

Environment News Futures

How New York is Battling Climate Change with One Skyscraper at a Time

AP—Posted by Animesh Chaturvedi

May 15, 2023 10:47 AM IST

The goal is to stop that climate-warming gas from entering the atmosphere. And there's a dire need to reduce emissions from skyscrapers in a vertical city.

From the outside, the residential high-rise on Manhattan's Upper West Side looks pretty much like any other luxury building: A doorman greets visitors in a spacious lobby adorned with tapestry and marble.

Yet just below in the basement is an unusual set of equipment that no other building in New York City — indeed few in the world — can claim. In an effort to drastically reduce the 30-story building's emissions, the owners have installed a maze of twisting pipes and tanks that collect carbon dioxide from the massive, gas-fired boilers in the basement before it goes to the chimney and is released into the air. The goal is to stop that climate-warming gas from entering the atmosphere. And there's a dire need for reducing emissions from skyscrapers like these in such a vertical city. Buildings are by far the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions here, roughly two-thirds, according to the city buildings department.

Intensified and Prolonged Cyclones Result of Climate Change: Scientists

May 12, 2023 09:07 PM IST

Cyclone Mocha is predicted to make a disastrous landfall in Bangladesh and western Myanmar with wind speeds reaching up to 175 kmph.

According to a study titled 'Changing status of tropical cyclones over the North Indian Ocean', the Arabian Sea saw a significant increase in the intensity, frequency, and duration of cyclonic storms and very severe cyclonic storms during the period of 1982 to 2019.

The study found a 52-per cent increase in the frequency of cyclonic storms in the Arabian Sea during the recent epoch (2001–2019) while there was an 8 per cent decrease in the Bay of Bengal.

"Cyclones nowadays can retain their energy for quite a long number of days. One example of this trend was Cyclone Amphan, which continued to travel over land as a strong cyclone and

resulted in massive devastation. As long as oceans are warm and winds are favourable, cyclones will retain their intensity for a longer period,” said Roxy Mathew Koll, a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and a lead author of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports.

World Not Ready Yet to ‘Switch Off’ Fossil Fuels, COP28 Host UAE Says

Reuters—Posted by Yagya Sharma

May 10, 2023 02:35 PM IST

This month, G7 countries agreed to hasten their phaseout of fossil fuel consumption, although they did not set a firm date.

The United Arab Emirates said on Tuesday that countries should agree to phase out fuel emissions - not the production of oil, gas and coal - at the upcoming U.N. climate change negotiations that it will host this December.

The UAE has a goal to get 50% of its electricity from renewables by 2050 from the current level of 25%, and could strengthen that goal.

Climate Activists Pour Charcoal in Rome’s Famous Fountain, Say ‘Future as Black’

By Singh Rahul Sunilkumar

May 07, 2023 05:39 PM IST

A group of climate activists in Italy protested against fossil fuel consumption by pouring black liquid into the water of Rome’s famous fountain.

In a show of protest against climate change, a group of Italian climate activists threw “vegetable-based charcoal black liquid” into Rome’s famed Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi on Saturday.

Australian Bushfires May Have Helped Trigger La Nina

Bushfire smoke is laden with particles that act as “condensation nuclei”, which attract water molecules in the atmosphere, seeding the formation of clouds.

May 11, 2023 02:59 pm—Updated 02:59 pm IST

AFP

El Niño is Coming, and Ocean Temperatures are Already at Record Highs

El Niño is one side of the climatic coin called the El Niño-Southern Oscillation, or ENSO. It's the heads to La Niña's tails.

May 08, 2023 05:32 pm—Updated May 09, 2023 05:32 pm IST

A Curious Case of Human-elephant Cohabitation in Munnar

Padayappa, a docile wild tusker, feeds on edible vegetable waste kept by Munnar panchayat for it at the waste management plant.

May 05, 2023 08:02 pm—Updated 10:52 pm IST - IDUKKI

Sandeep Vellaram

Tusker Padyappa eating vegetables in front of a waste management plant at Kallar, near Munnar.
Photo: Special Arrangement

Amid instances of human-elephant conflict in the forest fringes, Padayappa, a docile wild tusker in Munnar, represents a case of peaceful coexistence.

Atmospheric Rivers Caused 70% of India's Floods Between 1985 and 2020: Study

May 05, 2023 04:19 pm—Updated 04:19 pm IST

PTI

India experienced 596 major AR events from 1951 - 2020, a new study found. | Photo Credit: AP

The devastating floods that occurred in the country between 1985 and 2020 during the summer monsoon season were directly associated with atmospheric rivers, a phenomenon of a stream of water vapour moving in the sky like a river flowing on the land, says a new study.

It says severe weather events like the 2013 Uttarakhand floods and the 2018 floods in Kerala that claimed several lives were all due to severe atmospheric rivers (ARs).

The study, jointly conducted by climate scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Gandhinagar, the National Institute of Technology, Srinagar, and the University of Washington, says a warming climate is increasing the moisture-holding capacity of atmospheric rivers, which leads to concerns about more devastating floods in the future.

Cyclone Mocha highlights Rohingya crisis and Myanmar's military campaign

People are concerned about Myanmar government's actions that may imperil rescue operations after the storm.