

## Washington Gov. Proposes 'Herculean Effort' to Save 74 Remaining Southern Resident Orcas



With only 74 left in the wild, the Southern Resident orca population in Puget Sound needs help now more than ever. That's why on Thursday, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee's office announced "an unprecedented investment" to help boost the population as well as the Chinook salmon they eat... "We are undertaking a herculean effort to save these iconic creatures. It will take action at every level of the environment across our entire state," Inslee said in a news release. "We need to restore the ecosystem to one that sustains orcas, salmon and the quality of life for all Washingtonians."

<https://www.ecowatch.com/washington-state-orcas-population-2623397879.html>

## A tiny Wyoming plant won't be protected under the Endangered Species Act



CHEYENNE, Wyo. — The U.S. government has concluded that a tiny plant found only in a small area of Wyoming does not need special protection under law.

## Conservation in the News : December 2018

The Fremont County rockcress is a high-elevation perennial herb with small, white flowers. It grows only in a very small area at the southern end of the Wind River Range.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Wednesday the plant doesn't need protecting under the Endangered Species Act.

Agency officials say there are no immediate threats to the plant largely because the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has protected the plant's habitat, which covers just 160 acres.

[https://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/a-tiny-wyoming-plant-won-t-be-protected-under-the/article\\_842b5e15-796a-51c1-8c94-161fdc64c72a.html](https://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/a-tiny-wyoming-plant-won-t-be-protected-under-the/article_842b5e15-796a-51c1-8c94-161fdc64c72a.html)

## Court Strikes Down Permit for Pipeline Crossing Appalachian Tra



Judges quote Lorax, slam Forest Service in ruling questioning project's impact and safety.  
Adam Roy Dec 20, 2018

<https://www.backpacker.com/news-and-events/permit-atlantic-coast-pipeline>

**'DEATH SENTENCE': BUTTERFLY SANCTUARY TO BE BULLDOZED FOR TRUMP'S BORDER WALL**



An employee at the center waters the native plants. Photograph: Delcia Lopez for the Guardian

On any given day at the **National Butterfly Center** in Mission, Texas, visitors can see more than 60 varieties of butterflies. In the spring and fall, monarchs and other species can blanket the center's 100 acres of **subtropical bushlands** that extend from the visitor center to the banks of the Rio Grande river, where their property, and US sovereignty, ends. "It's like something from Fantasia," said the center's director, Marianna Wright. "When you walk you have to cover your mouth so you don't suck in a butterfly." Today the most diverse butterfly sanctuary in the country, and other protected areas in the lower Rio Grande Valley along the US-Mexico border, are under threat. Last week, the US supreme court issued a ruling allowing the Trump administration **to waive 28 federal laws**, including the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Air Act, and begin construction on 33 new miles of border wall in the heart of the valley – and right through the butterfly center.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/13/butterfly-sanctuary-border-wall-mission-texas>



**NATURE NOTES: BIRDS ABOUND IN MONTAUK COUNTY**



Mute swans, like these photographed a little farther west, were seen in decent numbers during the Montauk Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 15.

On Dec. 15 one of the oldest Christmas Bird Counts took place in East Hampton, the Montauk Count. Seven territories were covered by different observers — Montauk Point north, Montauk Point south, Lake Montauk west (including Hither Hills), Napeague, Accabonac in Springs, and the annual plum, Gardiner's Island. In an unofficial tally of 5,501 birds, a total of 118 species were seen and counted under the direction of Karen Rubinstein.

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- <http://www.easthamptonstar.com/News/20181227/Nature-Notes-Birds-Abound-Montauk-Count>
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#### **BIRDS OF A FEATHER, MOVE FURTHER NORTH TOGETHER**

A canary in the coal mine—that's what this year's [119th annual Christmas Bird Count](#) might literally be—a harbinger indicating a disturbing trend.

The annual bird count started in 1900, initiated by the then-fledgling Audubon Society, as an alternative to killing birds during a customary competition that mostly men conducted every Christmas Day to see how many feathered creatures they could kill.

“It was important because it showed people they could enjoy birds without consuming them,” said Tom Jervis, president of the local Sangre de Cristo Audubon chapter. “It was probably one of the first citizen science projects in the country.”

With 119 years of data recorded, the annual count is a valuable tool.

“You can see where the birds are, where they usually aren't. You can see immediately what changes are going on year to year and what trends are developing,” Jervis said.

<https://www.taosnews.com/stories/birds-of-a-feather-move-further-north-together,54135>

## 45 Years After Nixon Signed It Into Law, the War on the Endangered Species Act Continues



The ocelot is an endangered

**Forty-five years ago**, on December 28th, 1973, President Richard Nixon, a Republican, signed a piece of monumental environmental legislation, the Endangered Species Act, into law. At the time, Nixon issued a statement in support of protecting wildlife that most sitting Republicans wouldn't dare make today: "Nothing is more priceless and more worthy of preservation than the rich array of animal life with which our country has been blessed," it said. "It is a many-faceted treasure, of value to scholars, scientists, and nature lovers alike, and it forms a vital part of the heritage we all share as Americans."

The act now protects more than 1,500 species and remains one of the most powerful environmental laws on the books. Since its passage, several species, including the brown pelican, Louisiana black bear, and, of course, the bald eagle have recovered. But somewhere along the way, what was hailed as a historic bipartisan achievement became deeply political. In the 45 years since its signing, conservatives have gone to extraordinary lengths to weaken the Endangered Species Act for the sake of economic growth—and the Trump administration has carried on the task of environmental deregulation with renewed vigor. "We thought everything was good, but in point of fact, it wasn't," 92-year-old former House Representative John Dingell (D-Mich.), the longest-serving member of Congress in history and a sponsor of the Endangered Species Act, tells *Mother Jones*. "We were wiping out all kinds of species of fish and wildlife and didn't seem to realize what we were doing to ourselves." (A quick aside: Dingell runs an absolutely savage Twitter account, and he confirmed to *Mother Jones* that he does indeed write his own tweets.)

<https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2018/12/45-years-after-nixon-signed-it-into-law-the-war-on-the-endangered-species-act-continues/>

## Climate Change Has Made New York's Rat Crisis Much Worse



The discarded slices of pizza that litter New York's streets have long fueled its sizable population of rats, but now the city's growing swarm has a new reason to enjoy their home—warming temperatures.

[https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2018/12/climate-change-has-made-new-yorks-rat-crisis-much-worse/?utm\\_source=mj-newsletters&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=econundrums-2018-12-31](https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2018/12/climate-change-has-made-new-yorks-rat-crisis-much-worse/?utm_source=mj-newsletters&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=econundrums-2018-12-31)

## DEP unveils proposal to reduce emissions from existing oil, gas wells

Written by Amy Sisk/StateImpact Pennsylvania | Dec 13, 2018 5:28 PM



Natural gas wells in Springville Township, Pa. (Photo: Lindsay Lazarski/WHYY)

The draft plan released by the Department of Environmental Protection would beef up leak detection and require, in some cases, better controls to prevent emissions from escaping at wells and other gas facilities...Rather than single out methane, however, it mainly targets a different type of emission known as volatile organic compounds, which can harm human health and contribute to ozone. State officials say requiring stricter controls to prevent VOCs from leaking will prevent methane from escaping as well.

<http://www.witf.org/news/2018/12/dep-unveils-proposal-to-reduce-emissions-from-existing-oil-gas-wells.php>



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# Site of southwestern Pennsylvania house explosion a complicated laboratory for gas analysis

Many gas samples have been taken and analyzed and investigators for the state Public Utility Commission are preparing to excavate several areas around the site for still more sampling, according to PUC spokesman Nils Hagen-Frederiksen.



Anya Litvak

Gas explosion levels a house in Greene County

With a dense soup of coal and gas infrastructure in the area, the investigation can take months, Mr. Hagen-Frederiksen warned.

Beyond pinpointing the source of the gas — “the what” as he called it — the PUC also wants to know “the why.”

“Is this an isolated thing or is this a symptom of a broader problem,” Mr. Hagen-Frederiksen said. “And if so, what is necessary to address that.”

Morgan Township in Greene County is a complicated laboratory.

Within a half-mile radius of the burned down house is a well pad with five horizontal Marcellus wells, four gas storage wells that plunge down to a storage field underlying the area, and three other old gas wells. In addition, two inactive coal mines meet below the property and at least three pipelines also fall within the half-mile ring.

Investigators are analyzing gas samples from these features to match their signature to the gas detected at the site of the explosion.

But the fact that all this infrastructure is so close together could mean gas from one source gets mixed with gas from another, confounding the analysis.

For example, the gas that Peoples delivers to area homes is sourced from local Marcellus Shale wells, like the ones on EQT Corp.’s Hildebrand well pad across the street from the former home of Mike and Lora White.

<https://www.post-gazette.com/business/powersource/2018/12/20/house-explosion-gas-analysis-Greene-Clarksville-Peoples-EQT-PUC/stories/201812200018>

## DEP approves permits for pipeline linking MarkWest to cracker

Thursday afternoon, the state Department of Environmental Protection announced it had approved permit applications for the Shell Pipeline Co. Falcon project. The agency decided the applications met requirements of DEP regulations on water obstruction and encroachment and on erosion and sediment control.

[https://observer-reporter.com/business/dep-approves-permits-for-pipeline-linking-markwest-to-cracker/article\\_d069e680-0492-11e9-84ec-d3c1c1c6382a.html](https://observer-reporter.com/business/dep-approves-permits-for-pipeline-linking-markwest-to-cracker/article_d069e680-0492-11e9-84ec-d3c1c1c6382a.html)

## Mariner East 2 pipeline up and running, but foes not happy



MIDDLETOWN — Mariner East 2 is online, and its legions of critics are outraged. Along with the original and incomplete 20-inch Mariner East 2 pipeline, Sunoco/Energy Transfer will use portions of the 16-inch Mariner 2X pipeline and an 80-year-old 12-inch pipeline. Sunoco has chosen to refer to the new pipeline as Mariner 2 East and as a work-around... Sunoco/ET met resistance from residents of Chester and Delaware counties where the pipeline is planned to snake 23 miles through Chester County, along with 11 miles thorough Delaware County...A spokesman for the Del-Chesco United for Pipeline Safety released the following statement. He alluded to Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan's decision announced a week ago to launch of an investigation into Sunoco...Hogan said Sunoco is "risking a catastrophe" and is a "corrupt organization," during a press conference. Hogan also said the

pipeline builder is a “bully” while chasing billions in profits while in “pursuit of the almighty dollar.”...“The Chester County District Attorney is now conducting a criminal probe of Sunoco in areas including ‘corrupt organizations’ and ‘causing or risking a catastrophe.’ We call on the Delaware County District Attorney to do so also.”...Prematurely throwing this jerry-rigged pipeline into operation to meet a date proves that this company is willing to play games with our lives and our environment.

“We are just a statistic to these people, a mathematical probability of profit versus calculated risk of loss. The value of our lives and our environment have been reduced to extrinsic property.

Downingtown Mayor and candidate for county commissioner Josh Maxwell commented about the lack PHMSA inspectors, a result of the partial federal government shutdown: “The fact that a dangerous natural gas liquids pipeline was allowed to become operational while PHMSA inspectors are furloughed, there is an active criminal investigation by the Chester County District Attorney’s Office, without a comprehensive emergency management plan in place, and after 92 serious DEP violations and counting shows a serious lack of oversight over Sunoco.

“Communities throughout Chester County care deeply about protecting the environment and understand the dangerous risk of this pipeline, and others like it pose; we need elected officials who stand up for these communities and have the courage to protect them.”

“Safety” is NOT the number-one priority for Sunoco,” she said. “Obfuscation of the truth is. Their lack of communication to schools, municipalities and county officials is willful, intentional, and deliberate.

“The people of Chester County and our first responders pay the price of this negligence. With the addition of the 12-inch line, we are now exposed to double the unnecessary, involuntary and unmitigated risks.”

“The fact that it was put in service on a late Saturday afternoon over a holiday weekend with no advanced notice to even emergency personnel shows Sunoco’s continued disregard for residents and our safety.”

Sunoco has consistently denied any rush to get the pipeline online, and maintained it was being constructed and will be operated to the highest safety standards of the industry.

**State Sen. Andy Dinniman, D-19, released a Sunday afternoon statement:**

“The battle for strong pipeline safety in Chester County and in Pennsylvania is not over. In fact, in many ways, it’s just beginning. And our concerns regarding the safety of Sunoco/ETP’s Mariner East project and the lack of adequate emergency planning and response information are now more real than ever.”...Just weeks ago, the PUC’s Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement filed their own complaint against Sunoco after an investigation revealed their cathodic protection practices on the 8-inch line known at ME1 were fabricated and out of compliance with regulation,” Obenski said. “The filing even suggests an ‘end of life’ study for the antiquated pipeline.

“Instead of taking their responsibility to public safety seriously, Sunoco has put into service another old and repurposed 12-inch line in an attempt to not miss yet another deadline with their investors. The failure to complete ME2 and 2X due to their own shoddy construction and reckless environmental practices has pushed them to utilize neglected pipelines through our community and should be condemned at every level.”

“Sunoco has not shown the public that it can be trusted to safely reverse and convert 80-year-old pipelines into natural gas liquid service. My clients and many others do not believe that large scale hazardous natural gas liquids can be safely transported by pipeline in the very crowded Southeast Pennsylvania corridor, especially given the Public Utility Commission’s recent enforcement against Sunoco concerning its operations of 1930s-era pipelines...” State Rep. Chris Quinn, R-168, noted the timing of the Saturday night, holiday weekend, release by Sunoco/ET...“Using old technology without proper vetting for a project that directly impacts public safety is dangerous and irresponsible,” Quinn said. “And to do all of it under the cloak of darkness on a Saturday night once again raises the question: What is Sunoco hiding?”

[https://www.dailylocal.com/news/mariner-east-pipeline-up-and-running-but-foes-not-happy/article\\_5f970a68-0c7c-11e9-9a18-1b5be7f07c8d.html](https://www.dailylocal.com/news/mariner-east-pipeline-up-and-running-but-foes-not-happy/article_5f970a68-0c7c-11e9-9a18-1b5be7f07c8d.html)

This article has important messages for **Fossil fuel issues**, **Water**, **National Parks**, and **Indigenous Peoples**. The highlights hear are only the largest, but not the most important for our area. It is worth a read!

## End of 2018 Message from Kandi White, IEN Native Climate and Energy Campaign Coordinator

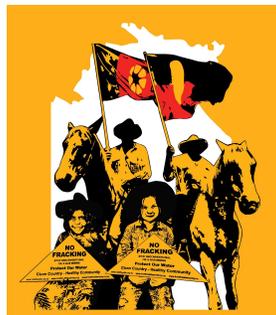
It's been a busy and fulfilling year within the Native Energy and Climate Campaign and the Just Transition and Keep It In the Ground work within. Let's take a look back at 2018 to some of our highlights!



In January 2018 members from the **SEED Indigenous Youth Climate Network from Australia** made the long trip to the bakken oil fields in North Dakota as part of the continued solidarity work on the campaign against fracking in the Northern Territory of Australia. Kandi traveled to Australia in July of 2017 to share the realities of fracking with the land owners and communities being pressured to allow fracking on aboriginal lands. As a result of that trip the youth traveled to the U.S. to see the impacts of fracking in the bakken oil fields firsthand.



Please watch and share the 'Water Is Life' mini documentary that was produced as a result of both trips from the Northern Territory of Australia to the state of North Dakota in the U.S.: <https://vimeo.com/261023308>. (Image above) To learn more about how to support the fight against fracking in the Northern Territory please click here: <http://dontfracktheterritory.org>





In June & July hundreds of [Indigenous People and allies from around the world](#) joined us for the [17th Protecting Mother Earth Gathering](#) held in Nisqually Territory in Washington State at the Historic Franks Landing site which consisted of 60 plus plenaries, workshops, and panels on topics such as, Living in the Belly of the Beast: Extraction, Refinement and Just Transition, Patriarchy is Colonization: Indigenous Feminism 101, Non-Violent Resistance, Impacts of Mining on Aboriginal Communities in Australia, Defending the Defenders, Building Black, Brown Indigenous Solidarity and much, much more. The Just Transition Plenary was packed to capacity and led by an all women panel of fierce defenders of the land including Jihan Gearon- Black Mesa Water Coalition Director, Dawn Morrison – Indigenous Climate Action Researcher, Melina Laboucan-Massimo – Lubicon Cree Solar. (See image above).



In August the Indigenous Environmental Network hosted the [4th Annual Water Blessing & Healing Walk](#) in New Town, North Dakota to call awareness to the importance of the protection of the [sacred waters of the](#)

Missouri River and Lake Sakakawea Reservoir being impacted by the **bakken oil boom** as well as all waters downstream from the fracking. (See image above)

In May we celebrated a temporary victory when Louisiana's 23rd Judicial District Court ruled against Energy Transfer Partners setting the stage for the suspension of a key permit that was needed to construct the Bayou Bridge Pipeline in St. James and other areas in eastern Louisiana. The court ruled that ETP must create environmental protection and emergency evacuation plans and have them approved by the Department of Natural Resources before the permit could be reinstated. Please continue to support the fight against the Bayou Bridge Pipeline here: [NoBBP.org](http://NoBBP.org) and [www.nobayoubridge.global](http://www.nobayoubridge.global)

[http://www.ienearth.org/end-of-2018-message-from-ien-native-climate-and-energy-campaign-coordinator/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.ienearth.org/end-of-2018-message-from-ien-native-climate-and-energy-campaign-coordinator/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email)

## Want Clean Air? Let's Talk **Climate Change.**

*It's time to link these two issues.*



For years, air quality and **climate change** have been like star-crossed lovers—inextricably linked, but never quite finding their way to each other in environmental policy and dialogue. Well in 2018, the two finally got hot and heavy thanks to several landmark reports and climate calamities literally taking our breath away. People seem to see that it makes sense to tackle air

pollution and greenhouse gas emissions together...The behemoth 4th National Climate Assessment dedicated 27 of its more than 1,500 pages to air quality...These reports sound like a lot of sad news, but the great thing about this newfound attention to the pairing between climate action and clean air policies is that it's super efficient, since carbon and the crap that makes it harder to breathe are often released at the same time...[The two solutions actually make each other better when they're together.](#)

[https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2018/12/want-clean-air-lets-talk-climate-change/?utm\\_source=mj-newsletters&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=econundrums-2018-12-31](https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2018/12/want-clean-air-lets-talk-climate-change/?utm_source=mj-newsletters&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=econundrums-2018-12-31)

## These 13 Words Defined Our Overheating Planet in 2018

*In a warming world rife with changes, it makes sense that our vocabulary shifted, too.*

**KATE YODER**

DECEMBER 25, 2018 6:00 AM



**NATURE DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME WITH ITS NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO BRING US TERRIBLE WEATHER.**

In 2018,.. Oxford Dictionaries picked *toxic*, a word that describes poisons in our air and water. Collins Dictionary chose *single-use*, a term for disposable plastic products “whose unchecked proliferation are blamed for damaging the environment.” And Dictionary.com’s *misinformation*, though it’s getting a lot of use in recent years, also captures the falsehoods spread about climate change...In a warming world rife with changes, it makes sense that our vocabulary shifted, too. Words took on new meanings (*hothouse*), obscure jargon launched into the news (*bombogenesis*), and brand-new terms were coined (*smokestorm*). We kept tabs and collected

the ones that defined our planet in 2018. You won't find these in any standard dictionary yet, but perhaps some will pop up in their pages soon.

**Day Zero (n.)** The day when taps run dry because of water shortages.

If this sounds like the title of a cli-fi horror flick, well, it kind of is. In January, officials in Cape Town, South Africa, began counting down the days until water ran out for the 4 million people who live there. Conservation measures helped the drought-stricken city stave off Day Zero, but the new phrase is sure to stick around as long as dwindling water supplies remain a pressing concern. The *Guardian* reported in April that the next "'Day Zero' water crisis" could happen in Morocco, India, Iraq, or Spain, where reservoirs are shrinking fast.

**Carbon "fee" (n.)** A price on fossil fuels to cut down on carbon dioxide emissions.

Not a carbon tax, exactly. A proposed "carbon fee" grabbed national attention this year with a ballot measure in Washington state.

**Cleanwashing (n.)** The classification of polluting energy sources as "renewable."

Tired: Greenwashing. Wired: Cleanwashing. *Grist* delved into the complicated definition of "renewable" this year and found that your state might have a dirty energy secret. Burning garbage, tires, and chicken poop all count as renewable energy in Maryland, Ohio, and North Carolina, respectively. It's the very definition of "cleanwashing," a term coined in a Food and Water Watch report in July.

**Climate gentrification (n.)** The process by which the wealthy move to areas with lower risks from climate change, sometimes displacing low-income residents.

From Florida to Arizona, climate change is driving real estate markets. In Miami, for instance, a Harvard study found that properties at higher elevations were increasing in value. Residents of crazy-hot Phoenix are departing for cooler cities in Arizona like Flagstaff, driving up property prices. "A pattern of climate-driven gentrification is taking hold across the U.S., as those who are able to retreat from floods, storms, heatwaves, and wildfires shift to safer areas," wrote the *Guardian's* Oliver Milman in September.

**Firenado (n.)** A twister of flames. Fire + tornado.

2018 was an especially hellish year for wildfires: In November, at least 86 people were killed in the Camp Fire, the deadliest blaze in California's history. Wildfires across the West brought some weird phenomena with them, including "firenadoes" and "smokestorms" (see below). During the Carr Fire this summer, one such twister packed 143-mph winds, equivalent to an EF-3 tornado, one likely to cause severe damage.

**Green New Deal (n.)** An emerging environmental platform aimed at boosting jobs while taking on climate change.

Progressive politics has a new rallying cry. The Green New Deal, backed by Rep.-elect Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and 2020 presidential hopefuls like Sen. Cory Booker, promises to boost the economy and help the planet simultaneously. So far it's still in the outline stage, but it's based on President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, the package of programs (Civilian Conservation Corps, Public Works Administration, and much else) that helped pull the United States out of the Great Depression. A new poll shows that 64 percent of registered Republicans and 92 percent of Democrats would support a Green New Deal, so it's a sure bet that you'll be hearing more about it in the new year.

**Hothouse (adj.)** A doomsday scenario in which climate change pushes the planet into a hot, hellish equilibrium.

Greenhouse effect? That's so 10 years ago. Try *hothouse* instead. "Our analysis suggests that the Earth System may be approaching a planetary threshold that could lock in a continuing rapid pathway toward much hotter conditions—Hothouse Earth," wrote a team of scientists in a well-circulated study published in August. Imagine that our world was hotter than anything seen in the past 1.2 million years, with no ice sheets and no Amazon rainforest, and you get the picture. As it happens, *hothouse* traces back to the 1400s as a shorthand for steam baths and brothels.

**New abnormal (n.)** The state of unpredictability and danger brought on by climate change.

The “new normal” tends to appear in headlines after disasters like hurricanes and wildfires. Some climate scientists disapprove of the phrase, which they say suggests that this crazy, climate-changed world we’re living in is somehow... normal. (It’s a little more complicated than that, as I learned from talking to lexicographer Kory Stamper.) As criticism of the phrase has spread, people have started to switch it up. For instance, this summer California Gov. Jerry Brown referred to the devastating wildfires in his state as “the new normal.” By November, Brown was saying “the new abnormal.”

**Planet B (n.)** The imaginary backup planet we’ll move to when Planet A (Earth) becomes uninhabitable.

“By polluting the oceans, not mitigating CO2 emissions, and destroying our biodiversity, we are killing our planet. Let us face it. There is no Planet B.”

**Secret science (n.)** Science based on data that isn’t public.

The rule would have stopped EPA regulators from using decades of research about the damage air pollution and pesticides cause to public health. It’s now on hold, but the acting EPA administrator, Andrew Wheeler, told the *Hill* he plans to move forward to “finalize” the rule next year.

**Smokestorm (n.)** A sudden onset of high concentrations of smoke that affects daily life.

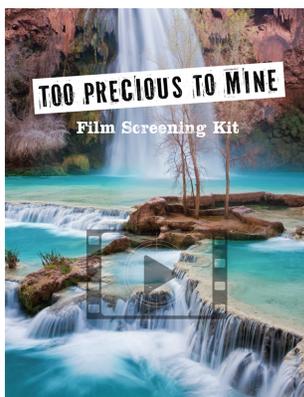
You’ve heard of snowstorms and thunderstorms, so why not a smokestorm? This summer, wildfires filled cities up and down the West Coast with cinder-filled smoke as thick as fog. **That hazardous air is actually the deadliest public health threat from wildfires. When the tiny, ash particles get into people’s lungs or blood vessels, they can lead to asthma or heart disease.** Cliff Mass, a University of Washington atmospheric science professor who has been criticized for his views on climate change, coined the term in a blog post this summer to raise awareness about the dangers of smoky air.

**Zero Hour (n.)** The breaking point at which decisive climate action must be taken.

Time’s up! Zero Hour, the time when a planned military operation is scheduled to begin, has taken on a new meaning. In 2017, a young climate activist named Jamie Margolin (15 years old at the time) founded an organization named after the concept. And in July, Zero Hour launched a climate march led by young people of color on the National Mall. “We want youth talking to politicians, lobbying, going to town halls,” Margolin told *Grist* for a documentary about her work. “We’re still a bunch of broke high schoolers, but we have so much more than we did last year.”

[https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2018/12/these-13-words-defined-our-overheating-planet-in-2018/?utm\\_source=mj-newsletters&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=econundrums-2018-12-31](https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2018/12/these-13-words-defined-our-overheating-planet-in-2018/?utm_source=mj-newsletters&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=econundrums-2018-12-31)

## Too Precious to Mine



These are videos...:-)

<https://www.grandcanyontrust.org/too-precious-mine>



## Quoting 'The Lorax,' Court Pulls Permit For Pipeline Crossing Appalachian Trail

The judges cited Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax*: "We trust the United States

Forest Service to 'speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues.'"

<https://www.npr.org/2018/12/14/676950106/quoting-the-lorax-court-pulls-permit-for-pipeline-crossing-appalachian-trail>

## 6 Renewable Energy Trends To Watch In 2019

### 1. Energy Storage

Energy storage plays an important role in balancing power supply and demand, and is key to tackling the intermittency issues of renewable energy. Pairing a storage system with a renewable energy source ensures a smooth and steady power supply, even when weather conditions are not optimal for energy generation.

Batteries are the most common storage devices used in renewable energy systems. Batteries are the most common storage devices used in renewable energy systems and their use is

increasing on both the residential and grid-wide scale. Energy storage technologies are expected to continue to improve, making their use more viable and affordable. It is projected that storage will represent a **core component** of all new energy technologies moving into the future, as both utility-scale and domestic energy storage solutions become more price competitive, eroding the advantages of traditional energy sources....Grid parity occurs when an alternative energy can generate power at a cost and performance level equal to or less than electricity generated from conventional methods. Solar and wind have **reached parity** in both price and performance in many regions, and new technologies continue to hone their competitive edge...Solar and wind are already more efficient and cost-effective than conventional sources, and evolving technologies will continue to improve their price and performance. Combining the economic benefits with a low environmental impact, we can expect to see renewables move from being an acceptable energy source to a preferred one.



Islands like Barbados are heavily investing in electric vehicles.MEGAPOWER LTD.

An increasing number of corporations, cities and countries are embracing emissions reduction targets and **climate action plans** to meet the goal of limiting the rise in global temperature. To date, **over 100 cities** worldwide report that at least 70 percent of their energy production is from renewables, and more than 40 are currently operating on 100 percent renewable electricity. Hundreds more have pledged to work towards the goal of energy generation that is 100 percent based on renewables. Recognizing their impact on climate change, **158 companies** have also committed to transitioning to 100 percent renewables.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesellsmoor/2018/12/30/6-renewable-energy-trends-to-watch-in-2019/#3307d0454a1f>

**In full-service restaurants, you'll only be given a plastic straw if you ask for one.**



Plastic straws sit at the ready at a cafe in San Francisco. The state is considering barring dine-in restaurants from providing plastic straws unless they are requested by patrons. (Jeff Chiu / Associated Press)

<https://www.latimes.com/projects/la-pol-ca-new-california-2019-laws/#nws=mcnewsletter>

**CLIMATE IN ART HISTORY**

How Curators Are Finding the Climate in Art HistoryThe recent “Nature’s Nation” exhibition locates the hidden ecological and environmental roots of American art.



Alexander Hogue’s Crucified Land (1939) (Courtesy of the Princeton University Art Museum / Gilcrease Museum)

## Conservation in the News : December 2018

...“There is the scientific and ideological language for what is happening,” she observes, “but there are hardly any intimate words.” For Smith, our inability to frame global environmental degradation around the small, the personal, and the local is why so many of us feel paralysis or apathy in face of it. Climate change is caused by humans, but we can suspend our responsibility for its effects when they feel beyond individual human scale—we only fight to protect those things nearest and dearest to us: a garden, a season, a ritual. If better modes of speaking offer one means of stirring environmentalist impulses, the exhibition “Nature’s Nation: American Art and Environment,” at the Princeton University Art Museum, suggests that better modes of *looking* may be another. Curated by Alan C. Braddock and Karl Kusserow, the show examines the art of America through the lens of ecocriticism, a growing branch of literary scholarship that considers the environment’s role within art. Over 120 pieces from the 1700s to the present day make the case that, whether or not we are consciously aware of it, human experience and creation are influenced by the environment... “Nature’s Nation” provokes large and difficult-to-resolve questions about the purpose and ethics of art, and art analysis, within the Anthropocene. That it can do so is testament to its thoughtfulness.

<https://www.thenation.com/article/curating-climate-change-princeton-natures-nation-show-review/>