

# Concerned Scientists' Weekly News Bulletin [April 20th, 2022]



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

*Contributions welcome.*

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## **NEWS ITEMS AND ARTICLES**

*Smithsonian:* [Scientists Stage Worldwide Climate Change Protests After IPCC Report](#)

Over 1,000 scientists from 25 countries, part of the Scientist Rebellion, staged protests about the urgency and injustice of the climate crisis last week after a report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that we only have 3 more years to effectively fight climate change.

*US News:* [Lawmaker Raskin Sees Hope for US Climate Legislation This Year](#)

Signs are emerging of a slimmed-down "Build Back Better" bill as Democrats discuss how best to invest in climate action, according to Raskin.

*USDA:* [U.S. Department of Agriculture Announces Key Staff Appointments](#)

The USDA announced that Mary Beth Schultz, Dr. Dionne Toombs, Ny Whitaker, Leslie Weldon, Deborah Swerdlow, Alberto Gonzalez, Alison Hard, and Jerry Chapin will now hold senior staff positions.

*NBC:* [Biden administration to resume leasing for oil and gas drilling on federal lands](#)

The Biden administration said it will resume selling leases to drill for oil and gas on federal lands starting next week.

*Energy.gov:* [DOE releases new equity action plan, unveils investments to strengthen HBCU opportunities in clean energy](#)

New initiatives from the US Department of Energy (DOE) aim to remove barriers to federal funding, increase STEM inclusion, generate more diverse solutions to tackle the climate crisis and realize Justice40 - Biden's initiative to commit 40% of the benefits of Federal investments in climate and clean energy to frontline, underserved, and overburdened communities.

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

*Indy Star:* [Judge weighs in on largest logging, burn project ever proposed for Hoosier National Forest](#)

Environmental groups are pleased with a recent federal court ruling protecting a reservoir in the Hoosier National Forest that supplies drinking water to 140,000 people, but say they're disappointed with other aspects of the ruling.

*Indiana Environmental Reporter:* [Indiana Finance Authority COO testifies at house drinking water hearing](#)

Finance Authority chief Jim McGoff says Congress should consider funding changes to better address the state's PFAS and lead issues.

*Madison.com:* [Judge says Wisconsin DNR can't enforce pollution law without listing hazardous substances](#)

A Wisconsin judge says the state Department of Natural Resources cannot enforce the state's pollution law without first establishing a definitive list of hazardous substances approved by the Legislature.

*Indiana Environmental Reporter:* [Northern Indiana residents doubt outcome of coal ash cleanup](#)

Some northern Indiana residents remain skeptical about toxic coal ash cleanup, despite a renewed commitment by government agencies and one of the state's biggest energy companies.

## **OPINION AND ANALYSIS**

*Scientific American:* [In a First, Wind Generation Tops Coal and Nuclear Power for a Day](#)

The milestone showed both how far renewable energy has come and the lengths the country must go to reach President Joe Biden's climate goals.

*Center for American Progress:* [Measuring the Health Outcomes of Social, Economic, and Environmental Policies](#)

A variety of analytic tools can clarify public health priorities and predict the health impact of policy solutions. It is essential to recognize the value of modeling, invest in the research and data gathering needed to make models rigorous and their predictions reliable in assessing health outcomes, and make that information more readily available and accessible.

*E&E News:* [Response to rising hunger threatens climate goals](#)

The effect of Russia's war on Ukraine on trade and a corresponding spike in global fuel prices worsened the world's food system which was already under strain. In the short term, the war increases the risk of extreme hunger for millions more people. The danger is particularly acute for low-income countries that depend on food imports. Over the longer term, experts are concerned that the response to these problems could lead to further use of fossil fuels and an expansion of unsustainable agricultural practices.

*Vox:* [The hydrogen energy dream](#)

Automakers, industries, and governments are betting on hydrogen again. Will it work this time?

*MIT News:* [Looking forward to forecast the risks of a changing climate](#)

To better inform local policy in the face of changing weather extremes, MIT researchers seek to advance the modeling of long-term weather risks.

*Biological Diversity:* [Independent Scientific Review Panel: EPA's Weakening of Groundwater Protections From Pesticides Is Not Justified](#)

In a peer-reviewed [report](#) released this week, an independent panel of scientists gave a scathing critique of recent changes made by the Environmental Protection Agency to weaken its estimates of pesticide pollution in U.S. groundwater.

*EPA:* [EPA Announces Plan to Protect Endangered Species and Support Sustainable Agriculture](#)

New comprehensive work plan will further species conservation while improving certainty for farmers, local public health agencies, and other pesticide users.

**Commented [1]:** I think it could stay in opinion/analysis since it has a good breakdown of the topic, background, etc.

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

*Environmental Law and Policy Action Network:* [Urge President Biden and Congress to prioritize clean and healthy buses for our children](#)

For the 25 million children who ride school buses in the U.S., returning to in-person learning means breathing in toxic diesel bus emissions on their way to school.

*The CSIU Weekly News Bulletin is now available on the web. To view this page online go to <https://csiub.org/weekly-news-bulletins>. To view archives of past bulletins, see <https://csiub.org/bulletin-archives>.*

*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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