

Global Warming / Climate Change Campaign Newsletter

August 2018

(The complete version of this newsletter is available only in Japanese. These are some of the English language articles used in the latest edition of the Japanese newsletter.)

Introduction

Reading about the environment is a little like a roller coaster ride: highs and lows. So much of the news is depressing, and yet there is also a lot of good news.

St Louis Climate Summit

In April this year, St Louis University in the US (a Jesuit university) hosted a Climate Summit at which some of the world's leading environmentalists and scientists spoke. Excellent presentation followed excellent presentation. A young woman confessed that while attending an international environment conference she was embarrassed to be American. Jeffrey Sachs, world-renowned professor of economics and senior UN advisor, condemned US politicians. "Almost everything you hear from our politicians is phony. Our democracy has been suborned by massive corporate corruption. The week before Donald Trump announced that the US would pull out of the Paris agreement, 22 senators, all Republicans, wrote to him calling on him to pull out. Why? Because they're all on the take from the oil industry."

<http://www.ninenet.org/climate-summit-archive/>

Jeffrey Sachs: <http://www.ninenet.org/climate-summit-archive/business-perspectives/>

Senators on the take: 18:53 ~ 19:43

The Present Situation

Global carbon emissions rise again

November 2017

Global carbon pollution rose in 2017. Most of the increase came from China.

<http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0004066594>

2017 Hottest year ever

January 2018

2017 was the hottest year since global records began that was not given an additional boost by the natural climate cycle El Niño. Even without an El Niño, the year was one of the top three ever recorded.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jan/18/2017-was-the-hottest-year-on-record-without-el-nino-boost>

UN Climate Change Conference

December 2017

One of the most concerning insights from COP23 is that it is unlikely that the ambitious target set out in the Paris Agreement - to hold global average temperatures to within 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels – will be met.

<https://www.theguardian.com/monash-university-pursuit-of-knowledge/2017/dec/15/what-did-we-learn-from-the-un-climate-change-conference>

Antarctic ice melting faster than ever

June 2018

Ice in the Antarctic is melting at a record-breaking rate and the subsequent sea rises could have catastrophic consequences for cities around the world.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jun/13/antarctic-ice-melting-faster-than-ever-studies-show>

http://stories.huffingtonpost.com.au/antarctica/?utm_hp_ref=au-homepage

Glaciers melting

September 2017

Asia's mountain glaciers will lose at least a third of their mass through global warming by the century's end, with dire consequences for millions of people who rely on them for fresh water.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/sep/14/asia-glaciers-shrink-threatening-water-supply>

Facing the new climate realities

November 2017

American shale oil and gas output is set to rise higher than ever, making the United States the world's largest producer. But it is in Asia, as well as the Middle East itself, that emissions are climbing fast.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2017/11/22/commentary/world-commentary/facing-new-energy-climate-realities/>

Brazil opens vast Amazon reserve to mining

August 2017

Brazil has abolished a vast national reserve in the Amazon, covering 46,000 sq km, to open up the area to mining.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-41033228>

Scientific studies reveal that **if we do not stop the growth of the emissions by 2020, the crisis will be irreversible.**

August 2017

Global Catholic Climate Movement email

"We're doomed"

April 2018

"We're doomed," says Mayer Hillman, an 86-year-old social scientist and senior fellow emeritus of the Policy Studies Institute. "It's the end of most life on the planet." Hillman accuses all kinds of leaders – from religious leaders to scientists to politicians – of failing to honestly discuss what we must do to move to zero-carbon emissions.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/apr/26/were-doomed-mayer-hillman-on-the-climate-reality-no-one-else-will-dare-mention>

Causes

Ecological crisis rooted in the human heart: Pope Francis

June 2018

"The ecological crisis is ultimately rooted in the human heart, which aspires to control and exploit the limited resources of our planet, while ignoring the vulnerable members of the human family."

<http://www.cathnews.com/cathnews/32266-ecological-crisis-rooted-in-the-human-heart>

Agroecology and climate change

July 2017

The industrial food system is a main culprit when it comes to the climate crisis. The latest studies calculate that the global food system is responsible for at least one third of all greenhouse gas emissions.

<https://www.grain.org/article/entries/5761-editorial-agroecology-getting-to-the-root-causes-of-climate-change>

Avoiding meat & dairy is 'single biggest way' to reduce your impact on Earth

May 2018

Avoiding meat and dairy products is the single biggest way to reduce your environmental impact on the planet. New research shows that without meat and dairy consumption, global farmland use could be reduced by more than 75% and still feed the world.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/may/31/avoiding-meat-and-dairy-is-single-biggest-way-to-reduce-your-impact-on-earth>

The corporate ethic of the fossil fuel industry

February 2017

The oil giant Shell issued a stark warning of the catastrophic risks of climate change more than a quarter of century ago in a prescient 1991 film that has been rediscovered. Bill McKibben, a leading US environmentalist, said: "The fact that Shell understood all this in 1991, and that a quarter-century later it was trying to open up the Arctic to oil-drilling, tells you all you'll ever need to know about the corporate ethic of the fossil fuel industry."

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/feb/28/shell-knew-oil-giants-1991-film-warned-climate-change-danger>

The Victims

Climate change is disrupting the birds and the bees

August 2017

Warmer temperatures are making it harder for plants and animals to reproduce. Many reptiles and some fish use the incubation temperature of the eggs to set the gender of their

offspring. So changing global temperatures could alter the ratio of sexes produced, making it harder for these animals to find mates.

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20170808-climate-change-is-disrupting-the-birds-and-the-bees>

Fiji must spend billions to adapt to climate change

November 2017

To prepare for the rising temperatures, strengthening storms and higher sea levels in the coming decades, Fiji must spend US\$4.5bn, an amount equivalent to its entire yearly gross domestic product over the next 10 years.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/nov/10/fiji-told-it-must-spend-billions-to-adapt-to-climate-change>

PNG facing climate change disaster

March 2018

Cardinal John Ribat of Papua New Guinea shared stories of Papuans who have been forced to move inland from ancestral lands along the ocean as rising seas have inundated their homes.

<http://cathnews.com/cathnews/31581-png-facing-climate-change-disaster-cardinal-ribat>

Climate change is feeding armed conflict in Somalia

April 2018

Climate change feeds armed conflict in Somalia. Al-Shabaab has been successful in attracting young people who are affected by famine and food insecurity and who face no job prospects.

https://issafrica.org/iss-today/climate-change-is-feeding-armed-conflict-in-somalia?utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=ISS_Weekly&utm_medium=email

A new generation of child brides

November 2017

As global warming exacerbates drought and floods, farmers' incomes plunge – and girls as young as 13 are given away to stave off poverty. “30% to 40% of child marriages in Malawi are due to the floods and droughts caused by climate change.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/nov/26/climate-change-creating-generation-of-child-brides-in-africa>

Good News

19 countries pledge to phase out coal

November 2017

A new alliance of 19 nations committed to quickly phasing out coal has been launched at the UN climate summit in Bonn, Germany.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/nov/16/political-watershed-as-19-countries-pledge-to-phase-out-coal>

New Zealand bans all new offshore oil exploration

April 2018

The New Zealand government will grant no new offshore oil exploration permits.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/12/new-zealand-bans-all-new-offshore-oil-exploration-as-part-of-carbon-neutral-future>

The shipping industry is finally going to cut its climate change emissions.

April 2018

The International Maritime Organization adopted the first ever strategy to regulate the shipping industry's greenhouse gas emissions.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/04/13/the-global-shipping-industry-is-finally-going-to-cut-its-climate-change-emissions/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.ce2ca195e972

US Bank to Stop Funding Pipelines as Divestment Movement Expands Worldwide

 May 2017

U.S. Bank has announced that it will no longer finance fossil fuel pipeline construction.

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2017/05/15/us-bank-stop-funding-pipelines-divestment-movement-expands-worldwide>

California mandates solar panels on new homes starting in 2020

May 2018

Builders in California will be required to fit solar panels on most new homes from 2020 under new building standards.

<http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0004429522>

Climate science on trial

December 2017

Seven Californian cities and counties have brought lawsuits against major fossil fuel companies to help protect against rising sea levels they blame on climate change.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/12/29/world/science-health-world/high-profile-climate-change-cases-predicted-make-legal-splash-2018/>

Japan

May 2018

... the **Long-term Energy Supply and Demand Outlook** compiled in July 2015, stated that the electric power supply-demand structure in fiscal 2030 would be as follows: renewable energy approximately 22 to 24%, LNG 27%, coal 26% and oil 3%, reducing dependence on nuclear power plants, which had been about 30% before the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, to around 20 to 22%.

The recommendations have been widely covered by various media, focusing particularly on the explicit statements of "making renewable energy a major power source" and "decreasing Japan's dependency on nuclear energy." While every member of the Round Table agreed on renewable energy, there were heated discussions over "decreasing Japan's dependency on nuclear energy," between members from industry insisting, "This shouldn't be included," and our side, who wanted to include it explicitly. In the end, the statement remained in the recommendations with no changes.

(Awareness that the goals set under the Paris Agreement could not be achieved by continuing current energy policy and conventional discussions led to establishment of the Round Table by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry [METI].)

https://www.japanfs.org/en/news/archives/news_id036082.html

On July 3rd, 2018, the Japanese Cabinet approved the nation's fifth **Strategic Energy Plan** (SEP). It maintains the government's previous policy directions by continuing to place an emphasis on nuclear power and coal as 'base-load' energy sources for electricity, and fails to consider the dramatic changes currently occurring in global energy trends. The SEP neglects the strong public desire for a major shift toward renewable energy and a move away from nuclear and coal.

<http://www.kiconet.org/eng/press-release/2018-07-03/5th-strategic-energy-plan>

Good News (Japan)

July 2018

Sumitomo Mitsui Trust **Bank halts new coal power project financing.** ^[1]_{SEP}Environmental NGOs: “One of the most progressive policies by any Asian financial institution.”

<http://www.kiconet.org/eng/press-release-en/2018-07-24/Sumitomo-Mitsui-Trust-divestment>

In June 2018, Sumitomo Corporation announced its proposed Sendai-Takamatsu combustion **plant will switch its fuel from coal-biomass mixed fuel to biomass mono-fuel** combustion. As a result, the number of remaining proposed domestic coal-fired plants becomes 35. (There have been 50 plans since 2012. Among them, 8 have already started operating and 7 have been canceled or changed their fuel.)

However, biomass single fuel combustion also has problems from an aspect of the environment and sustainability. The supply source is still unclear, and might lead to serious damage to the environment.

<http://www.kiconet.org/eng/press-release-en/2018-06-01/small-scale-power-plant-in-sendai-switched-from-coal-to-biomass>

Catholic News

Laudato Si'

“Laudato Si’ is what made the difference for the agreements in Paris.”

Dan Esty, School of the Environment, Yale University

Quoted by Mary Evelyn Tucker, Care of the Earth Conference

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTC4AN5vGok>

Oil CEOs gather in Vatican

June 2018

Pope Francis called some of the world’s leading oil executives to a private Vatican conference. “We must provide energy to everyone, without harming the environment,” the Pope said.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jun/14/big-oil-ceo-climate-change-reality-check-pope>

Catholic entities divest

October 2017

A coalition of 40 Catholic institutions announced divestment from fossil fuels.

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/environment/church-teaching-leads-catholic-entities-divest-fossil-fuels>

Just **divesting is not enough**. These funds should be going all out to promote the new technologies that will give the developing world the cheap energy it needs without having to resort to carbon-laden coal and oil for their new power supplies.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2017/11/22/commentary/world-commentary/facing-new-energy-climate-realities/>

Catholic groups sign climate declaration

June 2018

American Catholic leaders announced that nearly 600 Catholic institutions have signed the Catholic Climate Declaration. Soon after President Trump withdrew the country from the Paris Agreement, many mayors, county executives, governors, tribal leaders, college and university leaders, businesses, faith groups, and investors across the US joined forces to declare that “We Are Still In.”

https://international.la-croix.com/news/600-catholic-groups-sign-climate-declaration/7854?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=e-mail&utm_content=19-06-2018&utm_campaign=newsletter_cr_x_lci&PMID=ca4ce0563e46285947a35389589f090c

Sisters' Involvement

June 2018

The Sisters of the Holy Cross have funded projects including solar power at schools, convents, and hostels in Bangladesh and India, planting of over 1,800 trees in Uganda, and energy efficient lighting for a Catholic College in the US.

https://international.la-croix.com/news/600-catholic-groups-sign-climate-declaration/7854?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=e-mail&utm_content=19-06-2018&utm_campaign=newsletter_cr_x_lci&PMID=ca4ce0563e46285947a35389589f090c

Sisters resist pipeline

February 2018

The Adorers of the Blood of Christ continue to resist construction of a natural gas pipeline in Pennsylvania.

[Forum on Religion & Ecology at Yale email February 8, 2018](#)

Jesuit Involvement

March 2018

The Jesuits in Britain have agreed to become fully dependent on green energy, with 19 out of 22 Catholic dioceses in England and Wales having already formed the not-for-profit Interdiocesan Fuel Management Ltd.

https://international.la-croix.com/news/catholic-church-in-england-takes-leading-role-in-adopting-renewable-energy/7221?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=e-mail&utm_content=23-03-2018&utm_campaign=newsletter_crx_lci&PMID=ca4ce0563e46285947a35389589f090c

Seoul Archdiocese joins Korean capital's solar city project

January 2018

Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung of Seoul signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Seoul mayor Park Won-soon on Dec. 27 to work together to expand solar generation. According to the MoU, Seoul Archdiocese will increase generating solar power via the roofs of its parish buildings and on church-owned land including parking lots.

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/seoul-archdiocese-joins-korean-capitals-solar-city-project/81175>

Caritas India offers climate change survival classes

June 2018

Caritas India is working in villages to warn people what to expect and how to deal with climate disasters.

https://international.la-croix.com/news/caritas-india-offers-climate-change-survival-classes/7783?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=e-mail&utm_content=08-06-2018&utm_campaign=newsletter_crx_lci&PMID=ca4ce0563e46285947a35389589f090c

Nuns help Vietnamese farmers adapt to climate change

August 2017

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/nuns-help-vietnamese-farmers-adapt-to-climate-change/79952>

Season of Creation events in 2017 included prayer services for creation in Albania, Argentina, Guam, India, Mozambique, New Zealand and Sapporo.

<http://seasonofcreation.org/events/>

Green Mountain State's diocese gets greener

Bishop Christopher Coyne of the diocese of Burlington, Vermont, decided to have a Year of Creation in 2017.

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/environment/green-mountain-states-diocese-gets-greener>

Eco-Palm Sunday

March 2018

The Archbishop of Dakar in Senegal has asked Catholics in his archdiocese to use scarves instead of palm branches for the Palm Sunday Procession.

https://international.la-croix.com/news/use-scarves-instead-of-palm-branches-dakar-archbishop-tells-catholics/7236?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=e-mail&utm_content=27-03-2018&utm_campaign=newsletter_crx_lci&PMID=ca4ce0563e46285947a35389589f090c

In your parish

Ask your parish priest or parish council to sign the Laudato Si' Pledge. Pope Francis encourages Catholics to sign the pledge.

<http://livelaudatosi.org/>

<https://catholicclimatemovement.global/pr-laudato-si-pledge/>

Let's pray for the next stage of the UN climate talks (in December 2018).

These organizations are doing all they can to keep global warming and climate change to a minimum. Let's support them!

Kiko Network

<http://www.kiconet.org/category/eng/>

Friends of the Earth (FoE) Japan

<http://www.foejapan.org/en/>

350.org Japan

<http://world.350.org/ja/>

Climate Action Network Japan (CAN-Japan)

<https://www.can-japan.org/>

Catholic Climate Covenant

<http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/>

Global Catholic Climate Movement

<https://catholicclimatemovement.global/>

GreenFaith

www.greenfaith.org/