

Concerned Scientists' Weekly News Bulletin [October 17, 2021]



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

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NEWS ITEMS AND ARTICLES

Reuters: [Countries call for urgent action on biodiversity with “Kunming Declaration”](#)

The Kunming Declaration calls for "urgent and integrated action" to reflect biodiversity considerations in all sectors of the global economy but crucial issues - like funding conservation in poorer countries and committing to biodiversity-friendly supply chains - have been left to discuss later. With plant and animal species loss now at the fastest rate in 10 million years, politicians, scientists, and experts have been trying to lay the groundwork for a new pact on saving biodiversity.

New York Times: [Key to Biden's climate agenda likely to be cut because of Manchin opposition](#)

Senator Joe Manchin III, the Democrat from coal-rich West Virginia whose vote is crucial to passage of the bill, has told the White House that he strongly opposes the clean electricity program, according to three of those people. As a result, White House staffers are now rewriting the legislation without that climate provision and are trying to cobble together a mix of other policies that could also cut emissions.

AIP: [Department of Energy imposes strict domestic manufacturing requirements on R&D funding recipients](#)

As part of its efforts to bolster domestic supply chains for critical technologies, the Department of Energy is implementing a policy that requires inventions resulting from DOE-funded R&D to be “substantially manufactured” in the U.S. unless it grants a waiver.

Environmental Protection: [EPA to strengthen new chemical safety reviews](#)

The EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, or OCSPP, announced several actions they plan to take to enhance scientific integrity and strengthen new chemical safety reviews. These actions include establishing two internal science policy

advisory councils, creating a new senior-level career position to serve as policy advisor to the Assistant Administrator, and making further improvements to policies and procedures.

EOS: [New report puts the Amazon rain forest on the main stage at COP26](#)

At COP26, the Science Panel for the Amazon (SPA) launches its first report. The SPA is a network of scientists, communities, institutions, practitioners, and leaders from different fields engaged in the debate around the forest's future. At the core of the group are more than 200 experts from across the region who, in a fashion similar to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), are in charge of summarizing the best knowledge available on the Amazon rain forest.

AgClips: [USDA launches first phase of soil carbon monitoring efforts](#)

The announcement is part of a broader, long-term soil carbon monitoring effort across agricultural lands that supports USDA's commitment to deliver climate solutions to agricultural producers and rural America through voluntary, incentive-based solutions.

REGIONAL NEWS

The Herald-Times: [New IU Health Bloomington Hospital will welcome patients on Dec. 5](#)

The New IU Health Bloomington Hospital, a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design project, will open on December 5th this winter. The new facility is larger than the previous location on 2nd street and features 364 patient rooms and an emergency department twice the size of the current one.

AP News: [Booster shots outpacing new COVID-19 vaccinations in Indiana](#)

The Indiana Health Department this week added booster shots given to its daily tracking of vaccine distribution. That tracking shows that over the past three weeks nearly 60% of the shots administered were booster shots to people who were previously fully vaccinated.

AP News: [Work starting on 13,000-acre solar farm in northern Indiana](#)

On Thursday, Gov. Eric Holcomb led the groundbreaking for a \$1.5 billion solar energy project in Starke and Pulaski counties. The project, dubbed Mammoth Solar, is led by Doral Renewables and is expected to produce 400 megawatts of electricity by the end of its first phase of construction in mid 2023.

Indiana Public Media: [Chicago water advocate appointed as Great Lakes regional EPA administrator](#)

Debra Shore is the new administrator to oversee Region 5 of the Environmental Protection Agency—which covers Indiana and other Great Lakes states. Shore serves on the board of an agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in the Greater Chicago area. In a statement, Shore said she's honored to implement the agency's new plans to address climate change, restore its commitment to environmental justice, and make decisions based on science.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

CounterPunch: [How to save the world \(from a Climate Armageddon\)](#)

To save human civilization, the U.S. and China must dramatically reduce their CO₂ emissions, while working together to persuade other major carbon-emitting nations, beginning with fast-rising India, to follow suit. That would, of course, mean setting aside their current antagonisms, however important they may seem to U.S. and Chinese leaders today, and instead making climate survival their number one priority and policy objective.

New York Times: [The unvaccinated may not be who you think they are](#)

The dominant image of the white, conspiracist anti-vaxxer dying to own the libs can lead us to ignore the problem of racialized health inequities with deep historic roots but also ongoing repercussions and prevent us from understanding that there are different kinds of vaccine hesitancy, which require different approaches.

Nature: [COVID scientists in the public eye need protection from threats](#)

Scientists and health officials should expect their research to be questioned and challenged and should welcome critical feedback that is given in good faith. But threats of violence and extreme online abuse do nothing to encourage debate—"and risk undermining science communication at a time when it has never mattered more.

Undark: [How our planet grew so warm \(review\)](#)

In Our Biggest Experiment, Alice Bell traces the evolution of climate change and unfettered energy consumption. "Sometimes fossil fuel companies and their defenders get painted as 'anti-science,'" Bell writes. "In truth they've run on science and always have done. They're just strategic about how they use it."

TAKE ACTION AND RESOURCES FOR ACTIVISTS

American Chemical Society: [Take action for Chemistry Advocacy Day](#)

October 17th- 23rd is National Chemistry Week. As part of the celebration, the American Chemical Society is encouraging chemists and chemistry enthusiasts to catalyze positive change by contacting their members of Congress via email or phone to encourage legislation and policies that fund scientific research, strengthen STEM education at all levels, mobilize sustainable chemistry practices, and more.

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 CSIU member Christoph Irmscher of IU's Department of English and by ASIU member and biology sophomore Rose Schnabel, an aspiring science writer. If you'd like to volunteer—or if you have additional links you'd like to share for future bulletins, send them to Christoph at cirmsche@indiana.edu.

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