

Concerned Scientists' Weekly News Bulletin

[November 1, 2021]



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

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NEWS ITEMS AND ARTICLES

New York Times: [The COP26 climate talks are opening. Here's what to expect.](#)

Some fundamental differences, including over money, divide the leaders heading to Glasgow. The outcome will determine, to a large extent, how humanity will survive on a hotter planet.

Mongabay: [Indigenous leaders to push for land tenure rights as climate solution at COP26](#)

Community land tenure is an often-overlooked way to mitigate climate change. Research demonstrating that granting Indigenous peoples and forest communities formal titles to their lands as a cost-effective approach to tacking climate change has been piling up for years.

The Hill: [With Subtropical Storm Wanda, meteorologists run out of names](#)

This marks the second time in two years and the third time in history that the National Weather Service will have to use a supplemental list of names if another storm forms. The first time the service exhausted its list of 21 names was in 2005.

C & En: [Scientists call for IPCC-like group on chemical pollution](#)

Saying industrial chemical pollution and its mitigation are serious global problems, scientists are calling for the formation of a group equivalent to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The scientists cite a lack of urgency among the public and politicians regarding chemical pollution, piecemeal chemical regulations around the world, and the current inability of policymakers to prevent pollution.

Slate: [Mexico's scientific community is facing unprecedented threats from the government](#)

CONACYT (the National Council of Science and Technology) has been cutting scholarships for students to get master's and Ph.D. degrees abroad, as well as

programs like CONACYT Catedras (designed to create jobs and opportunity for young scientists in Mexico) and the state trust funds intended to finance scientific research without political interference.

Alliance for Science: [African scientists call for policies to support synthetic biology and other innovative technologies](#)

Scientists in Africa are calling on the continent's leaders to enact policies and other laws that can facilitate adoption of newer technologies, including synthetic biology. "With synthetic biology, Africa has a big opportunity to solve some of its pressing challenges related to hunger, malnutrition and disease," said Benson Kinyagia, principal scientist at the national commission for science, technology, and innovation in Kenya.

REGIONAL NEWS

Indiana Environmental Reporter: [Rethinking Midwestern agriculture](#)

Indiana has a legacy as a corn and soybean state. But a new \$10 million grant from U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture may change that. Over the next 5 years, Indiana researchers will pursue the project "Diverse Corn Belt: Resilient Intensification through Diversity in Midwestern Agriculture."

WFYI Indianapolis: [Cook plant emits cancer-causing chemical but state, federal regulators didn't notify residents](#)

The Cook Group Inc. plant in Ellettsville releases ethylene oxide into the air: a chemical that the Environmental Protection Agency now knows can increase your risk for cancer long-term. Cook has made several voluntary upgrades since 2019 to drastically lower its emissions.

The Herald Times: [Monroe County readies for COVID-19 vaccination of children ages 5 to 11](#)

Monroe County Health Administrator Penny Caudill said the health department has begun plans to offer vaccinations to children ages 5 through 11 once they are authorized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. On Friday, the Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children in that age group.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

Reuters: [What would success look like at the climate summit?](#)

Making a final assessment of the progress achieved over the two weeks of the COP26 talks in Glasgow will be complex. Unlike past climate summits, the event won't deliver a new treaty or one big "win"; rather, it will attempt to produce a myriad of smaller victories, including the new climate pledges that countries, companies, and investors announce during the conference.

Physics World: [The COP26 climate summit: what scientists hope it will achieve](#)

While most climate scientists are not directly involved in high-level negotiations, their research provides the physical-science basis upon which climate projections and policies are made. Ahead of COP26, the article details the hopes of eight climate researchers for the event.

NPR: [How decades of disinformation about fossil fuels halted U.S. climate policy](#)

The same headwinds have stopped nearly every effort, including Biden's, to make systemic cuts to emissions: a powerful fossil fuel lobby that has spent vast sums of money to influence lawmakers while simultaneously sowing public doubt about the science of climate change. Sen. Manchin is the top recipient in Congress of donations from the oil and gas industry.

CBC: [COVID-19 offers lessons on the challenge of tackling climate change](#)

COVID-19 has upturned society, stolen millions of lives, and caused suffering for many more. It is not an exaggeration to say that everyone on the planet has been impacted by the pandemic. Climate change poses a challenge of equal or greater magnitude. As government leaders gather at COP 26 in Glasgow to tackle climate change, there are lessons they can learn from the successes and failures of our COVID-19 responses.

CBC: [How shaving half a degree off global warming targets could lessen the effects of climate change](#)

Scientists are concerned about tipping points or thresholds that lead to irreversible processes, such as the melting of the Greenland or East Antarctic ice sheets. There is much less of a likelihood that we will trigger any of these tipping points at 1.5 C of warming. The article explains why.

Nature: [Potentially long-lasting effects of the pandemic on scientists](#)

Two surveys of principal investigators conducted between April 2020 and January 2021 reveal that while the COVID-19 pandemic's initial impacts on scientists' research time seem alleviated, there has been a decline in the rate of initiating new projects, especially among female scientists and those with young children.

Nature: [Aspiring to greater intellectual humility in science](#)

The replication crisis in the social, behavioral, and life sciences has spurred a reform movement aimed at increasing the credibility of scientific studies. The article provides a set of recommendations on how to increase intellectual humility in research articles and highlight the central role peer reviewers can play in incentivizing authors to foreground the flaws and uncertainty in their work, thus enabling full and transparent evaluation of the validity of research.

TAKE ACTION AND RESOURCES FOR ACTIVISTS

Hoosier Environmental Council: [Bill watch](#)

In preparation for the 2022 Legislative Session, consult the resources from the Hoosier Environmental Council. Each session, the organization maintains an up-to-date Bill Watch with descriptions of the proposed legislation and ways to take action.

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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