

Environment News Futures

WHO and UNICEF Launch Free Online Course to Address Children's Environmental Health

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Recognizing the urgent need to empower all healthcare providers to safeguard children's health amidst the challenges of environmental pollution and climate change, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have collaborated to create a new free online course.

In an era where pollution and climate change are increasingly jeopardizing children's health, development and their future, this course aims to equip healthcare providers with essential knowledge and resources to recognize and mitigate these risks effectively.

"Over a quarter of all disease burden among children under 5 years of age are attributed to adverse environmental conditions," said Dr Maria Neira, Director, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health. "The need to act is clear: we must prioritize children's environmental health to ensure a healthier future for generations to come."

Green Humour by Rohan Chakravarty on the Intoxicating Effect of the Mahua

Rohan Chakravarty is a cartoonist and illustrator from Nagpur. His series, 'Green Humour', consists of cartoons and comics on wildlife, nature conservation, environmental issues, sustainability and all things green.

Greta Thunberg, other Climate Activists Block Entrance to Swedish Parliament

March 12, 2024 07:09 am | Updated 07:09 am IST - STOCKHOLM

A group of climate activists including Greta Thunberg have blocked the entrance to the Swedish Parliament, advocating for sweeping reforms to tackle climate disasters

Last Month was Hottest February Ever Recorded. It's the Ninth-Straight Broken Record

Scientists calculate that for the ninth straight month Earth has obliterated global heat records.

March 08, 2024 11:51 am | Updated 12:01 pm IST

For the ninth straight month, Earth has obliterated global heat records — with February, the winter as a whole and the world's oceans setting new high-temperature marks, according to the European Union climate agency Copernicus.

The latest record-breaking in this climate change-fueled global hot streak includes sea surface temperatures that weren't just the hottest for February, but eclipsed any month on record, soaring past August 2023's mark and still rising at the end of the month. And February, as well the previous two winter months, soared well past the internationally set threshold for long-term warming, Copernicus reported Wednesday.

The last month that didn't set a record for hottest month was in May 2023 and that was a close third to 2020 and 2016. Copernicus records have fallen regularly from June on.

Why Firms are Racing to Produce Green Ammonia

27 February 2024

By Chris Baraniuk, Technology of Business reporter

In the 19th Century, Europeans realised what the Inca had known long before. Bird droppings, or guano, made a fantastic fertiliser.

And so sprang up a gigantic industry dedicated to the harvesting of guano from Latin American bird colonies, where there were huge piles of the stuff. It was so rich in ammonia, the key ingredient, that a mere whiff could induce coughing and sneezing. Not exactly a pleasant cargo to ferry across the world. As demand for fertiliser rose in the early 1900s, someone began to think, "Perhaps there's another way?" That someone was Fritz Haber, a German chemist who, along with Carl Bosch, developed the Haber-Bosch process for synthesising ammonia.

We have relied on that technology for more than 100 years. Without it, the world's population might be just half of what it is today - so vital is ammonia fertiliser for growing food.

Man Charged with Smuggling Greenhouse Gases from Mexico into US in First-of-a-kind Prosecution

By Laura Paddison, CNN Published 9:02 AM EST, Tue March 5, 2024

A California man was arrested and charged Monday with allegedly smuggling potent, planet-heating greenhouse gases from Mexico, marking the first such prosecution in the US, according to a statement from the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California.

Michael Hart, a 58-year-old man from San Diego, pleaded not guilty to smuggling hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs — commonly used in air conditioning and refrigeration — and selling them for profit, in a federal court hearing Monday.

According to the indictment, Hart allegedly purchased the HFCs in Mexico and smuggled them into the US in the back of his truck, concealed under a tarp and tools. He is then alleged to have sold them for a profit on sites including Facebook Marketplace and OfferUp.

Talking on the Moon: The Quest to Establish Lunar Wi-fi

4 days ago

By Sue Nelson, Features correspondent

The Apollo astronauts' links to Earth were primitive compared to those we enjoy today. The next generation of moonwalkers may have a far more high-resolution way of keeping in touch – both with each other, and with us back on Earth.

On 20 July 1969 an estimated 600 million people watched a live broadcast that was both out of focus and of extremely poor quality.

The historic nature of the first human walking on the Moon – part of Nasa's Apollo 11 mission – naturally overshadowed the technicalities. But today's global audiences take high-definition live streaming for granted and, for the next generation of lunar astronauts, expectations will be much higher.

"No one is going to accept the Apollo video quality," says Matt Cosby, chief technology officer at the UK's Goonhilly Earth Station, which communicates with satellites and spacecraft.

Goonhilly broadcast the Moon landing's television signal around the world and recently received the first signal from Intuitive Machines' Odysseus craft, confirming the US's first soft-landing on lunar soil in more than 50 years.

World's Oldest Known Lipstick Traced Back 5,000 Years

23 hours ago

By Robert Plummer, BBC News

The world's oldest known lipstick was worn up to 5,000 years ago in what is now southern Iran, says a new study.

The deep red lip-paint, contained in a stone vial, was found at an ancient graveyard site in 2001, but it took researchers until now to identify it. Unlike modern lipsticks, it was probably applied with a brush, say the international team of scientists.

The discovery sheds new light on “public images of female allure” in the fast-changing Bronze Age, they add.

Scientists Further Explore Habitability of Mars

23 hours ago

Space scientists at the University of Aberdeen are building technology which could produce liquid water on Mars for the very first time.

The device, known as HABIT, will measure key conditions on the Red Planet during a Japanese-led mission which is expected to start in 2028. It is part of ongoing efforts to explore the habitability of Mars.

Palm Oil is Common, but its Production is Incredibly Damaging. Is There a Simple Solution?

You almost certainly consume the most popular type of vegetable oil in the world – palm oil. It’s in a whole range of foods, from bread to chocolate, and in cosmetics like shampoo and lipstick. But palm oil production is polluting the air, hurting people and threatening wildlife.

Located in low-lying, wet, tropical lands (SE Asia), oil palm farms are often built at the expense of rainforests, which are home to critical biodiversity. As a result, they are making animals like the Bornean Orangutan “critically endangered”.

So what’s the solution? Should we all just stop using palm oil? The answer isn’t quite so simple.