

# Concerned Scientists' Weekly News Bulletin

## [April 5th, 2022]



*Our weekly bulletin collects and digests news of the past week.*

*Contributions welcome.*

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### **NEWS ITEMS AND ARTICLES**

*American Institute of Physics: [FY23 Request Steers Science Budgets Toward Biden Administration Priorities](#)*

President Biden's second budget request repeats proposals to increase funding for non-defense science agencies, with an emphasis on those connected to his priorities in climate change mitigation, clean energy R&D, manufacturing, and technology.

*New York Times: [Stopping climate change is doable, but time is short, U.N. panel warns](#)*

A major new scientific report offers a road map for how countries can limit global warming, but warns that the margin for error is vanishingly small.

*The New York Times: [EPA decides against limiting Perchlorate in drinking water](#)*

Drinking water for as many as 16 million Americans may be contaminated with perchlorate, a chemical that can harm the development of fetuses and children.

*The Washington Post: [National Cancer Institute Director Sharpless stepping down](#)*

Norman "Ned" Sharpless, the director of the National Cancer Institute who had a short stint leading the Food and Drug Administration, announced Monday that he is stepping down at the end of April.

*Guardian:* [Scientists must be free to communicate without politicians' spin](#)

Though the UK gets most of its science news directly from the best researchers, translated by outstanding science correspondents, scientific findings can still sometimes appear unclear or difficult to understand. Fiona Fox argues that the public must hear about science from the researchers, not from government press officers.

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

*IndyStar:* [Recent study by Indiana Forest Alliance asks city to start preserving forest areas](#)

Jeff Stant, executive director of Indiana Forest Alliance (IFA), describes a recently published study that focused on Marion County's forests.

*Indiana Environmental Reporter:* [Lake Monroe Water Fund hires executive director, gears up to pursue funding](#)

Michelle Cohen, the new hire and LMWF's first employee, brings 12 years of experience heading other environmental entities to the role. The creation of this new position will allow for the pursuit of large-scale grants and other funding projects.

## **OPINION AND ANALYSIS**

*Guardian:* [Scientists sound alarm at US regulator's new 'forever chemicals' definition](#)

The EPA has narrowed its list of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), which are manufactured chemicals found in an abundance of common household items. Critics stress a lack of data on the toxicity of some of the chemicals excluded from the list, which may have serious implications as PFAS are linked to cancer, birth defects, decreased immunity, high cholesterol, kidney disease and more.

*The Washington Post:* [There's good reason to worry about the health risks of plastics](#)

Some findings suggest tiny plastic particles could disrupt immune and endocrine systems, damage organs, and cause other health problems.

*The Hill:* [Infrastructure funding is a chance to think beyond cars](#)

Thanks to decades of car-centric policy in the United States, it is nearly impossible to get around in most cities and towns without a car. As a result, emissions from transportation have skyrocketed, and Americans have few alternatives when the price of gas rises.

*The Guardian:* [Why is Biden boasting about drilling for oil? Our planet demands we stop now](#)

The Biden administration is choosing to expand the fossil fuel industry at this critical moment.

*CNN:* [Opinion: Ditching fossil fuels makes even more sense now](#)

Never before has it been this clear that fossil fuels are not only harming our environment, but our economy as well.

*The Conversation:* [Arctic greening won't save the climate](#)

If Arctic greening is only shifting seasons and isn't increasing the overall carbon dioxide level as previously believed, that could also mean the models currently used to evaluate and predict the overall impact of climate change are missing an important piece of information.

### **TAKE ACTION AND RESOURCES FOR ACTIVISTS**

*North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education:* [Nominate a student or submit an application for the North Central Region SARE \(NCR-SARE\) Graduate Student Grant Program](#)

Applications are due April 7th for projects by graduate students that address sustainable agriculture issues and are part of the student's degree program.

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*Our CSIU news bulletin is intended to provide a brief update on recent news, editorials, as well as action items related to science integrity and science policy. Note that editorial pieces and action items are assembled from a variety of sources and organizations; they do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy priorities of Concerned Scientists @ IU. This week's news bulletin was compiled by ASIU members sophomore Rose Schnabel, freshman Ana Lim, and sophomore Amangul Hydyrova. If you'd like to volunteer—or if you have additional links you'd like to share for future bulletins, send them to Rose at [raschnab@iu.edu](mailto:raschnab@iu.edu).*

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