if they're not strong flying birds, they're going to need to wait until the winds die down a little bit," Minnick said.

<http://www.kfvs12.com/2018/10/12/unusual-birds-may-appear-kentucky-indiana-after-hurricane-michael/>

WILD ABOUT PA

Could Pennsylvania see major flight of birds from the north this year?

White-winged crossbills prefer black oil sunflower seeds at bird feeders.



It's an irruption year for winter finches in eastern Canada, according to Ron Plttaway, author of the "Winter Finch Forecast" from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. That means that pine and spruce cone and birch seed crops are poor across most of Ontario and northeastern Canada, sending the birds that rely on those food sources to the south. "It will be a quiet winter in the North Woods," write Pittaway. "Expect flights of winter finches into southern Ontario, southern Quebec, Maritime Provinces, New York and New England states, with some finches going farther south into the United States." "Birch, alder and conifer seed crops are generally poor to low in most of the Northeast, so redpolls will come south into southern Ontario and the northern states. The first arriving redpolls this fall likely will be seen in weedy fields."



Evening grosbeak

“Expect a moderate flight (of evening grosbeaks) south into southern Ontario and the northern states because both conifer and deciduous seed crops are generally low in the Northeast.”

https://www.pennlive.com/wildaboutpa/2018/10/could_pennsylvania_see_major_f.html

for donations:



Audubon Request

Defend our best bird law

Fight for the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is our country's best bird law — and the administration is putting it at desperate risk. Your gift keeps us strong through the urgent fight to uphold it.

https://action.audubon.org/support/defend-our-best-bird-law?ms=digital-fund-email-ea-x-20181022_october-appeal-onetime-fastaction_fastaction&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20181022_october-appeal-onetime-fastaction&utm_content=fastaction&emci=bdab6cca-fdd5-e811-8607-281878391efb&emdi=207f8464-26d6-e811-8607-281878391efb&ceid=792216&smartlinkdata=JmZuPU1hcnRoYSZsbj1FZHdhcmRzJmVtPWJpZGVkd2FyZHMINDBnbWFpbC5jb20mYWWRkMT0zMTEExK0hvcnNlc2hvZStUcmwrJmNpPUdsZW5tb29yZSZzdD1QQSZwYz0xOTM0MyZocD02MTA1MDU1MzQ4JnA9TXMu

The Energy 202: California and the Trump administration rarely agree on energy policy. Here's an exception.



THREE WIND TURBINES FROM THE DEEPWATER WIND PROJECT OFF THE COAST OF BLOCK ISLAND, R.I., ARE VIEWED IN 2016. (AP PHOTO/MICHAEL DWYER)

The Department of the Interior took its [first steps](#) last week toward developing offshore wind energy off the West Coast. “We’re opening the Pacific,” Interior Secretary [Ryan Zinke](#) said Wednesday at a wind energy conference in Washington.

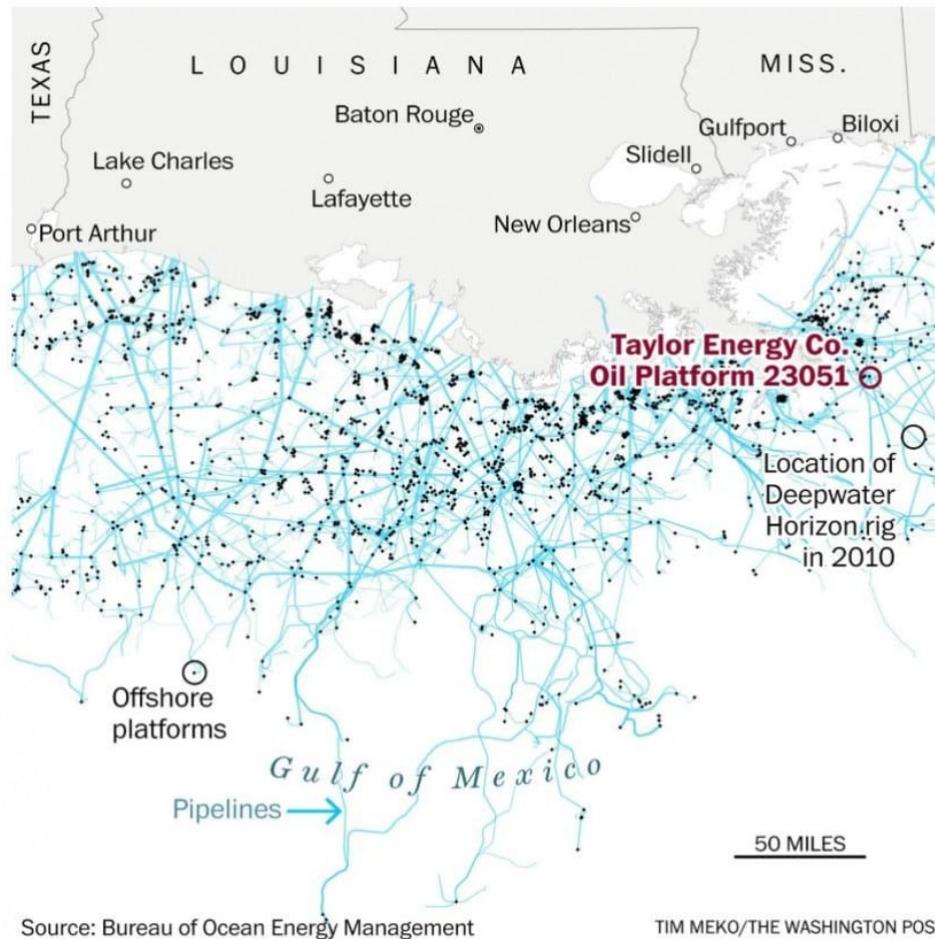
While most of those lease sales happened under President Obama, the Trump administration has largely picked up from where the previous administration left off. Shortly after the new president took office last year, the Trump administration [auctioned off](#) leases for 112,000 acres off the coast of North Carolina. And this December, it will [hold bidding](#) for leases for an additional 390,000 acres off of Massachusetts.

In the case of California, geography rather than politics may be the biggest challenge for future offshore wind projects. Unlike those on the East Coast, much of the waters of the California coast are too deep for existing wind turbines, which are grounded to the sea floor. That means developers will need to build turbines that float.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2018/10/22/the-energy-202-california-and-the-trump-administration-rarely-agree-on-energy-policy-here-s-an-exception/5bccd00a1b326b7c8a8d1ab5/?utm_term=.625d5d00cc50

Scroll down on this page for information re Oil spill expected to continue through the century

OIL CHECK



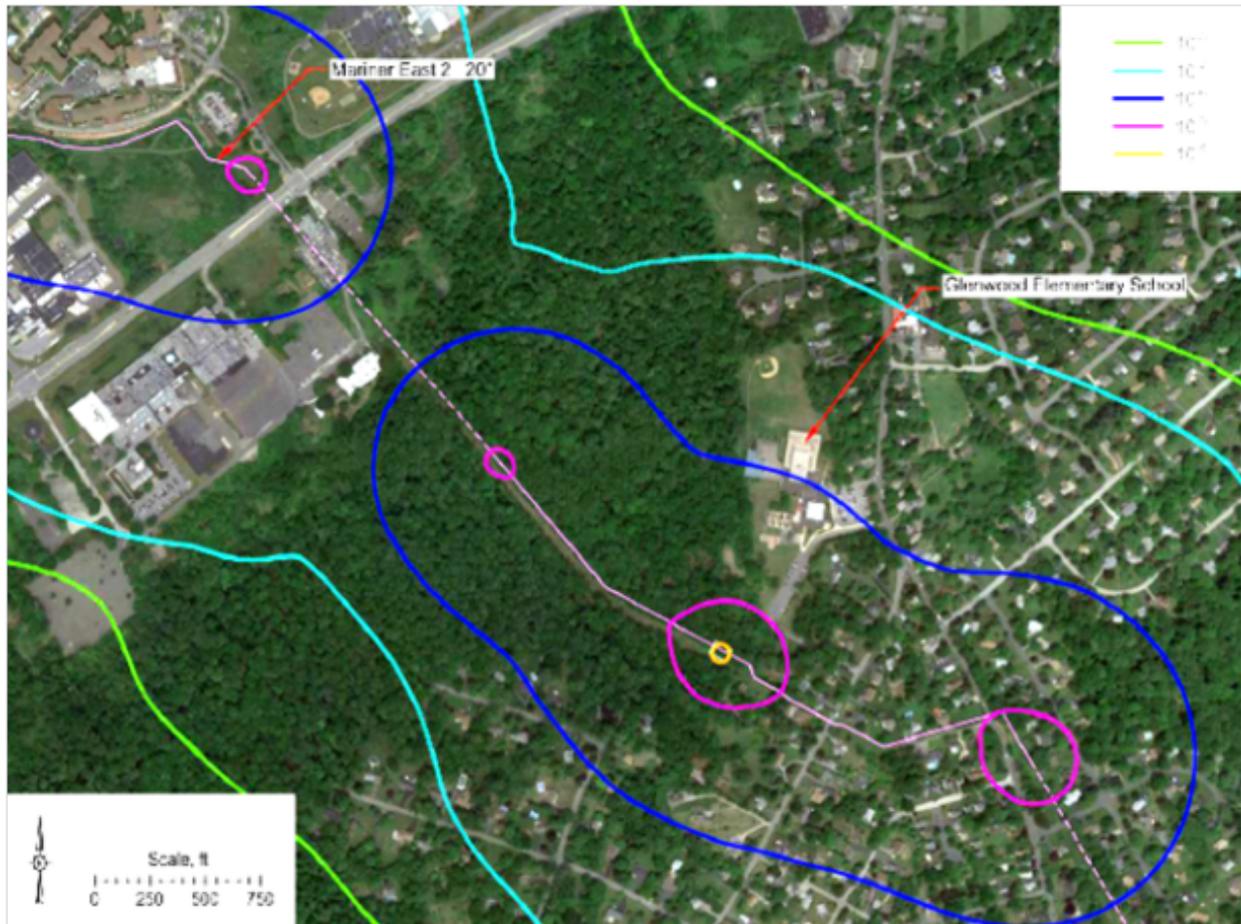
— **A lingering leak:** A 14-year-long oil spill is slowly becoming one of the worst offshore disasters in the country's history. Since 2004, 300 to 700 barrels of oil have been spilling off the Louisiana coast every day since an oil platform owned by Taylor Energy sank in a mudslide after Hurricane Ivan, The Post's Darryl Fears [reports](#). "Many of the wells have not been capped, and federal officials estimate that the spill could continue through this century. With no fix in sight, the Taylor offshore spill is threatening to overtake BP's Deepwater Horizon disaster as the largest ever," Fears reports. But the spill is largely unknown outside Louisiana because, as Fears reports, "of the company's effort to keep it secret in the hopes of protecting its reputation and proprietary information about its operations, according to a lawsuit that eventually forced the company to reveal its cleanup plan."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2018/10/22/the-energy-202-california-and-the-trump-administration-rarely-agree-on-energy-policy-here-s-an-exception/5bccd00a1b326b7c8a8d1ab5/?utm_term=.625d5d00cc50

PIPELINE DANGERS

The risk assessment, the Canary software, and the implications for Glenwood School

(This risk is occurring in the area around Media, if you don't recognize Middletown Township.)



THE AREA NEAR GLENWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. THE THIN MAGENTA LINE REPRESENTS THE ROUTE OF MARINER EAST 2. IT IS A DOTTED LINE IN AREAS WHERE HDD IS USED. THE ORANGE CIRCLE REPRESENTS THE HIGHEST-RISK AREA (A VALVE SITE). MAGENTA, BLUE, TURQUOISE, AND GREEN LINES REPRESENT SUCCESSIVELY LOWER LEVELS OF RISK. SEE TEXT FOR DETAILS.

On Friday, October 19, the full text of the Citizens' Risk Assessment was published. You can download it [here](#). This report analyzes the risks of the Mariner East 2 pipeline project and reports them as actual risk numbers: the probability of fatal accidents per year. It represents the culmination of an effort initiated by State Senator Andy Dinniman and carried out by numerous volunteers who developed the request for proposals, vetted and selected the vendor, raised the necessary funds, and made sure the results were broadly circulated. This report is the product of a remarkable undertaking by private citizens, made necessary by Sunoco's policy of secrecy and the failure of local municipalities and state regulatory agencies

to take this project on. (Delaware County is an exception: it has commissioned its own risk assessment, due out in November. Middletown Township has also retained a pipeline hazards expert to do a local hazard assessment—but he will not attempt to assign probabilities as a “risk assessment” does.)...Although it is not obvious from the image, tree cover affects the risk—and not in the way you might expect. It turns out that the turbulence created when gas moves through a forest results in a flame front that moves faster and burns more violently than gas in an open area. The explosive force released is greater. So, in areas where there is tree cover in the vicinity of the pipeline, the risk of fatality is increased.

<https://dragonpipedairy.com/2018/10/22/the-risk-assessment-the-canary-software-and-the-implications-for-glenwood-school/>

Australia backs hydrogen project to store renewable energy

“- The Australian government said on Monday it would provide half the funding for the country’s biggest trial to produce hydrogen using solar and wind energy, which could then be used as a back-up for gas supplies....Most of the hydrogen will then be injected into the local gas network, aiming to show that renewable hydrogen could be used for energy storage in Australia’s gas networks, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency said.

“As Australia transitions to renewable energy, hydrogen could play an important role as energy storage and also has the effect of decarbonizing the gas network with ‘green’ gas,” the agency’s chief executive, Darren Miller, said in a statement.

Some of the hydrogen will also be used in a generator to produce power for the grid and for a hydrogen refueling station for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles...Jemena* said storing renewable energy as hydrogen in gas networks could prove to be more efficient than batteries, as hydrogen can be stored over weeks and months, while excess renewable energy can only be stored in batteries for minutes or hours.”

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-australia-hydrogen/australia-backs-hydrogen-project-to-store-renewable-energy-idUSKCN1MW01M>

(Review... <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reuters>

*Jemena: SGSP (Australia) Assets Pty Lt

SGSP (Australia) Assets Pty Ltd (SGSPAA), trading as **Jemena**, is an **Australian** company that owns, manages or operates **energy infrastructure** assets in the eastern states of Australia including Queensland and New South Wales, and **gas pipelines** and **gas** and electricity distribution networks in Victoria.^[1] It is 60% owned by **State Grid Corporation of China** and 40% by **Singapore Power**.^[2]

City commissioners aim to power Gainesville on 100 percent renewable energy

The resolution is nonbinding and isn't the first of its kind. At least 84 other cities and two states — California and Hawaii — have also committed to becoming 100 percent renewable. Renewable power for Gainesville comes from solar power and the biomass plant, Hayes-Santos said. Changes such as having electric or hybrid buses and cars, purchasing local electricity rather than depending on foreign oil and focusing on solar energy will be implemented over time, he said...The year 2045 was chosen because it's realistic, Hayes-Santos said. ...“We thought that 2045 was not just an aspirational goal, but one we could achieve,” Hayes-Santos said...Local groups such as the Suwannee - St. Johns Group Sierra Club, a group that promotes protecting natural resources, have advocated for this resolution to pass throughout the year, said Roberta Gastmeyer, the executive committee member of the organization.

https://www.alligator.org/news/city-commissioners-aim-to-power-gainesville-on-percent-renewable-energy/article_3427b2fc-d57b-11e8-96f6-b36fe4ff550d.html

How to Recycle the Unrecycleable: Styrofoam

Young boy describes inventing a solution to a BIG PROBLEM.

https://www.ted.com/talks/ashton_cofer_a_young_inventor_s_plan_to_recycle_styrofoam?referrer=playlist-kids_teens_and_their_great_big_ideas#t-349537

How to Recycle the Unrecycleable: Styrofoam

Yep, Both Fossil Fuel and recycling is a positive way. A solution to a BIG PROBLEM.

https://www.ted.com/talks/ashton_cofer_a_young_inventor_s_plan_to_recycle_styrofoam?referrer=playlist-kids_teens_and_their_great_big_ideas#t-349537

Now viewing

A Pipeline, a Protest, and the Battle for Pennsylvania's Political Soul

Mariner East would carry explosive chemicals dangerously close to people's homes. Can the fight against it turn a heavily conservative region blue? By [Eliza Griswold](#) October 26



ENERGY TRANSFER PARTNERS, THE PARENT COMPANY OF SUNOCO, HAS SUCCEEDED IN BUILDING ITS PIPELINE UNDER PEOPLE'S HOMES BY CLAIMING THE RIGHT TO EMINENT DOMAIN...(DANIELLE FRIEL OTTEN'S CONCERNS OVER THE MARINER EAST PIPELINE PROJECT HAVE SPURRED HER TO RUN FOR A SEAT IN THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSEMBLY.)

“When completed, the pipeline will carry highly explosive natural-gas liquids—compressed ethane, butane, and propane—three hundred and fifty miles from the Marcellus shale gas fields in western Pennsylvania to a port in Philadelphia. From there, the chemicals will be transported to Scotland, formed into pellets called nurdles, and made into plastic. The project is owned by Energy Transfer Partners—the parent company of Sunoco, which also owns the Dakota Access Pipeline—and it is part of an ongoing multibillion-dollar effort to monetize the state’s natural-gas resources... If there’s a leak, the company instructs residents to “leave the area by foot immediately and attempt to stay upwind,” but there’s no guidance for people to determine whether they are in a safe area. Within the blast zone, ringing a doorbell, making a phone call, opening a garage door, turning lights on, or running an engine could ignite a fatal explosion. “It makes it hard to imagine how the forty-one schools that sit within the blast zone would manage with small children,” Friel Otten told me...“There’s no real profit from the gas unless it gets to market,” Andy Dinniman, a state senator fighting the pipeline, told me. “If you frack and

want to get your product to market, my constituents are going to hold you up because they're concerned they're not safe."... Friel Otten scheduled a meeting with Becky Corbin, her state representative, who is now her political opponent. She hoped that Corbin might help her fight back against the pipeline. Before the meeting, she practiced her speech. But sitting in Corbin's office in the nearby town of Exton, explaining her worries, she noticed that the representative's expression was stoic, and got the sense that she wasn't really listening. Corbin, it turned out, has received more six thousand dollars in contributions from the oil and gas industry... Since 2017, Pennsylvania's Democratic governor, Tom Wolf, has received more than seventy-eight thousand dollars in campaign contributions from the industry. Critics argue that, despite Wolf's environmental platform, he has done little to challenge Mariner East... 'This is an industry that's literally stripping away our American values and our right to free speech,' Friel Otten said."

[https://www.newyorker.com/news/dispatch/a-pipeline-a-protest-and-the-battle-for-pennsylvanias-political-soul?](https://www.newyorker.com/news/dispatch/a-pipeline-a-protest-and-the-battle-for-pennsylvanias-political-soul?fbclid=IwAR3pzdqCIAP6fneQ8UQDuldYQ7mBqyivx0KgM1g2o528pyp5zjM68kS8sQ)

[fbclid=IwAR3pzdqCIAP6fneQ8UQDuldYQ7mBqyivx0KgM1g2o528pyp5zjM68kS8sQ.](https://www.newyorker.com/news/dispatch/a-pipeline-a-protest-and-the-battle-for-pennsylvanias-political-soul?fbclid=IwAR3pzdqCIAP6fneQ8UQDuldYQ7mBqyivx0KgM1g2o528pyp5zjM68kS8sQ)

(Review at <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/new-yorker/>)

Pipeline transport is the long-distance [transportation](#) of a liquid or gas through a system of [pipes](#)—a pipeline—typically to a market area for consumption. The latest data from 2014 gives a total of slightly less than 2,175,000 miles (3,500,000 km) of pipeline in 120 countries of the world.^[1] The United States had 65%, Russia had 8%, and Canada had 3%, thus 75% of all pipeline were in these three countries.^[1]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pipeline_transport

U.S. has 1,413 thousand miles by Wikipedia

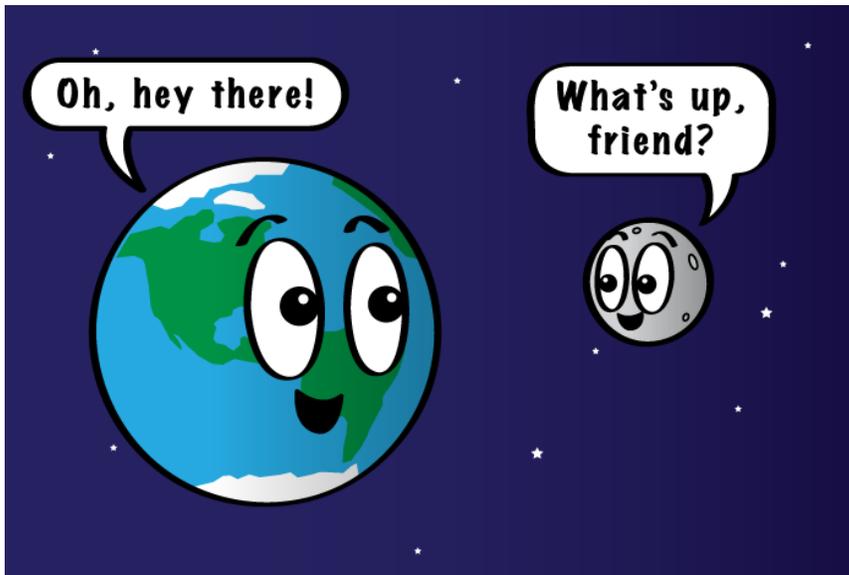
Using those measurements, the equatorial circumference of Earth is about 24,901 miles (40,075 km). However, from pole-to-pole — the meridional circumference — [Earth is only 24,860 miles \(40,008 km\) around](#). This shape, caused by the flattening at the poles, is called an oblate spheroid.

<https://www.space.com/17638-how-big-is-earth.html>

The United States has the largest network of energy pipelines in the world, with more than 2.4 million miles of pipe.

<http://www.pipeline101.org/Where-Are-Pipelines-Located>

▪



The moon is an average of **238,855 miles (384,400 km)** away. How far away is that? **That's 30 Earths.**

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/moon-distance/en/>

Arithmetic:

2,400 Length of energy pipeline in U.S.: 2,400 thousand miles (2.4million)

Distance to moon: 238.9 thousand miles : Energy Pipeline equal to 10 x the distance to Earth.

Circumference of Earth: 24.9 Miles, U.S. pipeline could wrap around Earth almost 100 times.
(96.4)

How much fuel is being run through these lines? That's a lot of fuel!

Earth Is 'Breathing' in This Eerie Video



the bacteria and other organisms that live in soils respire, too. Interestingly, a [study](#) published in August in the journal Nature determined that as temperatures rise, Earth's [soil](#) is also "breathing" more heavily.

https://www.ecowatch.com/earth-breathing-video-2615416389.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=3e06a38b3d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-3e06a38b3d-85327165

5 Ways to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint Now

In early October, the United Nations released a [climate change report](#) forewarning of global catastrophes (severe [flooding](#), [wildfires](#), [droughts](#)) that could begin by 2040 unless drastic changes are made to reduce greenhouse gases. It might seem like a daunting task, but here are five lifestyle changes you can make right now to start reducing your carbon footprint. If you really want to help the planet, follow the next-level suggestions to make the biggest impact.

...1. Change Your Commuting Habits [transportation contributes 28 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions](#), one of the main culprits behind global warming.... Next Level: Drive an Electric Car.

2. Reduce Meat and Dairy Consumption

...And if you can't imagine eliminating meat and dairy, at least eat locally and [organic](#) whenever possible.

Next Level: Switch to a Plant-Based Diet

A recent study claims that going [plant-based](#) could [reduce U.S. emissions by as much as 73 percent](#).. Just note that alternative milks, like almond, may sound like a good idea, until you realize [how much water is required to produce them](#).

3. Modify Electricity Usage

Like driving, electricity also accounts for [28 percent of U.S. greenhouse emissions](#), with many [power plants relying on coal or natural gas to generate electricity](#). Next Level: Install Solar Panels.

4. Buy Eco-Friendly Products

5. Recycle, Reuse or Donate

Next Level: Work Toward a Zero Waste Lifestyle

https://www.ecowatch.com/reduce-your-carbon-footprint-2615358557.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=3e06a38b3d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-3e06a38b3d-85327165