



PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

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DO SEAS MAKE US SICK? SURFERS MAY HAVE THE ANSWER

Mr. Kapono, a 29-year-old biochemist earning his doctorate at the University of California, San Diego, heads up the Surfer Biome Project, a unique effort to determine whether routine exposure to the ocean alters the microbial communities of the body, and whether those alterations might have consequences for surfers — and for the rest of us. Mr. Kapono has collected more than 500 samples by rubbing cotton-tipped swabs over the heads, mouths, navels and other parts of surfers' bodies, as well as their boards.

[Read More on NY Times](#)



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WHAT IS THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR CITIES?

The Paris climate change accord is one of several global agreements forged among nations in 2015-16 that will have implications for city leaders for years to come. But what exactly is the Paris Agreement, and how does it relate to the quest for building more sustainable cities. The Paris Agreement on climate change is a voluntary accord among 197 countries to reduce their greenhouse-gas emissions. Specifically, the Paris Agreement aims to keep the world's mean temperature from rising by more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels by the year 2100 — and ideally, contain rising temperatures to 1.5°C.

[Read More on Citiscope](#)

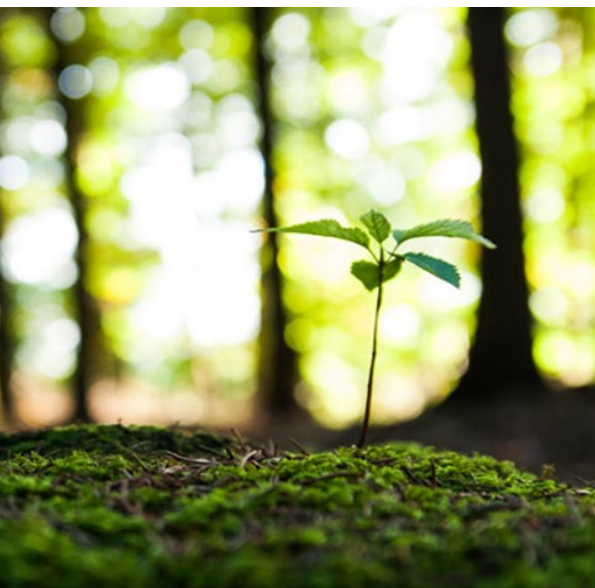




Read More on Science Daily

Previous research shows that early puberty increases the risk of diseases in adulthood; for example, testicular cancer in men and breast cancer in women. Early puberty also can stunt growth and cause behavioral problems. The class of pesticides studied, pyrethroids, accounts for more than 30 percent of global insecticide use, said Jing Liu, Ph.D., lead investigator and an associate professor at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China. [Read More on Science Daily](#)





What Climate Change Means For Ontario

Dianne Saxe, environmental commissioner of Ontario and long-time environmental lawyer, visited Ryerson on March 7 to discuss the impact of climate change on the province and the world. Speaking to the audience at Heaslip House, Saxe said that world governments have delayed their response to the world's most important issue to the point where its impacts are now irreversible. "Most people still think of it as being primarily a problem for other people, in other places, later. And that's true to a very significant extent, because climate change is going to be—and is already—much, much worse for other people and in other places. But it is also already a big issue before us, and that's what I'm finding that people often just don't understand. [Read More on Ryerson News](#)

U.S. Solar Market Set New Record In 2016

The solar market in the United States had its best year on record in 2016, according to researchers with the Solar Energy Industries Association. In a study published by the industry group, researchers note the solar market nearly doubled its previous record, and added more electric generating capacity than any other source for the first time in history. The report, called the U.S. Solar Market Insight 2016 Year-in-Review, says the market is set to triple over the next five years, a trend SEIA calls good news for solar energy producers. According to the report, more than 14 gigawatts of solar power were installed throughout the United States, with an additional 13.2 gigawatts set to be installed in 2017.

[Read More on Solar Daily](#)



The Oil Industry Doesn't Care About Electric Cars: Here's Why

One reason for why electric cars are not threatening the imminent collapse of Big Oil is because of fuel-economy requirements and carbon-emission limits. Whether you call them fuel-economy rules or limits on vehicular carbon emissions, the effect is the same: every new vehicle sold uses less fuel. Miles driven in mature markets (North America, Europe) aren't notably rising, which means that gasoline consumption is already declining slowly. In fact, U.S. gasoline consumption peaked in 2006 and fell each year for nine years thereafter. It rose slightly last year for the first time in a decade. Yes, China is seeing many more cars on the road, and growth areas like India and South America will see more vehicles on the road as well. [Read More on Green Car Reports](#)



Climate Change and An 'Overlooked' Nutrient—Silica: Warmer Winters Could Have Consequences In Temperate Forests And Beyond

Among ecologists, carbon gets all the glory. Scientists examine its critical role in plant growth and decay, they chart its contributions to greenhouse gases, and they measure its sequestration in earth, sea, and sky. Often overlooked in all this research is the humble element silicon, or "silica," as it's called when found in nature. If ecologists (or biologists or biogeochemists) think of silica at all, they regard it as a bit player, a ho-hum component of rocks and sand.

[Read More on Science Daily](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY:

Think Tuberculosis Is A Thing Of The Past in Canada? Think Again

Tuberculosis kills more people than any other infectious disease on the planet. Nevertheless, TB is not high on the lists of health concerns of most Canadians. While it cut a wide swath through the population a century ago, rising standards of living drove a decline in the incidence of the disease in the first half of the 20th century. Drugs developed in the 1940s and 1950s offered an effective cure for the cases at the time. [Read More on Tyee](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH:

United Nations 'Appalled' at Indigenous Youth Detention and Living Conditions

Indigenous Australians are living in "appalling" conditions and young Aborigines in detention are "essentially being punished for being poor", the United Nations has declared in a scathing report. A 15-day tour of Indigenous communities and high-level meetings revealed an "alarming" lack of self-determination, inappropriate housing developments and "deeply disturbing" levels of racism. The UN has previously recommended the age of criminal responsibility be lifted from 10 to 12. Detention of Indigenous youth "has become so prevalent in certain communities that some parents see it as an achievement that none of their children has been taken into custody so far." [Read More on SMH](#)



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“To meet the SDG target of eliminating extreme poverty, countries will need to reduce extreme poverty at a rate of 10 per cent a year between 2015 and 2030.”

Brookings Global Connection, March 27, 2017

EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
May 8-9	Global Health & Innovation Conference	Montreal Canada	https://www.worldhealthsummit.org/regional-meeting/
June 1-2	Aboriginal Conferences	Canada	http://aboriginalconferences.ca/
June 12-23	McGill Summer Institute in Infectious Disease and Global Health	Montreal Canada	http://mcgill-idgh.ca/
June 12-16	Global Health Diagnostics	Montreal Canada	http://mcgill-idgh.ca/courses/global-health-diagnostics/



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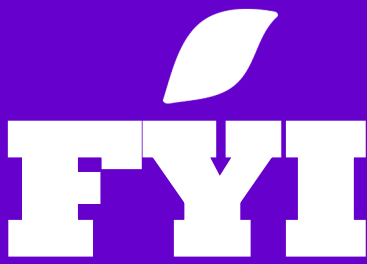


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CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING NOW— HERE'S EIGHT THINGS WE CAN DO TO ADAPT TO IT



Here are four initial actions that individuals could take immediately to prepare for climate change.

- 1) Make a plan; build a kit. Natural disasters are on the rise and are only projected to occur more frequently and be more intense thanks to climate change. Ensure you are prepared by having a plan for what you and your family will do in the case of a disaster. Then make a kit that has the supplies you'll need to [withstand and recover](#).
- 2) Get to know your neighbours. In a disaster, government resources are likely to be strained. Building strong social networks, including within your own neighbourhood, can be an extremely effective way to [prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters](#).
- 3) Reduce your carbon footprint. Anything we can do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will help slow down climate change. The mantra I used is that we must manage the unavoidable through adaptation, but [avoid the unmanageable through mitigation](#).
- 4) Call your legislators today, and every day. Demand that they preserve and advance domestic and international climate programs, policies and funding streams. Don't take these programmes for granted.

[Read More on The Guardian](#)

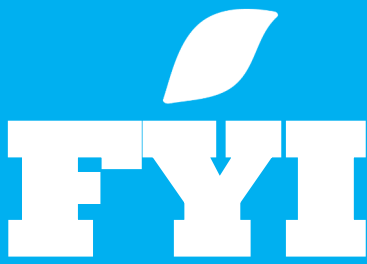


VOLCANOES COULD ERUPT MUCH MORE, THANKS TO CLIMATE CHANGE



In the frozen world of Iceland, climate change is having a dramatic effect. It is melting the huge glaciers that carpet the land, and that in turn is having an unexpected impact on Iceland's volcanoes.

[Watch More on BBC](#)



MAMAYE MOTIVATES THE MEDIA FOR IMPROVED MNH REPORTING



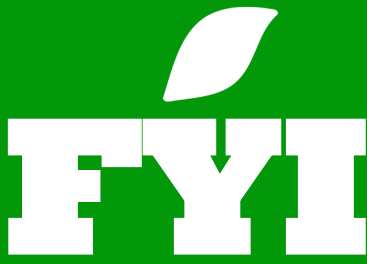
At MamaYe, everyone is encouraged to take actions that will improve maternal and newborn health. It also recognizes the contributions of those who have been taking actions but who were not expecting any rewards.

Some journalists, who are members of the Lagos State Accountability Mechanism for Maternal and Newborn Health (LASAM), have been contributing immensely to evidence-based reporting of maternal and newborn health (MNH) in Lagos State. They are good examples of those who are taking action to save the lives of pregnant women and newborns. They cover issues on traditional birth attendants, abandoned or underused public healthcare centres, inadequate number of nurses and midwives at healthcare centres, inadequate budgeting to health and many other issues on MNH.

As the media wield significant power to influence public opinion, the reports of the LASAM's journalists are contributing to reshaping the health system's landscape in Lagos State, and can even have a ripple effect across Nigeria.

At a MamaYe-supported meeting that LASAM held to review the works of its members and plan more actions for MNH improvement, two of the journalists were identified and incentivised for their selfless and active contributions to the success of MNH reporting in Lagos State.

[Read More on MamaYe](#)



SAN DIEGO BREWERY MAKES BEER FROM TREATED SEWAGE WATER



San Diego's Stone Brewing, company the nation's ninth-largest brewery, has unveiled a beer made with treated sewage water. The recycled-water pale ale is called Full Circle. Stone made five barrels of the beer using water treated at the city's Pure Water demonstration plant, according to the Times of San Diego.

San Diego officials hope to purify enough recycled water by 2035 to handle one-third of the city's drinking water supply. Stone's chief operating officer, Pat Tiernan, said the purified recycled water is actually better than what the brewery uses now.

"This particular water will help us to not require so much natural water and give us a more reliable source...For us to be able to reuse, that's part of our mantra, that's part of what we do," Tiernan said.

[Read More on Huffington Post](#)



WHY ANTIOXIDANTS AREN'T ARE HEALTHY AS YOU THINK



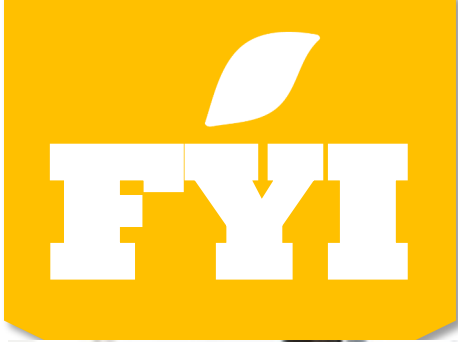
In 2015, a new line of juices called Antioxia was released by Oasis. The carton boasts its antioxidant content on the front: “400 mg of polyphenols per serving.” If that wasn’t clear enough, larger letters above that claim also say “Health Break.”

Antioxia’s name may be a bit on the nose, but it’s just one of many products that promote their antioxidants to consumers. The most egregious example was POM Wonderful, the pomegranate juice that ran an advertising campaign a few years ago that touted the antioxidants in it as a fix for heart disease, prostate cancer and erectile dysfunction – even running ads with the tagline “cheat death.” It stopped only after a U.S. lawsuit successfully argued that the science didn’t support those claims.

Meanwhile, the media also promote the idea that antioxidants are a key to better health: A 2011 study found that the majority of the top three women’s magazines in Canada contained at least one article that mentioned antioxidants. Seventy-one percent of those described antioxidants as being good for readers’ health, and 36 percent framed the benefits as definite.

Yet the science doesn’t support that. Antioxidants have been researched for almost 20 years, with studies on hundreds of thousands of people. The results have been overwhelmingly lackluster, ranging from having no effect to significantly increasing the risk of death.

[Read More on Healthy Debate](#)



ADVICE FROM PEERS: HOW TO SUCCEED IN YOUR FIRST MANAGEMENT POSITION



Your first experience in a management position can be both exciting and daunting as you learn on the job what it means to oversee people, programs and budgets. This is particularly the case in the global development sector, where resource-strapped organizations may not have a training budget or program in place to guide early-career managers.

“It’s a huge learning curve,” says Maya El Hage, an operations manager for a global development organization in Lebanon who has been in her role just over a year. “You develop skills personally and professionally, and you are exposed to a lot of different people, different ideas, different stakeholders, different organizations.”

We spoke to global development professionals in mid-level and senior level positions to hear their advice for surviving and succeeding in your first management position. Here is what they said.

[Read More on Devex](#)



Signs of Spring Toronto Magnolia April 27, 2017

This Newsletter is FREE.

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