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Stopwatch

CLIMATE NEWS FROM HOME AND BEYOND

December 2025 - January 2026

Your bi-monthly climate connection is here!

As the world steps into 2026, this edition opens with a look at India's clean energy transition, examining how policy frameworks, incentives, and financial mechanisms are shaping the adoption of distributed renewable energy systems such as rooftop solar and mini-grids. With renewable capacity expanding at a record pace, these enabling structures are becoming critical for inclusive and resilient growth. From the ground, we highlight how grassroots women's groups are driving environmental accountability by mapping air pollution hotspots and pushing industry to act. This story reflects the growing role of citizen-led monitoring in addressing local pollution and strengthening environmental justice.

From around the world, we reflect on quieter but meaningful wins for climate and nature, showing how ecosystem restoration, conservation successes, and policy shifts offer cautious optimism amid intensifying climate risks. This is followed by a stark scientific assessment confirming that global temperatures continue to rise, with recent years ranking among the hottest on record and extreme weather becoming increasingly frequent. We also spotlight wetlands as a powerful nature-based solution that supports climate resilience, biodiversity, and community well-being.

This is our bi-monthly dispatch of updates and insights on renewable energy, climate change, and sustainability.

Happenings from home



India's transition to clean energy depends not just on technology, but on strong policy and financial support. This article examines how regulatory frameworks, incentives, subsidies, and innovative financing models are shaping the adoption of distributed renewable energy systems such as rooftop solar and mini-grids. It highlights the role of public institutions, banks, and blended finance in reducing risks and improving access for households, small businesses, and communities. While progress is visible, challenges remain around affordability, awareness, and implementation. Strengthening these mechanisms can accelerate decentralised energy deployment and ensure a more inclusive and resilient energy transition.

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From the corners of the country



In 2025, grassroots action showed how local communities can drive environmental accountability. This article highlights how women in affected neighbourhoods mapped air pollution hotspots, using data and lived experience to challenge a coal company over persistent dust pollution. Their efforts pushed authorities and industry to acknowledge impacts that often go unnoticed and take corrective measures. The story reflects a broader trend across India, where citizen-led monitoring and collective action are filling gaps in enforcement and amplifying marginalised voices. It shows that environmental protection is not only shaped in courts and policy corridors, but also on the ground, where communities most exposed to pollution are demanding cleaner air, transparency, and justice.

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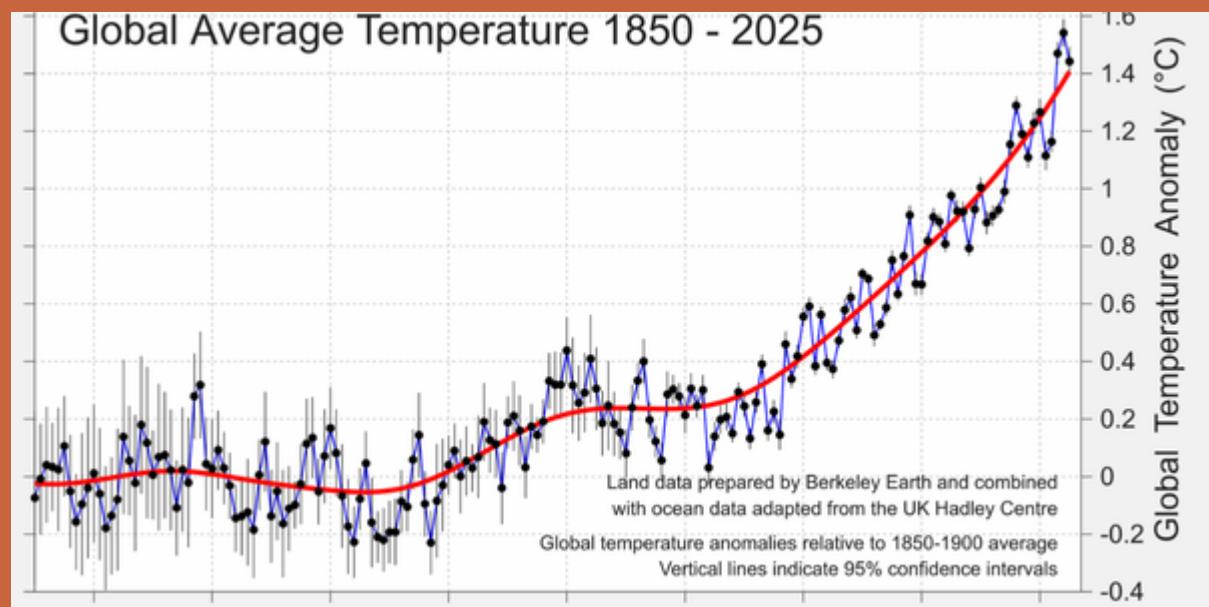
From around the world



Amid escalating climate impacts, 2025 also delivered a set of quieter but meaningful wins for climate and nature. This article highlights seven developments that showed progress is still possible, from ecosystem restoration efforts and wildlife recoveries to policy shifts and community-led conservation successes. While these gains do not offset the scale of the climate crisis, they demonstrate how targeted action, science-based decisions, and local leadership can deliver real outcomes. The piece offers a reminder that solutions already exist and that protecting nature remains a powerful ally in tackling climate change, even in a year dominated by troubling global signals.

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Global warnings



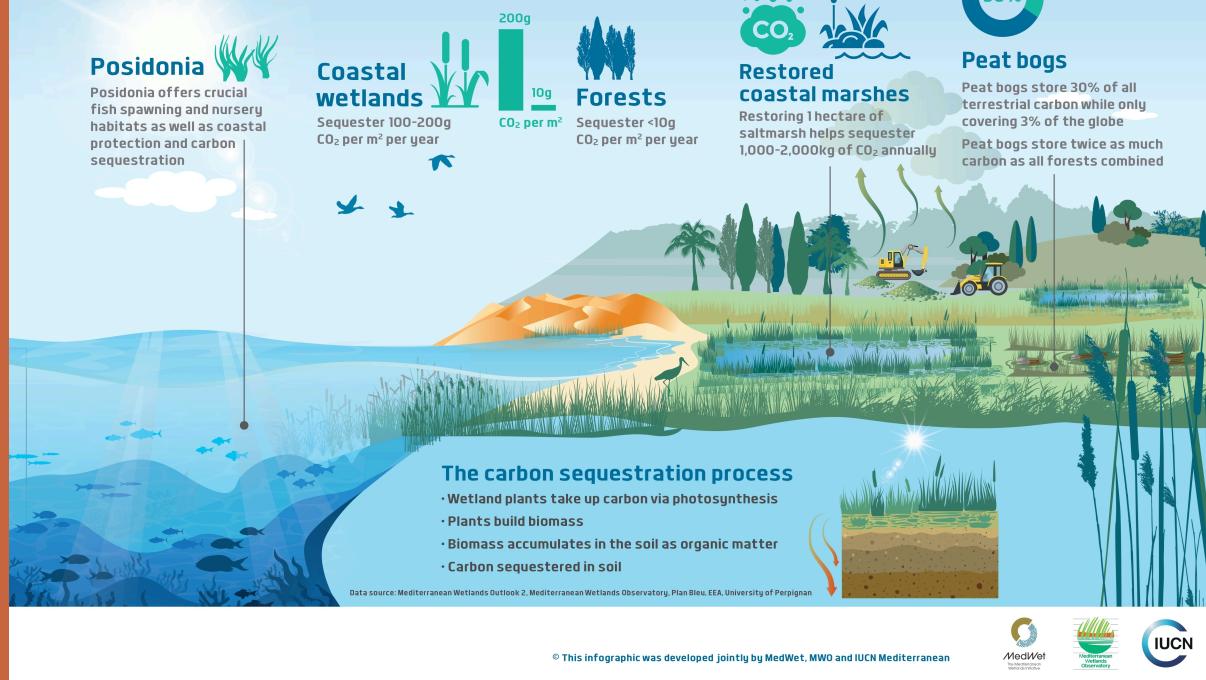
The global temperature report for 2025 confirms what scientists have long warned. The planet is continuing to warm at an alarming pace. Last year ranked among the hottest on record, driven largely by human-induced climate change. The analysis shows how rising land and ocean temperatures are becoming the new normal and intensifying extreme weather events worldwide. While short-term variability plays a role, the long-term trend is unmistakable. The findings reinforce the urgency for rapid emissions reductions and sustained climate action to avoid far more dangerous levels of warming.

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In a nutshell

Coastal wetlands: nature-based solutions for storing carbon

Healthy wetlands have a crucial role to play in the fight against global warming. They capture carbon, storing it first in their biomass and then in their sediments – and they do it at a rate 10-20 times greater than temperate or boreal forests. But when wetlands are destroyed, not only do they stop absorbing carbon, but they also release their stores back into the atmosphere, increasing greenhouse gases.



Wetlands play a powerful yet often overlooked role in tackling both climate change and biodiversity loss. They act as natural carbon sinks, absorb floodwaters, protect coastlines, and support diverse species. This visual explainer shows how conserving and restoring wetlands can strengthen climate resilience while delivering benefits for ecosystems and communities. Nature-based solutions like wetlands are cost-effective, scalable, and critical for a sustainable future.

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Nugget



Do you know that India added a record 44.5 GW of renewable energy in 2025, nearly doubling last year's additions? Non-fossil sources now make up 51.5% of total power capacity, putting India five years ahead of its 2030 target.

[Know more](#)

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.

Your donation helps us expand this mission and bring reliable climate information to more people who need it most.

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