



# PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

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## PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR RENEWABLES HITS RECORD 85% IN THE UK

The latest polling from the government's public attitudes tracker demonstrates a clear increase in support for renewables from the previous quarterly survey, which demonstrated overall support of 79%. The results also show growing concern over climate change with 74% reporting that they were "very" or "fairly concerned", which is 3% higher than a year ago. Since the government first began recording attitudes towards energy and climate change five years ago, 85% of UK residents show support, which is a record high. Alongside climate change, the latest survey indicates an overwhelming support for clean energy especially in solar and offshore wind. The rising trend on climate change concern reflects that of the United States and Australia. Furthermore, another polling demonstrates that "global warming concerns dominate among 18-24 age group". [Read more at Business Green.](#)



Credit: Royston Vasey

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Bleaching Of Coral Reefs Reduced	2
Novel Ecosystems Useful For Some Native Birds	
Australia's Going Through a Green Jobs Boom	
4 Million Kenyans Will Receive Free Sanitary Pads	3
Malaria Along The Thai-Myanmar Border	
The GMO Debate	
Q&A: Out With M&E And In With ME&L	4
Climate Change Legislation Into Public Health Policy	
US Government Should Cede Territory To Natives	
Quote of the Week & Events	5
FYI#1: 'Think-in' On Community Health Worker	6
Voice, Power, And Citizens' Right To Health	
FYI#2: Western Equatorial Africa Study Finds	7
More Gorillas And Chimpanzees Than Expected	
FYI#3: Digitalization Can Solve Water And	8
Climate Crisis	
FYI#4: 6 Tips For Climate-Smart Gardening	9
FYI#5: A Fitness Trend Called Plogging	10
FYI#6: Class Of 2018 - College Edition	11
Backpage: CIHR/IDRC Global Health Research Consultation	

## ENDING FGM AND PROMOTING EMOTIONAL WELLBEING: ANNOUNCING A NEW COLLABORATION

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a global issue that affects more than 200 million women around the world, violating their rights. Ending FGM and Promoting Emotional Wellbeing is a new project launched during Mental Health Awareness Week. With generous support from the Wallace Global Fund, Leyla Hussein, Girl Generation's Strategic Advisor, is working closely with grassroots organisations to strengthen the social movement to end FGM. Strategies include starting conversations about FGM, holding educational sessions, helping girls who are at risk of FGM, and supporting survivors. The project will be developed by survivors and activists and will be piloted in Kenya. [Read more at The Girl Generation.](#)



Credit: Louisa Kasdon



## BLEACHING OF CORAL REEFS REDUCED WHERE DAILY TEMPERATURE CHANGES ARE LARGE

Safaie, a Ph.D. student in UCI's Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering and his collaborators at the University of California, Irvine analyzed decades' worth of field data collected at 118 locations spanning five coral reef regions around the globe. His team found that there are certain locations within a reef that enable corals to be resilient despite increasing water temperature. In addition, the team noticed that higher daily temperature variability made corals stronger and more resilient when a thermal stress event took place. As a result, there may be potential survival and recovery of these vitally critical aquatic habitats. Scientists now have a better method to predict the outcome of coral reef bleaching events, which can lead to better conservation strategies. [Read more at Science Daily.](#)

Credit: Duke University

## NOVEL ECOSYSTEMS USEFUL FOR SOME NATIVE BIRDS

Pat Kennedy, a wildlife biologist in Oregon State University's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife who also directs the Eastern Oregon Agriculture and Natural Resource Program, recently published a study with other researchers that concludes that although there are some native birds who are sensitive to novel systems, there are others who are not based on a comparison carried out on birds in northeastern Oregon with birds in Perth, Australia. The data show that controlling non-native plants may not yield critical benefits for some nesting birds, yet a lot of resources both in terms of time and money are allocated towards trying to restore these ecosystems. There is a need to start thinking more critically about restoration priorities. Ecosystems, which have been modified as a result of human activities, can still serve as a suitable habitat for some native birds. [Read more at Science Daily.](#)



Credit: Baker County Tourism



Credit: Cameron Jewell

## AUSTRALIA'S GOING THROUGH A GREEN JOBS BOOM

In the past 2 years, green job demand has increased by 50 per cent with Victoria state leading the pack and Australia is ahead globally. According to economist, Callam Pickering, although there is uncertainty around energy and climate policy, in the first quarter of 2018, Australia's share of green jobs was 30% higher than the United Kingdom's, 60% higher than the United States and 85% higher than Canada's. Likewise, the Green Energy Markets index reported that since last year, full-time renewables-related jobs had increased by approximately 18%. [Read more at the Fifth Estate.](#)



## 4 MILLION KENYAN SCHOOLGIRLS ARE GOING TO RECEIVE FREE SANITARY PADS

Around the globe, many women are forced to manage menstruation in unsanitary conditions. For example, about two thirds of women in India report that since they do not have access to a toilet, they have to manage their periods in an unsanitary location such as in the field. In addition, period taboos keep girls from attending school and women from working. In rural Ghana, approximately 95% of girls miss school at the time of their period. In Kenya there is about a million girls who miss school because they do not have access to menstrual hygiene supplies. The government of Kenya just announced that all 4.2 million girls in its public schools will be distributed a free sanitary pad. [Read more at Global Citizen.](#)

Credit: Georges Attino

## MALARIA ON THE MARCH ALONG THE THAI-MYANMAR BORDER – IN PICTURES

According to WHO's most recent annual report, malaria killed an estimated 445,000 people around the world in 2016. While five different kinds of malaria parasite infect humans, *Plasmodium falciparum* is the most common and most likely to cause severe infections which can potentially lead to death. Although there is some success with treatment, there is still no effective vaccine against malaria and drug resistance is growing. Alexander Kumar, a physician who visited a research site on the Thai-Myanmar border, shares his experience where genetic mutations in the parasite has renders the treatment ineffective through a gallery of photographs. [Read more at The Guardian.](#)



Credit: Alexander Kumar



Credit: Devex

## THE GMO DEBATE

What happens when we remove multinationals and corporate profit from the GMO debate? In our five-part series, we looked at how perceptions of doing good through science versus corporate interests change the polarized GMO issue. Catch up on the series:

- #1 GMOs: The key to global food security?
- #2 Understanding the opposition
- #3 The donors adopting GMOs
- #4 Political drivers for GMOs in developing countries
- #5 Corporations' perceived role in the GMO debate

[Read more at Devex.](#)



## Q&A: OUT WITH M&E AND IN WITH ME&L

There's been an exponential growth in data being available across all industries. Data presents opportunities to carry out predictive analytics, data analysis, and really understanding and mining the data to test potential future situations. The use of data is also transforming development. With data proliferating, it's also transforming the M&E space to include "L", which stands for "learning." There is unprecedented data, there are technology and tools to better understand and mine this data that did not exist in the past, and thus we have the ability to learn from that data to translate it into actionable information and insights, and make better informed choices at work. [Read more at Devex.](#)

Credit: Devex

## SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY: TURNING CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION INTO PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY

The effects of climate change are inextricably entwined with health: ranging from the WHO estimate of 7 million deaths from breathing polluted air indoors and out; through the impact of weather-related natural disasters; negative effects on crop yields and food security; and changing patterns of vector-borne diseases; to the shaping of social and environmental determinants of health. 2018 marks 10 years of the UK's 2008 Climate Change Act, which mandated reduction of UK carbon dioxide emissions by 80% by 2050 to 1990 levels, and legislated an independent Committee on Climate Change. Internationally, we have the Kyoto Protocol, the 2010 Green Climate Fund, and the 2015 Paris Agreement within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, collectively setting national and international targets towards mitigating the effects of climate change. [Read more at The Lancet.](#)



Credit: The Guardian



## SPOTLIGHT ON ABORIGINAL HEALTH: THE US GOVERNMENT SHOULD CEDE TERRITORY BACK TO NATIVE AMERICANS

While immigrants in the US were given special rights to take the land that belonged to the Natives, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has altered its mission statement, taking out the characterization of America as a "nation of immigrants" in order to emphasize "securing the homeland". The problem lies deeper than the change in language. Americans claim sovereignty over the territory of the US as immigrants, precisely because the territories in question were the Native Americans' homeland. The legal foundation of the federal claim to dominion over territory is the Doctrine of Discovery, a notion that goes back five centuries. If the federal government no longer defines the America as a "nation of immigrants", it abandons the claim to sovereignty over the land. [Read more at The Guardian.](#)

Credit: Sebastien Thibault

*I think that if the marketing were more aspirational, if we could focus as a community on how far we've come and how amazing it would be to eradicate this disease, we could put polio fatigue and polio behind us.*

Melinda Gates, TEDxChange, September 2010



## EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
June	McGill University Summer Institutes in Infectious Diseases and Global Health	Montreal Canada	<a href="http://mcgill-idgh.ca/courses/tuberculosis-research-methods/">http://mcgill-idgh.ca/courses/tuberculosis-research-methods/</a>
June 22-24	Annual Conference, The Council of Canadians	Ottawa Canada	<a href="https://canadians.org/conference">https://canadians.org/conference</a>
October 8-12	5th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research	Liverpool England	<a href="http://healthsystemsresearch.org/hsr2018/">http://healthsystemsresearch.org/hsr2018/</a>
November 15-19	4th People's Health Assembly	Dhaka Bangladesh	<a href="http://www.phmovement.org/en/node/10805">http://www.phmovement.org/en/node/10805</a>
November 19-21	Canadian Conference on Global Health	Toronto Canada	<a href="http://www.csih.org/en/events/canadian-conference-global-health">http://www.csih.org/en/events/canadian-conference-global-health</a>



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## NEW REPORT ON THE 'THINK-IN' ON COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER VOICE, POWER, AND CITIZENS' RIGHT TO HEALTH



Credit: Carmen Carpio and Carla Pantanali

Community health workers (CHWs) are generally community-based workers who are members of the communities where they work to deliver health services and are (at least in part) selected by the communities they serve. CHWs often serve as a liaison between communities and the health system. In June 2017, 30 researchers, health advocates and program implementers from eight countries attended a two-day 'think-in' at American University. Experiences were shared, including instances of CHWs facilitating or demanding greater health system accountability. [Read more on Learning Exchange Report.](#)



## MASSIVE STUDY ACROSS WESTERN EQUATORIAL AFRICA FINDS MORE GORILLAS AND CHIMPANZEES THAN EXPECTED



Credit: Zanne Labuschagne

"Guns, germs and trees determine density and distribution of gorillas and chimpanzees in Western Equatorial Africa" is a decade-long study of Western Equatorial Africa's gorillas and chimpanzees written by 54 co-authors. The study consists of field data across western lowland gorillas and central chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*). The research surveyed an area of 192,000 square kilometers, which includes some of the most remote forests on the African continent. The study reveals good and bad news about our nearest relatives. There is an estimated abundance of over 360,000 gorillas and nearly 130,000 chimpanzees across the combined ranges of both subspecies, 33% and 10% more, respectively than previously thought. But about 80% of these great apes exist outside of protected areas, and the gorilla population is declining by 2.7% every year. [Read more on Science Daily.](#)



Credit: Yusuf Wahil

Over the last decade, a key priority on every nation's agenda is to ensure water security where there is sustainable access to water for enabling livelihoods, human well-being and socio-economic development.

According to a 2015 Asian Development Bank report, more than 75 countries in Asia face serious water shortages as a result of climate change, which can pose a real threat to the continuous growth and prosperity for the region, if not managed proactively.

In 2015, Indonesian President Widodo announced a 29% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions reduction as a goal to achieve by 2030. In addition, the government raised the budgets for climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. In addition to the incremental changes from citizens taking action to make an impact through behavioral change, a key contributing factor to accelerating change at a massive rate and scale is digitalization. Digitalization has the potential to transform and help alleviate the issue of water sustainability. Digitalization opens doors to a more sustainable business model that allows companies to produce more with less, as well as prevent unnecessary waste of resources like energy and water. [Read more at The Jakarta.](#)



## SPRING INTO ACTION: 6 TIPS FOR CLIMATE-SMART GARDENING



Credit: Shutterstock

There are ways you can contribute TO reducing your carbon footprints and conserving important resources without leaving your backyard. The article shares six tips to fight the climate crisis through smart gardening from avoiding synthetic fertilizers, planting trees and other perennials, stopping water wastage, focusing on soil health, applying a low - or no - till approach to gardening, to opting to use hand tools. [Read more at The Climate Reality Project.](#)

## I LIKE RUNNING AND DISLIKE LITTER. SO I DECIDED TO TRY A FITNESS TREND CALLED PLOGGING



Credit: Kelyn Soong/The Washington Post

For the past year and a half, Bernard Kelly, a marathon runner, has been running and collecting trash along his running route on a weekly basis. His environmentally conscious training method is known as ‘plogging’ - a combination of jogging and “plocka upp,” the Swedish term for pickup. On Earth Day (April 22, 2018) the Washington D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation hosted a plogging event, in partnership with the Washington-based gym Vida Fitness. In addition to the event being a good combination of exercise and helping clean the community, it provided the opportunity for runners to work on muscles they typically don’t focus on, and the slower pace can serve as a great recovery day. When plogging, there are several tips to consider from performing a full-body warm-up, being aware of your surroundings, wearing gloves, to bringing extra bags, including separate bags for waste and recyclables. [Read more at the Washington Post.](#)



Credit: Drew Angerer

After 10 years of slow but steady recovery from the Great Recession, young graduates' employment prospects have started to improve. In recent years, the sustained improvements in economic conditions have brightened young graduates' prospects for employment and economic growth.

This study focuses on the Class of 2018's economic prospects as they begin their careers. It begins with a demographic snapshot of young college graduates between the ages of 21 and 24. In the second section, the report shows where these graduates are now whether they are enrolled in further schooling, employed, both or neither. Next, the report focuses on graduates who are *not* enrolled in further schooling to determine how they are doing in the labour market—particularly focusing on the unemployment and underemployment rates. In the final section, the wages of those who are employed (and not enrolled in further schooling) are analysed, including comparisons of earlier periods and assessing important gender and race/ethnicity differences.

While the college Class of 2018 have better job prospects than the classes of 2009–2017, it still faces real economic challenges when compared to graduates in. [Read more at Economic Policy Institute.](#)



**CIHR/IDRC Global Health Research Consultation  
IDRC Headquarters, Ottawa  
May 18, 2018**

Credit: David Zakus

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