



What's New?

- The European Commission and the European Investment Bank announced on 28 April [EUR 18 billion of financing to boost investments in climate action and sustainable economies](#) under the **Global Gateway**, Europe's investment strategy for partner countries,.
- [U.S. President Joe Biden announced](#) on 20 April several actions to catalyse global climate action, through the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate, including a **pledge of USD 1 billion to the UN Green Climate Fund** and working through the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership to end deforestation of the Amazon and other critical forests.
- **G7** Climate, Energy and Environment ministers gathered in Japan on 16 April [reaffirmed](#) their **climate and environment commitments**, including to reach GHG net zero by 2050 at the latest, with global emissions peaking by 2025 at the latest, to decarbonise industrial production and to achieve a fully or predominantly decarbonised power sector by 2035, to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030, to conserve at least 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 30% of marine and coastal areas by 2030 and to end plastic pollution by 2040.
- The Asian Development Bank announced on 2 May the launch of the [Innovative Finance Facility for Climate in Asia and the Pacific](#), a landmark funding mechanism that will free up billions in capital for climate projects. Advanced economies will provide USD3 billion in guarantees, enabling the ADB to extend loans worth five times that amount. These will be used for decarbonisation projects to cut greenhouse gas emissions and promote growth.
- Sultan al-Jaber, president-designate of the forthcoming 28th U.N. climate summit, wants to ["supercharge" climate financing](#) to **reach the USD 100 billion needed in adaptation funding** for low-income countries.
- The **United Arab Emirates**, which is hosting this year's UN climate summit, has the **third biggest net zero busting plans for oil and gas expansion** in the world, only surpassed by Saudi Arabia and Qatar, as revealed by [The Guardian](#).
- [India, backed by China, is trying to build a consensus](#) within the G20 group to let countries choose a roadmap to **cut carbon emissions instead of setting a deadline to end the use of fossil fuels**.
- Local governments in **China approved more new coal power** in the first three months of 2022 than in the whole of 2021, according to official documents. The approvals, [analysed](#) by Greenpeace, reveal that between January and March this year, at least 20.45 gigawatts of coal power was approved, up from 8.
- The European Commission [announced](#) that 100 EU cities have been selected to be part of the **EU Mission for 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030**, also known as the Cities Mission. They include capitals like Paris, Madrid, Amsterdam, Rome and Brussels.

EU Policy Developments

NEW

- The Council and the European Parliament reached a provisional political agreement on 25 April on a proposal aiming to decarbonise the aviation sector and create a level playing field for a sustainable air transport – the [ReFuelEU aviation initiative](#). The proposal aims to increase both demand for and supply of sustainable aviation fuels, in line with EU's climate targets for 2030 and 2050, and as a part of the '[Fit for 55' package](#) presented by the European Commission on 14 July 2021.
- The Council adopted [five other pieces of legislation part of the 'Fit for 55' package laws](#): the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) and a specific ETS for aviation as well as maritime transport, and the Social Climate Fund.
- The Council also approved on 25 April [Conclusions on the opportunities of the bioeconomy in the light of current challenges with special emphasis on rural areas](#). The Council emphasised in particular the importance of the bioeconomy for helping regenerate rural and coastal areas by encouraging innovation and promoting job creation, while noting the need to recognise and make use of regional and local specificities, as well as engaging younger generations by promoting bioeconomy-related skills and training in rural communities. The Council also noted the potential of agri-food waste for producing alternative bio-based resources, as well as the use of non-conventional water sources for irrigation. They emphasised the importance of the forest-based sector for the bioeconomy and highlighted the role of sustainable forest management.

COMING SOON

- [Microplastics pollution – measures to reduce its impact on the environment](#)
- [CountEmissions EU](#) – EU framework for harmonised measurement of transport and logistics emissions
- [Legislative framework for sustainable food systems](#) (FSFS) – one of the flagship initiatives of the Farm to Fork Strategy. The sustainability labelling framework will be part of the FSFS; also including Soil Health Law; Regulation on plants produced by new genomic techniques; Revision of food waste and textiles aspects of the EU waste framework Directive; Revision of legislation on seeds and other plant and forest reproductive material.

New Reports and publications

- The World Bank published on 25 April a [report](#) on “**Making the European Green Deal Work for People: Role of Human Development in Green Transition**”, analysing the challenges of the green transition for the EU and highlighting the essential role that human development policies will play in making it attainable and sustainable, and their potential to drive changes in the society towards more environmentally conscious actions.
- The **likelihood of El Niño developing later this year is increasing**, according to a [new update from the World Meteorological Organization](#). EL Niño is often associated with increased heat, drought or rainfall in different parts of the world and its effect on global temperatures usually plays out in the year after its development, i.e. 2024. The hottest year in recorded history, 2016, was driven by a major El Niño.

- An [article](#) published in *Nature Communications* on 27 April (explained in a more accessible way to non-scientists in [The Guardian](#)) shows that due to the warming of oceans, **life in the ocean's twilight zone is expected to face dramatic declines by 2100**, as a smaller fraction of organic matter reaches the ocean interior, affecting food supply and dissolved oxygen availability at depth. This zone, located between 200 metres and 1,000 metres below the surface, is home to a variety of organisms and animals, which feed on billions of tonnes of organic matter, such as dead phytoplankton and fish poo.
- In its report "Making Mincemeat of the Pantanal", [Greenpeace reveals](#) that European retailers are selling **beef and leather linked to the record destruction of one of the world's largest wetlands, in Brazil's Pantanal region**. The investigation identified 15 cattle ranchers linked to the 2020 fires in this region. Greenpeace Brazil also [commented](#) that the expansion of grazing land is continuously progressing and remains the main cause of deforestation in the Amazon. Brazilian beef industry continues to expand and has been recently praised by the Agriculture Minister after the successful conclusion of export negotiations with Mexico – in contradiction with the government's goal of zero deforestation and its commitments under the UN climate and biodiversity agreements.
- A [study](#) published in *eLife* on 25 April shows that the **use of antibiotics in farming endangers the human immune system**: the antimicrobial colistin, which was used for decades as a growth promoter on pig and chicken farms in China, resulted in the emergence of *E coli* strains that are more likely to evade our immune system's first line of defence. Although China has since banned the use of colistin, scientists warn that the risk of making bacteria resistant to one of the pillars of our immune system has not yet been extensively considered.

Calendar



Upcoming

- **1-12 May:** [Conferences of the Parties on hazardous waste, hazardous chemicals and persistent organic pollutants](#): 16th meeting of the COP to the Basel Convention (BC COP-16), 11th meeting of the COP to the Rotterdam Convention (RC COP-11) and 11th meeting of the COP to the Stockholm Convention (SC COP-11), in Geneva
- **13 May:** [World Migratory Bird Day](#) (1st UN Migratory Bird day, the 2nd one being on 14 October) – the focus this year being water and its importance for migratory birds.
- **18-19 May:** [High-Level Meeting of the UNGA on the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), in New-York
- **20 May:** [World Bee Day](#)
- **22 May:** [International day for Biological Diversity](#)
- **23 May:** [MEP Water Group – UNESCO: Partnerships and Cooperation for Water](#)
- **29 May-2 June:** [Second session of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment](#), in Paris
- **3-11 June:** [EU Green Week 2023](#), on the theme "Delivering a net-zero world"
- **5 June:** [World Environment Day](#)
- **8 June:** [World Oceans Day](#)
- **18 June:** [Sustainable Gastronomy Day](#)
- **24-26 July:** UN Food System "[2023 Stocktaking Moment](#)"
- **9 August:** [International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#)
- **7 September:** [International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies](#)
- **29 September:** [International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste](#)
- **13 October:** [International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)
- **14 October:** [World Migratory Bird Day](#) (2nd UN day)
- **16 October:** [World Food Day](#)
- **16-20 October:** [2023 Nutrition for Resilience Global Conference](#) "Ensuring Micronutrient Security in an Era of Complex Global Challenges", to be held in a hybrid format in The Hague, Netherlands and online

- **30 November - 12 December:** [COP28 UAE | United Nations Climate Change Conference \(UNFCCC\)](#)



Past

- **7 April:** [World Health Day](#)
- **22 April:** [International Mother Earth Day](#)
- **1-2 March:** [One forest Summit](#) in Libreville, Gabon
- **3 March:** [World Wildlife Day](#)
- **15 March:** [3rd Global Soil Biodiversity Conference](#) in Dublin
- **21 March:** [International Day of Forests](#)
- **22 March:** [World Water Day](#)
- **22-24 March:** [UN Water Conference](#) in New-York
- **27-31 March:** Climate and Environment Week organised by DG INTPA and NEAR (presentations are available [here](#))
- **30 March:** [International Day of Zero Waste](#)

Training and e-learning

Training, webinars, e-learning

- 🌱 'European Green Deal - Greening EU cooperation' webinar series N° 7 proposes 5 new sessions on:

- [Non-Timber Forest Products and their Value Chains](#): 31/5
- [Tracking climate and biodiversity funding – how to use Rio markers](#): 7/6
- [Accelerating the Circular Economy Transition](#): 20/6
- [Water & Energy Nexus](#): 28/6
- [Introduction to Carbon Markets](#): 30/6 and special sessions in [French](#) and [Spanish](#) on 29/6

More information can be found on Capacity4Dev group on Environment, Climate Change and Green Economy: [EU Trainings and Webinars | Capacity4dev \(europa.eu\)](#)

- 🌱 Check out the interesting [movie on WASH](#) (water, sanitation and hygiene)
- 🌱 DG Environment organised a series of [trainings on Environmental Footprint](#), the presentations and recordings of which are still available, e.g. on [marine fish footprint](#), [Product Environmental Footprint for newbies](#), the [Circular Footprint Formula](#) or [EF-compliant data sets](#).

Still available if you've missed them:







- 🌱 'European Green Deal - Greening EU cooperation' webinar series N°6:
 - [Webinar N°1: Water and Climate Change Adaptation](#)
 - [Webinar N°2: Forest-based value chains and wood](#)
 - [Webinar N°3: Nationally Determined Contributions & their Monitoring, reporting and verification \(MRV\) system – from the Paris Agreement on Climate](#)
 - [Webinaire N°4 : Contributions Déterminées Nationales & leur système de mesure, rapportage et vérification \(MRV\), issues de l'Accord de Paris sur le Climat Webinar N°5: Transboundary water management](#)
 - [Webinar N°6: Valuing ecosystem services and the use of nature-based solutions - Embedding Biodiversity in the EU's external cooperation](#)
- 🌱 [Greening EU Cooperation](#) – the other 5 series of webinars
- 🌱 The [E-course on Circular Economy](#) (5 modules)

Tools available

- The [National Centers for Environmental Information](#) propose useful data and resources, incl. global climate state reports, mean monthly temperature records and monthly temperature anomalies versus El Niño, as well as maps.
- [UN INFO](#) presents in one portal all information and data on UN programming, implementation and reporting overall and per country.
- The [NASA Harvest Portal](#) develops tools that make satellite data accessible and useful for farmers and policymakers and offers a Data Catalogue which provides searchable access to datasets and services.

Green tip #17 – Know your environment footprint!

If you want to walk the talk and improve your environment footprint, you first want to know what to change. The following sites and applications will help you to do so, it can even be fun to do it with your family!

- **Calculate your footprint** via:
 -  the JRC [Consumer Footprint Calculator](#), which will also help you evaluate how changes in your lifestyle may affect your personal footprint
 -  the user-friendly “[My footprint](#)” questionnaire developed by WWF . You can then download the free [WWF’s My Footprint App](#) to calculate your footprint, then choose and track your challenges!
- To **improve your food footprint**, you can:
 -  Discover the “[Protein Scorecard](#)” of what you eat (GHG emissions and real cost), developed by the World Resources Institute.
 -  Check out which fish to buy to avoid overfishing, on the [Good Fish Guide](#) published by the Marine Conservation Society.
 -  Discover plant-based tips and recipes in the [EU Staff for Climate Cookbook](#), on the [Meat-free Monday website](#), or on the Belgian [EVA website](#) should you prefer French or Dutch. You can even participate in the [Veggie Challenge](#)!
 -  Check out the UN [Sustainable Gastronomy Day](#) website, to find more information as well as cookbooks dedicated to pulses or quinoa recipes!
- And to **green your mobility**, you can take part in [VeloMai 2023](#)!

Disclaimer: the European Commission is committed to personal data protection. Any personal data is processed in line with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. All personal information processed by the Directorate-General for International Partnerships is treated accordingly.