

Environment News Futures

Recipe for a Livable Planet: Achieving Net Zero Emissions in the Agrifood System

06/05/2024 — The World Bank

The global agrifood system has been largely overlooked in the fight against climate change. Yet, greenhouse gas emissions from the agrifood system are so big that they alone could cause the world to miss the goal of keeping global average temperatures from rising above 1.5 centigrade compared to preindustrial levels. Greenhouse gas emissions from agrifood must be cut to net zero by 2050 to achieve this goal. Recipe for a Livable Planet: Achieving Net Zero Emissions in the Agrifood System offers the first comprehensive global strategic framework to mitigate the agrifood system's contributions to climate change, detailing affordable and readily available measures that can cut nearly a third of the world's planet heating emissions while ensuring global food security. These actions, which are urgently needed, offer three additional benefits: improving food supply reliability, strengthening the global food system's resilience to climate change, and safeguarding vulnerable populations. This practical guide outlines global actions and specific steps that countries at all income levels can take starting now, focusing on six key areas: investments, incentives, information, innovation, institutions, and inclusion. Calling for collaboration among governments, businesses, citizens, and international organizations, it maps a pathway to making agrifood a significant contributor to addressing climate change and healing the planet.

Global Electricity Review 2024

08/05/2024 — Ember

Renewables generated a record 30 percent of global electricity in 2023, driven by growth in solar and wind especially from China, according to the Global Electricity Review 2024 released by the global energy think tank Ember. The report suggests that 2023 marks a significant turning point in the power sector, as it is likely the year when peak emissions were reached, signaling the beginning of a decline in fossil fuel generation on a global scale. According to the report, solar power emerged as the leading supplier of electricity growth, adding more than twice as much new electricity generation as coal in 2023. The projected growth of clean electricity gives confidence that a new era of declining power emissions is on the horizon, with an anticipated 2 percent decrease in global fossil fuel generation in 2024.

Global Report on Food Crises 2024

24/04/2024 — Food Security Information Network

Food insecurity worsened around the world in 2023, with about 282 million people suffering from acute hunger due to conflicts, particularly in Gaza and Sudan, according to this report by the United Nations agencies and development groups.

According to the latest Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC), nearly 282 million people in 59 countries and territories experienced high levels of acute hunger in 2023 - a worldwide increase of 24 million from the previous year. This rise was due to the report's increased coverage of food crisis contexts as well as a sharp deterioration in food security, especially in the Gaza Strip and the Sudan (*see* Snapshot 1).

Climate in Crisis

Can U.S. and Other Countries Reach a Deal on Curbing Plastic Pollution?

Japanese Manicurist Turns Sea Trash into Nail Art

Manami Yamada / Reuters

An estimated 22 million tons of plastic waste is dumped into the environment each year, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Japanese manicurist Naomi Arimoto applies a decorative nail tip using plastic waste she collected from the beach at her nail salon in Chigasaki, Japan, on Oct. 21.

Toxic Smog Covers Indian Capital as Pollution Hits Record Levels

Swiss group IQAir ranked New Delhi as the world's most polluted city, with air quality at a "hazardous" 489, although that was a significant improvement from Monday's 1,081 reading.

Alarmed Residents and Activists Demand Action Over Lead in the Water in Syracuse

Water samples recently revealed concerning lead levels in some parts of the city. Officials say the numbers were due to improper testing, but residents aren't convinced.

COP29 Host Azerbaijan Hits Out at West in Defense of Oil and Gas

President Ilham Aliyev said countries like his shouldn't be blamed for having fossil fuels, especially by wealthy Western nations that continue to rely on them.

Supreme Court

Supreme Court allows Biden to implement plan to curb carbon emissions from power plants.

Will Flights Really Reach Net Zero by 2050 - and at What Cost to Passengers?

2 days ago—Justin Rowlatt

Climate Editor

BBC

It is the perfect start to a holiday: your plane ticket is cheap, your cabin baggage is safely stowed, the engines are roaring into life - and the pilot has announced that there's no need to worry about the environmental impact.

This is Jet Zero, a vision where air travel is entirely carbon neutral thanks to new technology and green ventures that offset the environmental impact. The plan was drafted in 2022 when Boris Johnson was prime minister, marking a step towards the government's legal obligation to reach net zero by 2050. The Labour government has since made a similar pledge, and in addition it wants all domestic flights and UK airport operations to reach zero emissions by 2040.

This is no easy feat when you consider the scale of the challenge: one passenger taking an economy-class flight from London to New York generates 309 kg of carbon dioxide, which would take roughly a year to absorb via 10 mature trees.

Multiply this on the global scale and the aviation industry would need to plant roughly 100 billion mature trees each year to offset its emissions. For UK emissions alone you'd need a forest almost the size of Wales (*see* Snapshot 2).

