

# Concerned Scientists' Weekly News Bulletin [December 12, 2021]



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

*[Click here](#) to view this weekly news bulletin on a web page. Previous weeks' bulletins are archived [here](#).*

## **NEWS ITEMS AND ARTICLES**

**BBC:** [Thwaites Glacier in Antarctica heading for a dramatic change](#)

Scientists are warning of dramatic changes at one of the biggest glaciers in Antarctica, potentially within the next five to 10 years. They say a floating section at the front of Thwaites Glacier that until now has been relatively stable could "shatter like a car windscreen."

**CNN:** [FEMA chief says powerful storms "new normal" in era of climate change](#)

While scientific research on the role that climate change is playing in the formation and intensity of tornadoes is not as robust as for other types of extreme weather like droughts, floods and even hurricanes, the correlation between El Niño/La Niña and tornadoes is strong.

**AIP:** [FY22 Budget Outlook: STEM Education](#)

STEM education programs across federal agencies would see budget increases under the House's and Senate's spending proposals for fiscal year 2022, portions of which would support diversity and inclusion initiatives proposed by the Biden administration.

**News Medical:** [Researchers use gene-editing to create single sex mice litters](#)

Scientists at the Francis Crick Institute, in collaboration with University of Kent, have used gene editing technology to create female-only and male-only mice litters with 100% efficiency. This proof of principle study, published in *Nature Communication*, demonstrates how the technology could be used to improve animal welfare in scientific research and perhaps also agriculture.

**ScienceNews:** [For 50 years, CT scans have saved lives, revealed beauty and more](#)

Half a century ago, the first CT image of a patient lifted the veil of invisibility that cloaks the interior of the human body, providing scientists a window on our innards unlike any before. Today, doctors in the United States alone order more than 80 million scans per year. X-ray computed tomography, or CT, is frequently the quickest way of getting a handle on what's causing a mysterious woe.

*NBC News:* [“Amazon forests of the underground”: Why scientists want to map the world's fungi](#)

A team of scientists is launching a first-of-its-kind effort to map the world's mycorrhizal fungi, a process they hope can identify fungal biodiversity for conservation, grow understanding of how these species interact within ecosystems and keep more carbon in soil. “These fungal networks have been a global blind spot in conservation and climate agendas,” according to evolutionary biologist Toby Kiers.

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

*Indiana Environmental Reporter:* [Conservation group urges action, produces strategy to preserve Indianapolis' urban forests](#)

The Indiana Forest Alliance is made up of representatives from dozens of Hoosier organizations and companies. In September of 2021, they released a 65-page Urban Forest Protection Strategy that assessed 4000+ urban forests for potential community benefits, conservation strategies and funding mechanisms.

*IndyStar:* [Indiana to get \\$127 million to help clean up lead and other water projects across state](#)

The recent Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allocates \$50 billion to the EPA for wastewater and drinking water improvements. It is still unclear how Indiana's share of the funds will be allocated.

*Inside Indiana Business:* [Holcomb Names IDEM Commissioner](#)

Brian Rockensuess is the new commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Rockensuess has been acting commissioner since former commissioner Bruno Pigott's departure; his official tenure began December 13.

## **OPINION AND ANALYSIS**

*Nature:* [The UN must get on with appointing its new science board](#)

UN secretary-general António Guterres is planning to appoint a board of scientific advisers, reporting to his office. The decision was announced in September, but few other details have been released.

*International Institute for Sustainable Development:* [Why we need a science policy panel on chemicals, waste, and pollution](#)

Pollution is the largest environmental risk factor for premature death on the planet, responsible for 9 million deaths each year. At the United Nations Environment Assembly in February/March 2022, governments are expected to decide whether to establish an intergovernmental panel for chemicals, waste, and pollution.

*Inside Higher Ed:* [Grad students in science need real-world policy training](#)

In the pure sciences, incorporating capstone projects could be separate from, but in addition to, the traditional research-based dissertation students present to complete their advanced degrees. Such a setup would afford those graduate students the ability to obtain firsthand policy experience by working on projects for local government clients while also remaining engaged in scientific research.

*Counterpunch:* [Recycling science denial](#)

IU's Christoph Irmscher on how science deniers mimic the language of supposedly disinterested scientific inquiry, as if they really meant it--as if all they, too, were doing is long for perfect consensus.

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

*AIDS United:* [Policy & Advocacy](#)

Explore regional and national advocacy activities related to HIV prevention, care, and treatment. The policy action center is a hub of current legislation related to HIV/AIDS.

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

*To join our listserv, send an email to [csi-u-l-subscribe@list.indiana.edu](mailto:csi-u-l-subscribe@list.indiana.edu). To unsubscribe from this list, send an email to [csi-u-l-unsubscribe@indiana.edu](mailto:csi-u-l-unsubscribe@indiana.edu). You can leave the subject line and message blank.*