

Concerned Scientists' Weekly News Bulletin [November 15, 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: [Negotiators strike a climate deal, but world remains far from limiting warming](#)

The new deal will not, on its own, solve global warming, despite the urgent demands of many of the thousands of politicians, environmentalists and protesters who gathered at the Glasgow climate summit. Its success or failure will hinge on whether world leaders now follow through with new policies to cut greenhouse gas emissions. And the deal still leaves vulnerable countries far short of the funds they need to cope with increasing weather disasters.

Inside Climate News: [In a new policy statement, the nation's physicists toughen their stance on climate change, stressing its reality and urgency](#)

The American Physical Society's new policy is a shift from its 2015 statement, which called the magnitude of future climate impacts "uncertain" and referred to "significant" natural sources of warming.

Cape Cod Times: [Arctic researchers want to state their case before international climate change policy makers](#)

A panel of Arctic researchers and policy analysts from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the Woodwell Climate Research Center made the case last week at the Glasgow conference for elevating the Arctic to the forefront of the climate discussion, asking for more research and greater incorporation of polar warming into climate change discussions and modeling.

AIP: [Astronomers elaborate on options to reduce impact of satellite mega-constellations](#)

New reports explore technical and policy actions to mitigate the impacts of light pollution from planned satellite mega-constellations, which threaten to severely interfere

with ground-based astronomical observations and cause other environmental and cultural harms.

API: [New infrastructure law to provide billions to energy technology projects](#)

The special infrastructure spending legislation just approved by Congress includes around \$25 billion for energy technology demonstration projects, as well as targeted budget increases for R&D programs at the Department of Energy and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Chemical and Engineering News: [Biden picks Robert Califf for US FDA chief](#)

President Biden has nominated Robert Califf, a Duke University cardiologist and former US Food and Drug Administration commissioner, to lead the FDA again. The agency has been without a permanent leader since January.

REGIONAL NEWS

Indiana Environmental Reporter: [EPA introduces strategy for addressing lead exposure, asks for input](#)

Critics of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's plan welcome the chance to provide input on its measures for reducing lead exposure. They argue that more detail is needed to address cleanup and prevention in places like East Chicago, Hammond, and Indianapolis.

WFYI Indianapolis: [Infrastructure bill includes \\$47B to combat flooding, heat. What does it mean for Indiana?](#)

A federal infrastructure bill will put billions of dollars toward making US communities more resilient to natural disasters, upgrading the energy grid, and providing access to cleaner drinking water. The funding could bring significant changes to Indiana's water and energy projects.

IDS News: [Panel discusses climate change, environmental justice Tuesday](#)

The IU Student Involvement and Leadership Center hosted a panel on Tuesday in which community members discussed issues of environmental policy and education. Panelists included City of Bloomington Senior Environmental Planner Linda Thompson, IU Senior Amanda Christophe, and IU Ph.D. student Trevor Memmott.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

Spiegel International: [The world is failing to rid itself of coal](#)

Coal is the most CO₂-intensive of all fossil fuels, a relic from the early industrial era, a dark past. That's also the view of environmentalists at COP26. They argue that the world needs to eliminate its reliance on coal as quickly as possible. But actions speak louder than words, and rather than moving away from coal, use of the fossil fuel continues to grow.

Guardian: [Failing to plan for climate refugees hands a cheap victory to the far right](#)

Most political efforts are geared towards building a positive picture of a sustainable future; the alternative is despair or denial, neither of which are generative forces for change. A coherent, practical plan detailing the probable scale of displacement and

figuring out a just distribution of the climate diaspora will look radical and unsettling but is absolutely necessary.

Ag Clips: [Can forests handle all the net-zero emissions plans?](#)

Research indicates that net-zero strategies that rely on temporary removals to balance permanent emissions will fail. The temporary storage of nature-based removals, limited land availability, and the time they take to scale up mean that, while they are a critical part of stabilizing the earth system, they cannot compensate for continued fossil fuel emissions. To actually reach net-zero will require reducing emissions close to zero.

Nature: [Caltech confronted its racist past. Here's what happened](#)

With a push from students and alumni, the university faced up to a legacy of support for eugenics and, after a months-long process that sometimes pitted students against administrators, decided in January to remove the name of Nobel-prize-winning physicist Robert Millikan and the names of several others from prominence on campus.

TAKE ACTION AND RESOURCES FOR ACTIVISTS

Hoosier Environmental Council: [Indiana Solar 101](#)

On November 18th from 7-8:30pm, the Hoosier Environmental Council will host a virtual workshop on solar energy and its implementation in Indiana homes and small businesses. The presentation is live, and questions are welcome.

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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