

Pope Francis Urges Action Against Endless Fields of Plastic in the World's Oceans.

“Building on his papacy's concern for the environment, Francis issued a message aimed at galvanizing Christians and others to commit to saving what he hails as the "impressive and marvelous," God-given gift of the "great waters and all they contain....'Sadly, all too often many efforts fail due to the lack of effective regulation and means of control, particularly with regard to the protection of marine areas beyond national confines,' the pope wrote.”

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/pope-francis-urges-action-endless-fields-plastic-world-s-oceans-n905711>

In California, By 2045, 100% Energy Will Be Clean. What About The Rest Of The World?

“What’s particularly interesting about California’s approach is that it takes into account something most people forget: **renewable energies are technologies, not fuels, and therefore their prices are subject to the experience curve.** As with *Swanson’s law*, which means that every time the number of solar panels produced is doubled, the price drops by 28% and its efficiency increases to the point of having already converted solar energy into the cheapest form of energy generation available, and that can only get cheaper”

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/enriquedans/2018/09/01/in-california-by-2045-100-energy-will-be-clean-what-about-the-rest-of-the-world/#6e59e3c93221>

Cynthia Nixon Promises to Convert Cayuga Power Plant Into a Renewable Energy Facility, Vows Plant Will ‘Never’ Run on Fracked Gas

“Cynthia Nixon, a candidate for the Democratic party nomination for New York State governor, announced her intent to convert the Cayuga Power Plant into a renewable energy facility at a political rally in downtown Ithaca on Saturday morning...“Being a leader in renewable energy is not only good for our health but a growing industry that New York needs to be on the ground floor of,” Nixon told a crowd of over 200 supporters at The Space @ GreenStar. She promised that, while the Cayuga Power Plant would never run on fracked gas, “banning fracking is only the first step...”Nixon vowed to enact a “polluters’ tax” if elected, projecting a \$7 million payout in the first year which her administration would use to “turbocharge” the push toward clean energy.”

<http://cornellsun.com/2018/09/01/cynthia-nixon-promises-to-convert-cayuga-power-plant-into-a-renewable-energy-facility-vows-plant-will-never-run-on-fracked-gas/>

Chestnut-sided Warbler (Hatch Year male) banded at Rushton today. Photo by Blake Goll



Chestnut-sided Warbler (Hatch Year male) banded at Rushton today. Photo by Blake Goll

Strikingly different from the deep calico colors it flaunts during breeding season, the fall Chestnut-sided Warbler is still a sight to behold. Sporting a stunning lime green poncho and snow white underparts, it bears an uncanny resemblance to the present meadow landscape of Rushton, in which the rich yellow blanket of goldenrod is broken up by fluffy white seed tufts. Banders were thrilled to have two of these birds in the hand this morning to compare plumages of two different ages and sexes; this species has been absent from our banding records since September of 2015.

https://wctbirds.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/dsc_0995.jpg

[https://www.google.com/search?q=Chestnut-sided+Warbler+\(Hatch+Year+male\)+banded+at+Rushton+today](https://www.google.com/search?q=Chestnut-sided+Warbler+(Hatch+Year+male)+banded+at+Rushton+today)

[+Photo+by+Blake+Goll&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjGy9rm1crdAhVRnlkKHRW4CQkQsAR6BAgFEAE&biw=1200&bih=724](#)

Fall Warming Trends Across the U.S.

“The warming climate effectively makes early fall an extension of summer, as the last characteristically hot day in most cities is also coming later in the year. While some will find that appealing, it means a delay in the return to cozy fall sweaters and hot chocolate in the evenings. And in the future, climate change may delay the time of peak fall foliage and cause leaves to drop more quickly, shortening the foliage season...” Insects linger longer into the fall when the first freeze of the [season comes later](#) in the year. [A new study from the Universities of Washington and Colorado](#) indicates that for every degree (Celsius) of warming, global yields of corn, rice, and wheat would decline 10 to 25 percent from the increase in insects”

http://www.climatecentral.org/gallery/maps/fall-warming-trends-across-the-us?utm_source=EHN&utm_campaign=1f4da150a1-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8573f35474-1f4da150a1-99395885

1st Anniversary For Mamaroneck, Larchmont Recycling, Composting

“... (As a result of) its award-winning Food Waste Recycling and Composting program,.. Close to 50 tons of food scraps have been diverted from the waste cycle this past year.... The voluntary Food Waste Recycling program, launched Sept. 18, 2017 was quickly embraced by the community. Hundreds of Larchmont and Town of Mamaroneck participants have demonstrated their commitment to sustainability by separating out food scraps that would otherwise be tossed in the trash so they can instead be transformed into earth friendly, nutrient rich compost...”The Food Waste recycling process does not just begin in home kitchens, organizers said. The endeavor has taken on a new dimension as local schools and houses of worship have adopted food waste recycling practices. In addition, venues such as town concerts and block parties are taking the concept to the next level by organizing them as Zero Waste events so that all materials used and disposed of are reusable, recyclable or compostable.”

•<https://patch.com/new-york/larchmont/1st-anniversary-mamaroneck-larchmont-recycling-composting>

(Interesting new product idea from fossil fuel producers. Now to persuade them that they, too, produce greenhouse gases at an unsustainable rate. We must also develop a solution for that, or end their use!)

BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC PACKAGING – IT'S TIME TO ALSO USE IT FOR FOOD

“Biodegradable plastics have been around for a long time, but have so far only been of limited use for food. Researchers at the [Fraunhofer Institute for Silicate Research in Würzburg](#) want to change this with a new class of materials. Four questions to Sabine Amberg-Schwab, chemist and head of the Barrier and Multifunctional Coatings Department...”

<https://innovationorigins.com/biodegradable-plastic-packaging-its-time-to-also-use-it-for-food/>

Road makers turn to recycled plastic for tougher surfaces

“On September 11th in Zwolle, a town in the Netherlands, a 30-metre bicycle track made from 70% recycled plastic and the rest from polypropylene was opened. It will be used to test a product called PlasticRoad, which is being developed by two Dutch firms—KWS, a road builder, and Wavin, a firm that makes plastic piping—in partnership with Total, a French oil-and-gas firm.

PlasticRoad is prefabricated in a factory as modular sections. The sections are then transported to the site and laid end to end on a suitable foundation, such as sand. Because these sections are hollow, internal channels can be incorporated into them for drainage, along with conduits for services such as gas and electricity. For the Zwolle project, sections that were 2.4 metres long and 3 metres wide were used. These were fitted with sensors to measure things such as temperature, flexing and the flow of water through the drainage channels. A second pilot cycleway is being built in the nearby town of Giethoorn...If all goes well, the inventors hope to develop the idea and make the sections entirely from recycled plastic....These could contain sensors for traffic monitoring. In time, the circuits in the plastic roads might extend to assisting autonomous vehicles and recharging electric cars wirelessly... The sections, when replaced, can also be recycled. Households... might well do more sorting and recycling of plastic if they knew it could result in a smoother drive.”

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2018/09/15/road-makers-turn-to-recycled-plastic-for-tougher-surfaces>

Renewable energy sources: All-in-one light-driven water splitting

“Summary:

Solar-powered water splitting is a promising means of generating clean and storable energy. A novel catalyst based on semiconductor nanoparticles has now been shown to facilitate all the reactions needed for 'artificial photosynthesis'...”

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/09/180906100440.htm>

Activists Ask The DEP To Reject Permits To Build Falcon Ethane Pipeline In Southwestern PA

Conservation. In the news September 2018

"....One concern voiced by protesters is that the proposed pipeline path runs close to the Ambridge Reservoir, which supplies water to parts of Beaver and Allegheny counties. Erika Jackson with FracTracker, a nonprofit that shares data about the oil and gas industry with the public, said a spill could be catastrophic.

"If over one hundred thousand barrels of a highly volatile substance is being pumped below our feet every day in pipelines that trespass sensitive ecosystems and our natural resources, we deserve to know."

<http://www.wesa.fm/post/activists-ask-dep-reject-permits-build-falcon-ethane-pipeline-southwestern-pa#stream/0>

3rd Circ. Partially Grants NJ Permits In Pipeline Fight

".... A Third Circuit panel on Wednesday upheld federal permits for Transco's \$116 million pipeline upgrade in New Jersey, but said the state was wrong to think federal law preempted its power to hold adjudicatory hearings on the state's own permits, which must now be held..."

<https://www.law360.com/delaware/articles/1080031/3rd-circ-partially-grants-nj-permits-in-pipeline-fight>

Radioactive fracking chemicals dumped in the Allegheny River a decade ago are still showing up in mussels: Study

"This means it's entering the food chain."

Chemicals from fracking wastewater dumped into Pennsylvania's Allegheny River before 2011 are still accumulating in the bodies of freshwater mussels downstream, according to a new study.

Researchers at Pennsylvania State University found elevated concentrations of radioactive Strontium in the shells of freshwater mussels downstream from a former fracking wastewater disposal site in Warren, Pennsylvania, about 143 miles northeast (and upstream) of Pittsburgh. While the potential health impacts on humans from this contamination are unclear, high levels of exposure to radioactive Strontium can cause cancer and birth defects.

"Mussels record the changes in water quality that they see over their lifetimes in the layers of their hard shells," Nathaniel Warner, a professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Pennsylvania State University who co-authored the study, told EHN. "We can go back about 10 years and see the spikes that indicate when wastewater from Marcellus shale was being treated and discharged into the Allegheny River....'This means it's entering the food chain.'.. "We think the sediment acts like a reservoir for higher levels of radioactivity and metals, and that's where the mussels live," he added, "so this could continue to have even longer-term impacts even though that valve got turned off...Warner said the findings are also relevant for preserving biodiversity. 'Freshwater mussels are currently undergoing a mass extinction event,' he said, "and that's likely because of changes we're causing in water quality.'..At least 35 of 297 species of America's freshwater mussels have gone extinct since 1900. The Allegheny River is home to 49 species of freshwater mussel, many of which are endangered."



Flickr/Keith Ewing

<https://www.ehn.org/chemicals-from-fracking-in-pennsylvania-polluting-freshwater-mussels-2602333500.html>

Protect Endangered Species Threatened in Favor of Special Interests

“.....The agencies tasked with ensuring species preservation—the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)—are currently proposing amendments to the law that will **increase chances species will go extinct**. They aim to sideline science and public interest in favor of special interests gains for oil and gas development by injecting economic considerations and removing potential climate change impacts from consideration in listing species.

<https://secure.ucsusa.org/onlineactions/3Xv0dHwx2kyqbLilyP872A2?emci=3af709b8-b8b2-e811-bce7-000d3a1366c1&emdi=44176549-bbb2-e811-bce7-000d3a1366c1&ceid=642447&smartlinkdata=JmZuPU1hcnRoYSZsbj1FZHdhcmRzJmVtPWJpZGVkd2FyZHMINDBnbWFpbC5jb20mYWWRkMT0zMTEExK0hvcnNlc2hvZStUcmwrJmNpPUdsZW5tb29yZSZzdD1QSZwYz0xOTM0MyZocD02MTA0NjkwMzUwJnA9TXMu>

<https://secure.ucsusa.org/onlineactions/3Xv0dHwx2kyqbLilyP872A2?emci=3af709b8-b8b2-e811-bce7-000d3a1366c1&emdi=44176549-bbb2-e811-bce7-000d3a1366c1&ceid=642447&smartlinkdata=JmZuPU1hcnRoYSZsbj1FZHdhcmRzJmVtPWJpZGVkd2FyZHMINDBnbWFpbC5jb20mYWWRkMT0zMTEExK0hvcnNlc2hvZStUcmwrJmNpPUdsZW5tb29yZSZzdD1QSZwYz0xOTM0MyZocD02MTA0NjkwMzUwJnA9TXMu>

[bce7-000d3a1366c1&ceid=642447&smartlinkdata=JmZuPU1hcnRoYSZsbj1FZHdhcmRzJmVtPWJpZGVkd2FyZHMINDBnbWFpbC5jb20mYWRkMT0zMTEzK0hvcnNlc2hvZStUcmwrJmNpPUdsZW5tb29yZSZzdD1QSQSZwYz0xOTM0MyZocD02MTA0NjkwMzUwJnA9TXMu](https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/10/us/2018-atlantic-hurricane-season-fast-facts/index.html)

2018 Atlantic Hurricane Season Fast Facts

“Last Look: Can you control a hurricane?” video 01:29 min.

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/10/us/2018-atlantic-hurricane-season-fast-facts/index.html>

New Documents Show the Trump Administration Cut Climate Change Impacts from its Energy Plan Shocker.

“...“This administration has a long history of attempting to censor the science underpinning our most important health and environmental protections,” said Tomás Carbonell, the director of regulatory policy at the Environmental Defense fund, in a statement Tuesday. “And this seems to be an egregious example of that. Climate change is a clear and present danger to all Americans and ignoring it is not an option.”

The EPA is currently taking comments on the Affordable Clean Energy proposal.” There is a link within article to comments.

https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/09/new-documents-show-the-trump-administration-cut-climate-change-impacts-from-its-energy-plan-affordable-clean-energy-proposal-clean-power-plan/?utm_source=mj-newsletters&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=econundrums-2018-09-10

PG&E has put the Potter Valley Project up for auction, and who buys it could reshape water policy for decades

“Though in most people’s minds the Potter Valley Project is a water project, because it was initially developed as a hydro-electric project and continues to generate power, it is regulated by, and is being re-licensed by, the [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](#)(FERC). Its current license will expire in April of 2022, and PG&E has begun the re-licensing, stating that the new owner would be expected to take over and complete the process. The company [announced the sale in May](#), and states that facility ‘no longer serves as an economical source of electricity generation for its customers,’ pointing to the distance from other PG&E infrastructure, a changing energy market, and operational costs as factors in the decision to sell.”

<https://www.mendovoice.com/2018/09/pg-e-potter-valley-project-auction/>

Massive boom deployed to corral Pacific Ocean’s plastic trash

“...“The plastic is really persistent and it doesn’t go away by itself and the time to act is now,” Slat said, adding that researchers with his organization found plastic going back to the 1960s and 1970s bobbing in the patch...One of our goals is to remove 50 percent of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in five years,” Slat said.”

<https://www.twincities.com/2018/09/09/massive-boom-will-coral-pacific-oceans-plastic-trash/>

Sweden and UN Environment and the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) announce \$5 million project to beat plastic pollution in Southeast Asia

“To reduce waste, UN Environment and COBSEA will be working with research institutions, companies, government bodies and civil society to reduce the use of the most harmful and difficult to recycle plastic, boost collection and recycling of high-value plastic such as PET, and generate region-wide public awareness and support for better plastic pollution policies. The scientific basis for addressing marine litter will be strengthened, by collecting and analyzing data on plastic leakage and marine litter at local, national and regional levels. UN Environment, COBSEA and partners will use this baseline data to help all stakeholders in the plastic lifecycle develop evidence-based policies and plans that will reduce the amount of marine litter flowing from the region.

<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/sweden-and-un-environment-announce-6-million-project-beat-plastic>

“Grandmother inspiring people to reuse plastic bags to help the homeless.”

Any one who has ever folded laundry can fold bags...”

<https://www.ksbw.com/article/grandmother-inspiring-people-to-reuse-plastic-bags-to-help-the-homeless/23052071>

Trump Administration Wants to Make It Easier to Release Methane into Air:

“...The Environmental Protection Agency, perhaps as soon as this week, plans to make public a proposal to weaken an Obama-era requirement that companies monitor and repair methane leaks, according to documents reviewed by The New York Times. In a related move, the Interior Department is also expected in coming days to release its final version of a [draft rule, proposed in February](#), that essentially repeals a restriction on the intentional venting and “flaring,” or burning, of methane from drilling operations...”

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/10/climate/methane-emissions-epa.html?emc=edit_th_180911&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=166279490911

Dragonpipe Diary:

A pipeline failure, an HDD failure: Sunoco’s weaknesses exposed

Two pieces of Sunoco news on Monday (Sept. 10, 2018) make it a little harder for Sunoco to be able to finish building the Dragonpipe (Mariner East 2 pipeline). One is an explosion in western Pennsylvania; the other is the complete failure of a horizontal directional drilling (HDD) effort in Delaware County.

<https://dragonpipedairy.com/2018/09/11/a-pipeline-failure-an-hdd-failure-sunocos-weaknesses-exposed/>

Ailing killer whale declared dead, but feds to keep looking



“We’re watching a population marching toward extinction,” said Ken Balcomb of the Center for Whale Research. “Unless we do something about salmon recovery, we’re just not going to have these whales in the future.”

Conservation. In the news September 2018

The whales are in such bad shape that experts prepared last-ditch efforts to save the emaciated nearly 4-year-old known as J50. A sharpshooting veterinarian fired an antibiotic-filled dart into her, crews dropped live salmon in front of her to try to get her to eat, and scientists even mulled capturing her so they could diagnose and treat her.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/energy-environment/ailing-killer-whale-is-declared-dead-off-northwest-us-coast/2018/09/13/39414a98-b7ba-11e8-ae4f-2c1439c96d79_story.html?utm_term=.24d920031cf9

Even the EPA acknowledges its new methane rule may be costly:



While the changes will save industry money, the agency's own analysis found the proposed rules could pump hundreds of thousands more tons of the climate-warming gas into the atmosphere and add millions of dollars in agricultural, health-care and other costs to the U.S. economy because of climate change...Taken together, those small tweaks could make for a sizable contribution to climate change..."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2018/09/12/the-energy-202-even-the-epa-acknowledges-its-new-methane-rule-may-be-costly/5b9831241b326b47ec959565/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.8aaad20e697e

Just a few Pieces of plastic can kill a sea turtle

Just a few Pieces of plastic can kill a sea turtle

“...Dr. Lynch does agree that sea turtles are eating too much plastic. “We have to get this pollutant under control if we don’t want to kill half of our sea turtles...”The vast majority of plastic off Hawaii, she said, comes from the international fishing industry, which is prohibited from dumping its old fishing lines and crates overboard, but often does it anyway — and faces no consequences. “Teeth is what’s needed,” Dr. Lynch said...Dr. Hardesty said she thinks it’s possible to reduce the turtles’ exposure to plastic with a variety of approaches, from incentives to bans for high-impact, frequently littered items...“The stuff that ends up in the ocean was in somebody’s hand at some point in time,” she said.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/13/science/sea-turtles-plastic.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/13/science/sea-turtles-plastic.html>

Yale Environment 360 Published at the [Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies](#)

As Greenland Warms, Nature’s Seasonal Clock Is Thrown Off-Kilter:

[Paris Conundrum: How to Know How Much Carbon Is Being Emitted?](#)

Fighting Fire with Fire: California Turns to Prescribed Burning

In the Melting Arctic, a Harrowing Account from a Stranded Ship

<https://e360.yale.edu/> <https://e360.yale.edu/>

After an Uncertain Start, U.S. Offshore Wind Is Powering Up

“After years of delays, the U.S. offshore wind industry is finally gaining momentum, with new projects being planned along the Atlantic coast. So far, the Trump administration seems to be regarding offshore wind as one form of renewable energy it can support. “

<https://e360.yale.edu/features/after-an-uncertain-start-u-s-offshore-wind-is-powering-up>

Over Half Of PA Gas Wells Used ‘Secret’ Chemicals For Fracking Or Drilling, Report Says

“Pennsylvania law requires oil and gas operators to submit all information about chemicals used in fracking to the DEP within 30 days of completing a well. But operators may designate portions of their disclosures as containing trade secrets or other proprietary information, preventing public disclosure “to the extent permitted by the Right to Know law,” said DEP spokesman Neil Shader.

The PPI report called on Pennsylvania to require public disclosure of all chemicals used in fracking and drilling, for both unconventional and conventional wells, and to provide no exemption for trade secrets. It said that chemicals used specifically for drilling might be even more hazardous because they are used before the construction of well casings that are designed to protect [ground water](#) from the materials that are being injected underground. It said disclosure should take place before drilling and fracking begins so that the public has an opportunity to comment.

<https://wskg.org/news/over-half-of-pa-gas-wells-used-secret-chemicals-for-fracking-or-drilling-report-says/> (color is blueberry)

<https://wskg.org/news/over-half-of-pa-gas-wells-used-secret-chemicals-for-fracking-or-drilling-report-says/>. (color is grape)

Pipeline that Exploded in Pennsylvania Part of Push to Build Fracking-Reliant Petrochemical Network

The 24-inch diameter pipeline responsible for the blast had gone into service just seven days earlier. It's owned by Energy Transfer Partners, the same pipeline company behind the [Dakota Access pipeline](#) project and the [Bayou Bridge](#) pipeline in Louisiana.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission has said it [suspects](#) that the blast was caused by heavy rainfall, which they believe may have caused the pipeline to slip on the saturated ground, break, and then explode.

<https://www.desmogblog.com/2018/09/12/pipeline-exploded-pennsylvania-part-sprint-build-fracking-reliant-petrochemical-corridor>

- **NATURAL GAS 12 Sep 2018 | 21:14 UTC**

Pa. lawmakers call for Mariner East work halt after blast on other ETP pipe

— A bipartisan group of eastern Pennsylvania state lawmakers called for construction on Energy Transfer Partners' Mariner East 2 NGL pipeline to be halted immediately after the company's Revolution pipeline exploded in a rural area in the western part of the state September 10...The September 10 blast destroyed a house, a barn and several adjacent FirstEnergy electric transmission lines in Center Township, Butler County,...State lawmakers representing parts of Delaware and Chester counties, outside Philadelphia, called for an immediate halt to ETP's work on the Mariner East 2 NGL line through their districts until ETP's Sunoco Pipeline affiliate proves a similar explosion in their more densely populated towns can be avoided."...ETP has also run afoul of Pennsylvania's environmental regulators and was assessed \$12.6 million in fines after repeatedly spilling drilling fluids into wetlands and streams over two years."

<https://www.spglobal.com/platts/en/market-insights/latest-news/natural-gas/091218-pa-lawmakers-call-for-mariner-east-work-halt-after-blast-on-other-etp-pipe>

<https://www.spglobal.com/platts/en/market-insights/latest-news/natural-gas/091218-pa-lawmakers-call-for-mariner-east-work-halt-after-blast-on-other-etp-pipe>

Bill McKibben to Jerry Brown: We Must Keep the Oil in the Soil, Limiting Emissions Is Not Enough

"Governors, mayors and policymakers from around the world are gathering this week for the Global Climate Action Summit. The conference was organized by California Governor Jerry Brown. The conference begins today, just days after Brown signed a new law to shift California to 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2045. While Brown is hailed as a climate hero, he has been widely criticized by many climate justice activists who are planning to protest outside the

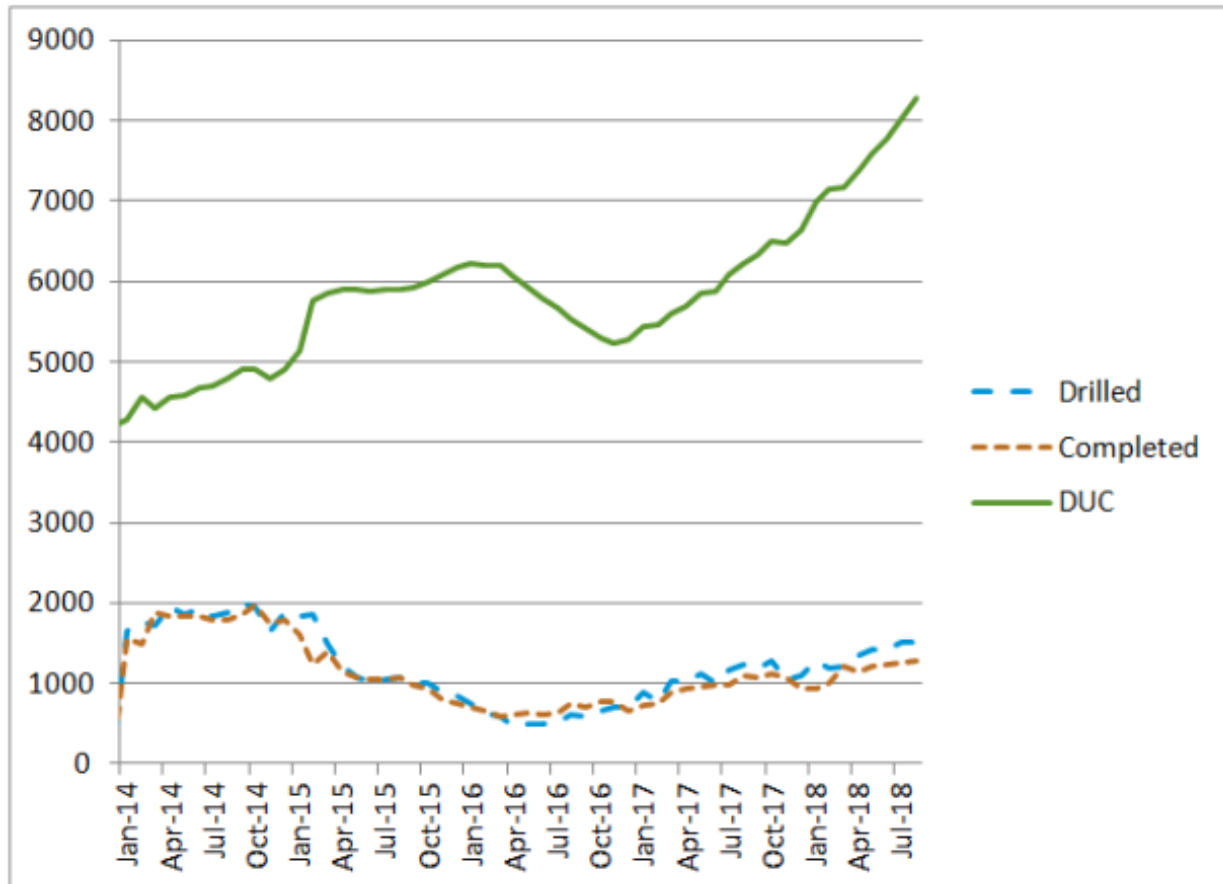
opening of today's conference. We speak to Bill McKibben, the co-founder of 350.org. His latest piece for The Nation is titled "Jerry Brown's Climate Legacy Is Still Being Decided."

https://www.democracynow.org/2018/9/13/bill_mckibben_gov_jerry_brown_must

Counting DUCs (drilled but uncompleted): Sometimes, it makes economic sense just to leave it in the ground

There is some possibility, though it is too early to say how likely it is, that market forces will cause some Pennsylvania natural gas wells to be capped without ever producing gas, and some leased sites never to be drilled at all. This post explores the growth of one indicator (the number of drilled but uncompleted wells) as a possible harbinger of trends to come. Of course, if natural gas isn't produced, then neither are natural gas liquids (NGLs: ethane, propane, and butane), which are the products that the Dragonpipe (Mariner East 2 pipeline) is designed for.

Why so many DUCs? Whatever the intended product, DUCs are increasing very rapidly. In August 2018, the EIA counted 8,269 DUCs (up by 238 from the previous month). There was a period in 2015 and 2016 when lots of wells were completed and DUCs dropped to a low of around 5,000, but they have been increasing ever since.



The growth in drilled but uncompleted wells (DUCs). This data includes all the major US oil and gas fields. The counts include all wells intended to produce oil, gas, or both. Data source: US Energy Information Administration.

There seem to be two reasons for wells to be left uncompleted. One is that, in some locations, insufficient pipeline capacity exists to take away the product. Because the first companies to arrive can often get the best leases on the best terms, drillers tend to run headlong into a new region (a “play”) far ahead of the pipelines required to accommodate the output of the wells. They drill wells but don’t complete them (by fracking) until the pipelines come. Eventually, they reason, pipelines will catch up and the wells can be completed then

<https://dragonpipedairy.com/2018/09/19/counting-ducs-sometimes-it-makes-economic-sense-just-to-leave-it-in-the-ground/>

US agency says cauliflower coral may need federal protection

Cauliflower coral has been devastated by habitat changes, disease, predators and other factors tied to climate change, including ocean acidification, according to the Center for Biological Diversity, which petitioned for the coral to be protected as a threatened or endangered species.

<https://www.thehour.com/news/article/Cauliflower-coral-could-be-listed-as-endangered-13251420.php>

Hope for Solving Ocean Plastic Problem Lies in Awareness and Economics Pew project will leverage partnerships to influence policy and business decisions around the world

“ One of the reasons we launched this initiative is *because* there are so many people working on it. What’s missing from the current discussion is a strong analysis of how to keep plastic out of the ocean in an economically, socially, and politically viable way....Pew is hoping to turn a global economic and policy analysis and set of conclusions into a plan to inform and galvanize institutions, organizations, corporations, and governments that want to solve this problem. We intend to bring together those who care about the plastics issue, and I see it as the most important contribution that Pew can make at this point...: Success will be a strong set of recommended actions—based on rigorous analyses and peer-reviewed papers—that constitutes a plan for how to solve this problem, is credible, and has buy-in from all of the major sectors that are involved in plastic pollution. We hope that developing the plan will involve collaboration with many of the organizations and companies around the world that are

already working on this issue. We owe it to ourselves, and all the life in the ocean, to get this right.”

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2018/09/25/hope-for-solving-ocean-plastic-problem-lies-in-awareness-and-economics>

Senate examining plastic waste in oceans

“On Wednesday the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is scheduled to hold a hearing entitled "Cleaning Up the Oceans: How to Reduce the Impact of Man-Made Trash on the Environment, Wildlife, and Human Health?" Among those scheduled to appear are representatives of both the National Geographic Society and the plastics industry's principal lobbying group, the American Chemistry Council... 'Current projections show that increasing plastic production will outpace recycling, and if all else remains equal, the amount of plastic getting into the oceans will increase. And it will accumulate. This is clearly unsustainable,' Jacqueline Savitz, Oceana's chief policy officer, wrote in a letter last week”.



<https://www.mrt.com/business/energy/article/Senate-examining-plastics-waste-in-oceans-13254403.php>

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From seaweed to sugarcane, companies race to find the next great plastic replacement

“Plastic production in 2016 equaled the weight of 4 million blue whales...“It’s simply not OK that we produce billions of straws that are used for 28 minutes but last forever. Not all plastics alternatives are created equal

Even with the hype surrounding these products, however, stakeholders realize plastics are unlikely to be replaced entirely. We see in our lives every day how plastic is used in a wide variety of essential modern-day products, from medical devices to airplanes. Plastics help prevent food waste by preserving food that is shipped across the world.

Plastics “are the right solution for some things,” Hitchens said, and sometimes “they have the lower carbon footprint than the alternative.”

What do consumers need to know about plastic alternatives coming onto the market? They’re not all created equal.

Not all of those products “are going to be compostable. They’re not all going to be recyclable. They’re not going to be biodegradable,” said David Luttenberger, the global packaging director for the marketing research company Mintel.



LEGO is beginning to create building blocks using plant-based materials in a move away from traditional plastics. Photo courtesy: LEGO

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/economy/making-sense/seaweed-straws-sugarcane-lego-blocks-and-the-plastic-substitute-boom>

Strongest plastics ban in the nation takes 1st step forward in New Jersey

The measure – S2776 – would ban plastic grocery store bags, Styrofoam food containers and plastic straws, all of which are often found in beach and riverfront cleanups across the state. It would also impose a 10-cent fee on paper bags at grocery stores...California and Hawaii have bans on plastic bags. Some cities and counties across the country have banned straws and Styrofoam containers. New York City's Styrofoam container ban goes into effect Jan.1...But New Jersey's bill goes much further targeting three products.The bill would allow restaurants to give plastic straws to people with disabilities, but advocates for that community says it needs to be made stronger...Smith said he's willing to strengthen that part...Smith also said he wants a small business exemption that would allow small grocers to apply for a year exemption to the bans if they can't find any alternatives. Senator Kip Bateman, R-Somerset, suggested the 10-cent paper bag fee be phased in after the plastic bag ban goes into effect to lessen the sudden change to businesses

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/nation-now/2018/09/28/plastics-ban-new-jersey-strongest-nation/1454171002/>

Bottles that compost in 27 days

“The bottle, designed by a Kiwi inventor, which looks like it's plastic but is actually made of plants and breaks down in compost in less than a month rather than hundreds of years. Source: Sunday

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/world/bottles-compost-in-27-days>

Judge Restores Grizzly Bears' Protections As Endangered Species



"The Service cannot abuse its power to delist an already-protected species by 'balkanization,'" Christensen wrote. "Prior to the ruling, wildlife agencies in Wyoming and Idaho planned to let hunters kill up to 23 grizzlies during its first hunting season for the bears in three decades. It was set to begin on September 1 before Christensen granted a temporary restraining order on August 30.

<https://www.npr.org/2018/09/24/651335449/judge-restores-grizzly-bears-protections-as-endangered-species>

Scientists Voice Opposition to Changes in US Endangered Species Act

"Thousands of scientists joined on Monday to accuse the Trump administration of trying to erode the Endangered Species Act in favor of commercial interests with a plan to revamp regulations that have formed a bedrock of U.S. wildlife protection for over 40 years. The extraordinary critique of the administration's proposal, which was unveiled in July, came in an open letter addressed to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross from three associations representing 9,000 professional biologists."



<https://www.voanews.com/a/scientists-voice-opposition-to-changes-in-us-endangered-species-act/4585882.html>

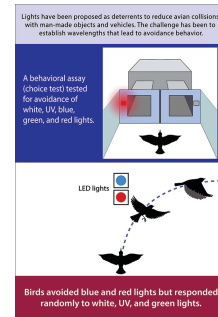
Bill McKibben to Jerry Brown: We Must Keep the Oil in the Soil, Limiting Emissions Is Not Enough

"Governors, mayors and policymakers from around the world are gathering this week for the Global Climate Action Summit. The conference was organized by California Governor Jerry Brown. The conference begins today, just days after Brown signed a new law to shift California to 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2045. While Brown is hailed as a climate hero, he has been widely criticized by many climate justice activists who are planning to protest outside the opening of today's conference. We speak to Bill McKibben, the co-founder of 350.org. His latest piece for The Nation is titled "Jerry Brown's Climate Legacy Is Still Being Decided."

https://www.democracynow.org/2018/9/13/bill_mckibben_gov_jerry_brown_must

Millions of birds die in collisions each year, but lights could change that

“We now have a behavioral assay we can use to test these attraction and avoidance behaviors in a systematic, standardized matter, and we can do it on various species,” he said. “We’re able to test not just whether a light may be highly visible to a bird or not, but whether that light leads to the behaviors we’re trying to generate.”



<https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2018/Q3/millions-of-birds-die-in-collisions-each-year,-but-lights-could-change-that.html>

Palmer: Attacks on Endangered Species Act miss the point

“Although that figures are accurate, their conclusions are wrong. It is a case of what commentator Jim Hightower once termed ‘cats watching the wrong mouse hole.’

The real value of the act is that is (sic)... it has kept many — but not all — species from becoming extinct.”

<http://www.newschief.com/news/20180929/palmer-attacks-on-endangered-species-act-miss-point>

Recommended Books:

E.O. Wilson:

Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life

https://smile.amazon.com/Half-Earth-Our-Planets-Fight-Life/dp/1631492527/ref=pd_sim_14_2?_encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=1631492527&pd_rd_r=59f80f20-b2d4-11e8-97de-971d4c54e3db&pd_rd_w=CdPDW&pd_rd_wg=z1ZJk&pf_rd_i=desktop-dp-sims&pf_rd_m=ATVPDKIKX0DER&pf_rd_p=18bb0b78-4200-49b9-ac91-f141d61a1780&pf_rd_r=93BYZV71R45AEARTJH&pf_rd_s=desktop-dp-sims&pf_rd_t=40701&psc=1&refRID=93BYZV71R45AEARTJH

Also Recommended:

<https://www.gcamerica.org/members:publications/details/id/28>

**A HISTORY OF
CONSERVATION AND
NATIONAL AFFAIRS & LEGISLATION**

The Garden Club of America



<https://www.gcamerica.org/members:publications/details/id/1>

Conservation Watch (ConWatch) is the quarterly newsletter published by the GCA's Conservation Committee. Each edition includes a series of articles drawn from the research by members of the committee, conservation news from individual clubs across the country, and a reading list of books on various environmental topics. *ConWatch* articles inform members on a wide range of topics such as sustainable agriculture, billboards, plastics in the environment, and climate change.



Inside among other things: “What you can do”