



October - November 2022

Your bi-monthly climate connection is here!

In negotiations that went down to the wire during COP27, countries reached a historic decision to establish and operationalize a loss and damage fund, particularly for nations most vulnerable to climate crisis. The fund is expected to see developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of the climate crisis supported for losses arising from droughts, floods, rising seas and other disasters. While the negotiated text recognized the need for financial support from a variety of sources, no decisions have been made on who should pay into the fund, where this money will come from and which countries will benefit.

The issue has been one of the most contentious on the negotiating table. Twelve years ago, at COP15 in Copenhagen, rich nations promised to channel US\$100 billion a year to less wealthy nations by 2020, to help them adapt to climate change and mitigate further rises in temperature but the promise was broken. We need to see how this promise will fare. But one thing is sure - the window to act on climate change is shrinking with each passing second.

This is our bi-monthly dispatch of updates and insights on renewable energy, just energy transition, climate change, and the environment in general. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Happenings from home



Photo: Scientific American

The devastating effects of climate change were on full display throughout 2022: hurricane Ian caused mass destruction across the southeastern United States, floods in Pakistan during the monsoon season affected 33 million people and killed at least 1,700, and an extreme heatwave across Europe caused widespread droughts. Taking in the full scope of mass extinction, habitat loss, population displacement, food shortages and other disturbing consequences of rising temperatures can be downright dreadful. The scope of the crisis is huge and researchers are finding that it's also taking a toll on our mental health. Ashlee Cunsolo first started to consider the connections between climate change and mental health; researchers today call this distress "climate anxiety," "eco-anxiety", or "eco-grief".

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From the corners of the country



Developed countries, like the USA and those in the European Union, are responsible for most of the heat-trapping emissions (79% of the emissions from 1850 to 2011) pumped into the atmosphere since the Industrial Revolution. Developing countries have lower emissions, but are still bearing the brunt of a hotter climate through more severe heat waves, floods and droughts. To help compensate for that, developing countries are asking richer ones to contribute to a loss and damage fund. The UN climate summit (COP27) in Egypt concluded with a landmark decision to establish a fund to address loss and damage. India has made its stand clear that it will not give any funds to the loss and damage facility but will claim from it, since it is one of the most climatically affected countries in the world.

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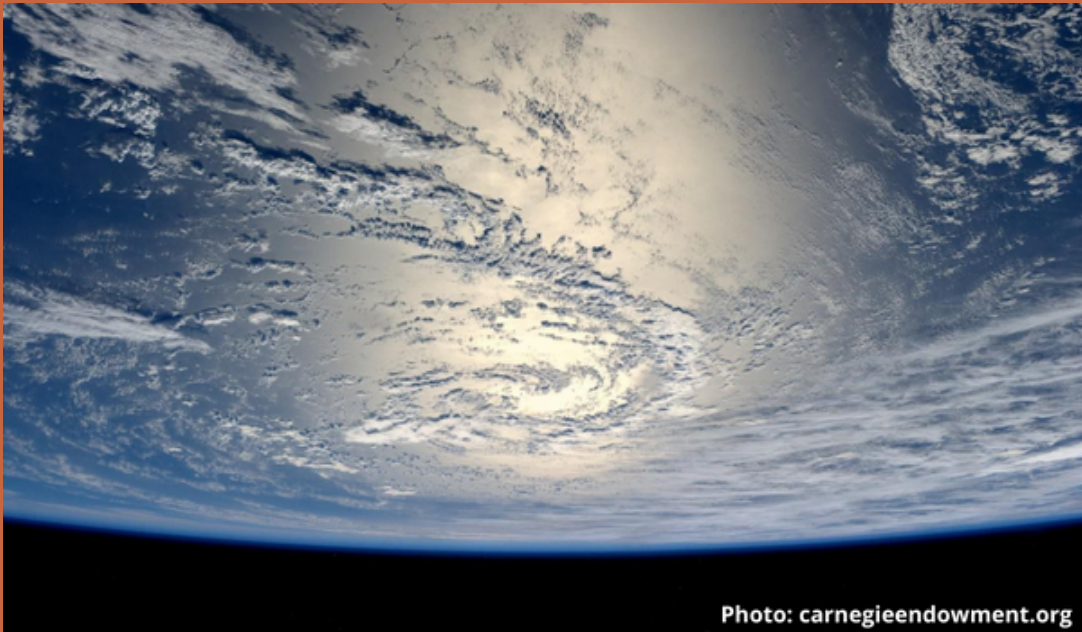
From around the world



The global energy crisis triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine is causing profound and long-lasting changes that has the potential to hasten the transition to a more sustainable and secure energy system. The crisis has particularly delivered a shock of unprecedented breadth and complexity to the markets for natural gas, coal and electricity. The WEO's analysis finds scant evidence to support claims from some quarters that climate policies and net zero commitments contributed to the upsurge in energy prices. In the most affected regions, higher shares of renewables were correlated with lower electricity prices. Alongside short-term measures to try to shield consumers from the impacts of the crisis, many governments are now taking longer-term measures to make structural changes with an aim to increase renewables in its' mix of energy sources.

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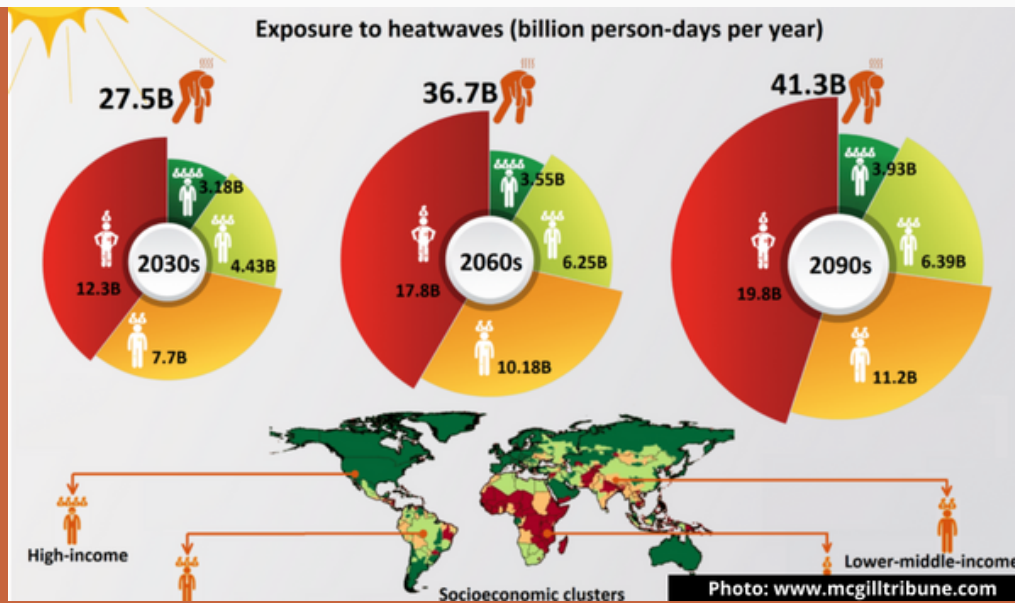
Global warnings



Climate change is currently the second biggest cause of biodiversity loss in the ocean and the fourth biggest cause on land - with a strong likelihood of even greater roles in the future. If the current trends in biodiversity loss continue, one million animal and plant species will be threatened with extinction - more than at any other point in human history. This trend is so stark, some are calling it the sixth mass extinction. Given the above risks, it is shocking that the international systems have failed to respond more forcefully. Belatedly, the United States, the EU, the UK, and some other advanced market democracies have adopted personal greenhouse gas reduction targets - but even this is not enough. The collapsing ecosystem obeys no political boundaries, but instead needs international environmental co-operation which one might term "planetary politics".

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In a nutshell



Do you know that countries with lower per capita gross domestic product (GDP) had more than 40 per cent higher exposure to heatwaves compared to countries with the higher individual economic output? This is largely due to a comparative lack of resources including capital, infrastructure, and policies. A new study conducted in collaboration with researchers from McGill found that people in low-income countries are more likely to be exposed to heatwaves, and in turn, will likely suffer worse consequences in the years to come.

[Know more](#)

Make it happen!



Climate change is an intergenerational concern and conversations about it should not be restricted to adults alone. It is vital that we educate children even from early, impressionable ages, prompting profound cultural changes that can contribute to our planet's sustainability. This is a call to request Education & Government leaders in India to include Climate Education within the school curriculum.

Know more

Nugget



Do you know that just 30 fossil fuel companies are responsible for nearly half (43%) of the industry's global methane emissions? The International Energy Agency (IEA) has estimated that coal, oil and gas operations emitted 126 million metric tons of methane last year.

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CAG

Citizen consumer and civic Action Group

Climate Connection is an initiative of Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG) to assist and inform local communities, grassroots NGOs, environment and consumer groups, village representatives and media representatives on how to embrace renewable energy, navigate energy transition, mitigate climate change, and protect the environment they live in. We create change by developing and disseminating information resources on air pollution, climate change, environment and policies surrounding these issues.



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