

# Concerned Scientists' Weekly News Bulletin

## [November 8, 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: [Infrastructure bill makes first major U.S. investment in climate resilience](#)  
The \$47 billion in the \$1 trillion bill designated for climate resilience is intended to help communities prepare for the new age of extreme fires, floods, storms, and droughts that scientists say are worsened by human-caused climate change.*

*Axios: [Over 100 world leaders agree to cut global methane emissions by 30%](#)  
105 world leaders on Tuesday signed onto the Global Methane Pledge, a U.S. and EU joint initiative, to cut methane emissions by 30% by 2030 at the COP26 conference in Glasgow, Scotland. Though it's less abundant than longer-lived carbon dioxide, methane is dozens of times more powerful at trapping heat in the atmosphere.*

*AgClips: [Launching the Agriculture Innovation Mission \(AIM\) for climate](#)  
At COP26, the United States and United Arab Emirates officially launched the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate) alongside 31 countries and over 48 non-government partners. The United States intends to mobilize \$1 billion in investment in climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation over five years (2021-2025).*

*Chemistry World: [World's scientific advisers call for action on climate change](#)  
Senior science advisers and presidents of national science academies in more than 20 countries have signed a statement to world government leaders reiterating the existing scientific consensus and the need for immediate action to address climate change. The signatories call on world leaders to develop 'ambitious' long-term strategies based on sound scientific evidence that can keep the goal of the Paris agreement of limiting global warming to 1.5°C within reach.*

**IAEA: [Climate change's effects on Mountain Regions: Insights from FAO/IAEA Scientific Expeditions to the Andes](#)**

*Since the 1950s, almost all the world's glaciers have been retreating, a development unprecedented in at least the last 2,000 years. Since 2014, the International Atomic Energy Agency—in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)—has supported 50 scientists from 12 countries to use nuclear and isotopic techniques to survey mountain ranges of up to 6,000m altitude on six continents. Decision-makers now have access to timely, accurate information to help them develop tailored climate-change adaptation and mitigation strategies.*

**CBC.ca: [Climate impacts growing much faster than efforts to adapt to them, UN finds](#)**

*The costs for poorer countries to adapt to the consequences of climate change are around five to 10 times higher than current financial flows, and the gap is widening, according to a UN report calling for a dramatic scale-up in financial aid.*

**Washington Post: [The U.N. climate summit will take on “adaptation, loss, and damage”](#)**

*At the COP26 summit in Glasgow, representatives from hard-hit areas are demanding compensation for harms they can now directly link to wealthy countries' emissions. Among other measures, they want to establish designated pool of funds, paid for by wealthy countries, that vulnerable communities could draw on when disaster strikes.*

**EOS.org: [Five reasons geoscience should care about astronomy's new road map](#)**

*Astro2020 outlines three major science themes for the next decade: the interconnected evolution of planets and stars from birth to death, understanding the most energetic and hard-to-measure physical processes like dark energy and gravitational waves, and mapping the formation and evolution of the universe. These priority science goals inform and justify the report's program and telescope goals, all of which are supported by and enabled by goals for the workforce and state of the profession.*

**Audubon: [Bureau of Land management brings back policies that help birds and businesses](#)**

*The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has recently taken big strides towards conserving birds and the places they need on public lands by restoring mitigation policies that direct the agency to reduce and offset impacts to ecosystems. The BLM manages one in every 10 acres of land in the United States (245 million acres) and approximately 30 percent of the Nation's minerals.*

**The Hill: [Senators launch bipartisan Women in STEM Caucus](#)**

*Sens. Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) are launching a bipartisan caucus focused on creating more access and pathways for women and girls to participate in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers. The caucus will offer a platform for lawmakers and industry leaders to discuss solutions to address the lack of diversity in STEM, the senators said.*

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

**Indiana Environmental Reporter: [“We are running out of time”](#)**

*Geoscientists in charge of 22 science journals of the American Geophysical Union, including IPU's Gabriel Filippelli, urged world leaders at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties summit, known as COP26, to take immediate*

*collective action to lessen the impacts of climate change that threatens “humanity itself.”*

Indiana Environmental Reporter: [Major cement, concrete manufacturers make 2050 net zero pledge](#)

*Dozens of international companies, including two companies that operate in Indiana, and their subsidiaries, have signed on to net zero commitments from industry trade organizations to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.*

Indiana Department of Natural Resources: [Some state park properties to temporarily close for deer hunts](#)

*Select Indiana State Park properties will close temporarily for controlled deer management hunts in the coming weeks. Participating state park properties include Fort Harrison, Indiana Dunes, Tippecanoe River, Turkey Run, and Whitewater Memorial state park, among others.*

## **OPINION AND ANALYSIS**

Washington Post: [Countries’ climate pledges built on flawed data, Post investigation finds](#)

*An examination of 196 country reports reveals a giant gap between what nations declare their emissions to be versus the greenhouse gases they are sending into the atmosphere. The gap ranges from at least 8.5 billion to as high as 13.3 billion tons a year of underreported emissions—big enough to move the needle on how much the Earth will warm.*

Common Dreams: [COP26: Can a singing, dancing rebellion save the world?](#)

*The climate movement in the streets of Glasgow is informed by the recognition that the science is clear and the solutions to the climate crisis are readily available. It is only political will that is lacking. This must be supplied by ordinary people, from all walks of life, through creative, dramatic action and mass mobilization, to demand the political and economic transformation we need.*

Counterpunch: [Murder, rape, and torture: Fortress conservation on trial](#)

*On October 26, a Natural Resources subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives held a hearing titled, “Protecting Human Rights in International Conservation.” Biodiversity conservation does not need to look like the horror movie we witnessed at the House hearing. Moving forward, rights-based approaches rather than fortress conservation should shape global policy.*

Nature: [Scientists: Don’t feed the doubt machine](#)

*Scientists who gum up the doubt machine do so by constantly pointing to the broader context, by acknowledging genuine scientific debate, by being alert to researchers’ political and commercial connections, and by staying educated on how denialism works. If more scientists did the same, these distorting strategies would be stymied.*

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

Indiana Department of Environmental Management: [Governor's awards for environmental excellence](#)

*These awards are reserved for the most innovative, sustainable, and exemplary programs or projects that positively impact Indiana's environment and demonstrate measurable environmental, economic, and social benefits. Any Indiana citizen, business, nonprofit organization, school, university, or government agency may submit a nomination or be nominated for the award.*

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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 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](mailto:cirmsche@indiana.edu).*

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