



PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

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THE CATASTROPHE THAT KILLED THE DINOSAURS CREATED A GLOBAL HOOTHOUSE FOR 100,000 YEARS

On a very bad day 66 million years ago, a mountain-sized object from space slammed into the Earth, initiating a cascade of calamities that eradicated 75% of the species on the planet, including the non-avian dinosaurs. The buried remnants of the resulting 125-mile-wide crater have been identified on the Yucatan Peninsula and in the Gulf of Mexico. Scientists have long theorized that an initial pulse of heat was followed by a devastating global winter. After that, as carbon dioxide in the atmosphere surged, the planet became a hothouse. The effects of the impact produced 5C (9F) average warming in a subtropical sea, which persisted for 100,000 years, suggesting that even a relatively brief pulse of CO₂ can have a lingering effect. That's highly relevant today given many countries' massive greenhouse-gas emissions, creating a spike in atmospheric CO₂ and associated global warming. [Read more on The Washington Post.](#)



Credit: Pham Bich Ngoc

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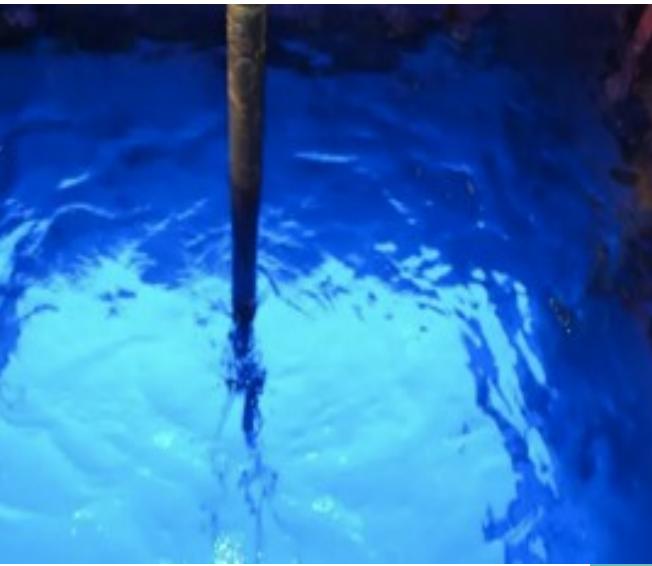
THE LINK BETWEEN INCREASES IN TEMPERATURE AND ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

2 Bacteria have long been thought to develop antibiotic resistance largely due to repeated exposure through over-prescribing. But could much bigger environmental pressures be at play? Seeking to better understand the distribution of antibiotic resistance across the U.S., a multidisciplinary team of epidemiologists from the University of Toronto, Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital have found that higher local temperatures and population densities correlate with a higher degree of antibiotic resistance in common bacterial strains.

[Read more on Harvard Medical School.](#)



Credit: Fawn Gracey



Credit: European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling/International Ocean Drilling Program.

GREAT BARRIER REEF'S FIVE YEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES REVEALED IN NEW PAPER

The Great Barrier Reef suffered five "death events" over the past 30,000 years as sea levels rose and fell, forcing corals to migrate land or seaward to survive, according to decade-long work by a team of international scientists. Researchers extracted samples from as deep as 50 metres below the seabed at sites near Mackay and Cairns off the Queensland coast to reveal how the reef has fared during abrupt changes in climate since before the last ice age.

[Read more on The Sydney Morning Herald.](#)



Credit: Reuters/Zainal Abd Halim

AN INVASIVE ANT SPECIES THREATENS AUSTRALIA'S "WAY OF LIFE"

Australia could have a A\$45 billion (US\$33 billion) ant problem on its hands. Red fire ants, whose bites can lead humans to experience "the sensation that the body is on fire," have been detected outside a containment zone in Queensland's Scenic Rim. Fire ants attack indiscriminately, potentially destroying the way of life for many Queenslanders and costing the state \$45 billion over 30 years. Fire ants are one of the world's most invasive species; if they become widely established, they ruin their way of life, and have serious health and environmental impacts, even effecting everyday activities like barbecues, picnics and sporting events.

[Read more on The Quartz.](#)



POPE URGES OIL, ENERGY BOSSES TO LEAD ON ENVIRONMENT

Pope Francis urged oil and energy industry executives to be leaders on the environment in a first-of-its-kind conference at the Vatican. "There should be no room for opportunistic and cynical efforts to gain small partial results in the short run while shifting equally significant costs and damages to future generations," the Pope told an audience that included international leaders from BP, Exxon Mobil, Statoil and multinational mining company Anglo-American. "Civilization requires energy," the Pope said, "but energy must not be used to destroy civilization!" Francis encouraged the industry chiefs to reduce fossil fuel use and work to achieve the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit climate change caused by carbon dioxide emission and greenhouse gases.

[Read more on CNN.](#)



JAPANESE WHALING CREW EATEN ALIVE BY KILLER WHALES, 16 DEAD

A Japanese whaling crew has fallen victim to a dramatic full on assault by a school of killer whales, killing no less than 16 crew members and injuring 12. The crew of Japan's primary whaling vessel, and the world's only whaler factory ship, was forced to leave the deck temporarily due to a gas leak within the ship's processing factory. The resulting panic lead members of the ship to jump off the boat before proper emergency procedures were taken and lifeboats had been set to sea. The swimming crew members were then ferociously attacked by a school of killer whales, that decimated a large number of the crew within moments.

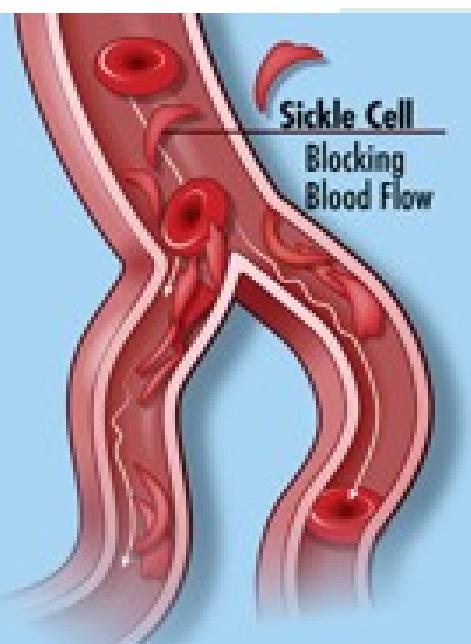
[Read more on World News Daily Report.](#)

THE CULTURAL HEGEMONY OF CHRONIC DISEASE ASSOCIATION DISCOURSE IN CANADA

This paper explores how corporate domination of two major diseases in Canada, Heart and Stroke Canada (HSC) and Diabetes Canada (DC), as manifested in membership of their boards of directors may be acting with biomedical complicity to create hegemonic discourse on the nature of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM). This is problematic as the actives that derive from this discourse thwart public policy action to address the primary causes and means of managing chronic diseases: Canadians' living and working conditions. Through critical analysis of the membership of HSC and DC boards of directors, links are shown between their corporate and biomedical backgrounds and the limiting of chronic disease association messaging to narrow discredited behavioural approaches. [Read more on Springer.](#)



Credit: Spiegel



SICKLE CELL DISEASE IN SOUTHWESTERN NIGERIA: ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND AVAILABLE FACILITIES

Patients with sickle cell disease (SCD) benefit optimally from comprehensive care. In Nigeria, despite the huge burden, involvement of community health workers (CHWs) in the management of SCD is poor. This community-based study assessed SCD-related activities of 182 CHWs and their 46 primary health care (PHC) centres in southwestern Nigeria. The majority of CHWs knew that SCD is an inheritable blood disorder. However, only 32.4% and 26.4% knew that SCD can be diagnosed in the prenatal and neonatal periods, respectively. Also only 37.4%, 49.5% and 67.6% knew about the role of chemoprophylaxis (folic acid/penicillin), adequate fluids and malaria prevention, respectively, in SCD care. Overall, 37.9% had good knowledge on the nature and care of the disease. Just 2/46 (4.3%) PHC centres treated patients with SCD.

[Read more on Research Gate.](#)



SWEDISH GIRLS FEARING FORCED MARRIAGE TOLD TO HIDE SPOON IN UNDERWEAR

The Swedish city of Gothenburg is advising girls who fear that they will be taken abroad for a forced marriage or female genital mutilation (FGM) to tuck a spoon into their underwear before going through airport security. Airport staff have been trained on how to respond to these cases and that the spoon is a last chance to sound the alarm, triggering metal detectors when going through security checks. While there are no Swedish data on the number of girls taken abroad for forced marriage, a national hotline received 139 calls last year on child and forced marriages.

[Read more on Freedom United. See also:](#)

Thousands Enslaved in Forced Marriages Across UK [Read more on The Guardian. AN](#)
'Every girl is forced by our culture into FGM': battling for change in Kenya – podcast.

Credit: Reuters

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY: EUROPE RAMPS UP THE WAR ON PLASTIC

The European Union proposed a ban on single-use plastics including straws, cotton buds, and drink stirrers, which make up the majority of marine litter. The EU says the plan will prevent the emission of 3.4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. The EU's proposals are targeting disposable food containers and dining ware, from plastic plates and cups, to packaging for food products such as fast-food. The plan does not set a deadline for a total ban on single-use plastic items such as cotton buds, plates and straws. [Read more on BBC.](#)



Credit: Getty Images



SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH: MENDING THE BROKEN HOOP: INDIGENOUS HEALTH AND THE DIS-EASE OF DISCONNECTION

When our identity was stolen, we became sick with ailments that had never afflicted us before, such as cancer, diabetes, alcohol addiction and suicide. We were given medicines that had no life, no roots, no leaves. We were given clothing we did not need to make ourselves. We were given food that we did not need to harvest ourselves. We did not need to know what creature gave its life for it, and what ecological systems support that creature. We were shown European 'civilization' and had little choice but to embrace its psychology and technology. As our relationships to land and family continue to be systematically severed through policy, economic imperialism, and environmental destruction, we lose touch with our ancient understanding of health. This greatly inhibits our ability to heal ourselves. [Read more on Juxta Magazine.](#)

"I keep learning more and more about how people from different experiences, perspectives and backgrounds can work together to protect our oceans now and for the future...All the partners on this project were looking at marine conservation challenges through the eyes of their different experience, but we shared the common objective of protecting ocean resources."

-Desiree Lawson, with the Revitalizing Indigenous Laws for Land, Air and Water (RELAW) project in Heiltsuk Territory, Westcoast British Columbia, Canada.

http://www.oceana.ca/en/blog/deep-sea-expedition-highlights-value-partnerships-marine-conservation?utm_campaign=enews&utm_content=201806enewsCAN&utm_source=en&utm_medium=email

EVENTS TABLE

	7th Annual Action Global Health Network Conference	Ottawa Canada	Early Bird deadline for abstract is July 20th, 2017, please email aghn2017.research@gmail.com for more information
Oct 8-12	5th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research	Liverpool England	http://healthsystemsresearch.org/hsr2018/
Nov 15-19	4th People's Health Assembly	Dhaka Bangladesh	http://www.phmovement.org/en/node/10805
Nov 19-21	Canadian Conference on Global Health	Toronto Canada	http://www.csih.org/en/events/canadian-conference-global-health
March 8-10, 2019	10th annual CUGH Conference - Translation and Implementation for impact in Global Health	Chicago, USA	Panel and Abstract proposal deadline - August 25, 2018



'DIRECTLY AFFECTED': TIMELY FILM LOOKS AT THE MADNESS OF TRANS MOUNTAIN PIPELINE

FYI



Credit: Directly Affected

When Zack Embree started production on his film *Directly Affected: Pipeline Under Pressure*, he had certain notions about his country.

"I grew up believing a story about Canada," he says. "That we were a caring country that prided itself on being fair, democratic and responsible... And that when it came down to it, we as a nation would do right by the world, even if it wasn't easy."

When Embree lost his job teaching art to people on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, he began to research climate change. The correlations between drug addiction and fossil fuel might not seem immediately clear, but Embree explains many of the people who suffer from addiction describe the process of getting clean as "thawing out: The moment when the numbness from addiction subsides, and the pain of trauma begins to resurface."

Read more on [The Tyee](#).



AMERICA'S 'CADILLAC DESERT': IS THERE A SUBSTITUTE FOR FRESH WATER?



Credit: Dreamstime

Thirty years after Marc Reisner penned *Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water* his prophesy is being fulfilled. As the chalky rings which mark previous higher water levels around Colorado River reservoirs grow ever wider, major disputes are now afoot over the remaining water supply. Modern economists have long told us not to worry about resource scarcity. Higher prices will bring on new supplies whenever resource supplies decline. And, if a resource truly is becoming unobtainable, then we'll always find a substitute.

When I hear this, I often counter: "There is certainly some truth to what you are saying. But, please tell me what the substitute for potable water will be." The response is usually to change the subject—for the obvious reason that there is no substitute. [Read more on Resilience.](#)



AIR TRAVEL: SMOKING BY ANY OTHER NAME



Credit: Mike Kelley

They used to let you smoke on flights, kids and pregnant women be damned. Fire hazard on a plane? A lesser concern than the right to life, liberty and lung cancer. Times changed, of course. They added non-smoking cabins, then said no smoking on flights, then no smoking in the office, then no smoking even near the front door of the office.

The prevailing culture changed. As it so often does when we, as a society, learn how hideously wrong we have been about some aspect of our lives. Yet the new norm comes on so gradually, becomes so mundane, that we forget how strange the old normal was—how far we've come. So, why would we continue to accept as normal those aspects of our culture that we know are destructive when we know they too can change?

Take flying, for example, a far more dangerous form of “smoking”. In the face of ever-worsening climate change, constant updates from the media on how quickly the Arctic is melting, and an utter failure of our society to mitigate greenhouse-gas emissions (rather, we're still increasing them), why do we continue to fly when few other activities in our lives create more emissions? Is there any more efficient way to screw with our climate than to take several hundred-thousand litres of kerosene high into the atmosphere and burn it?

Read more on Resilience.

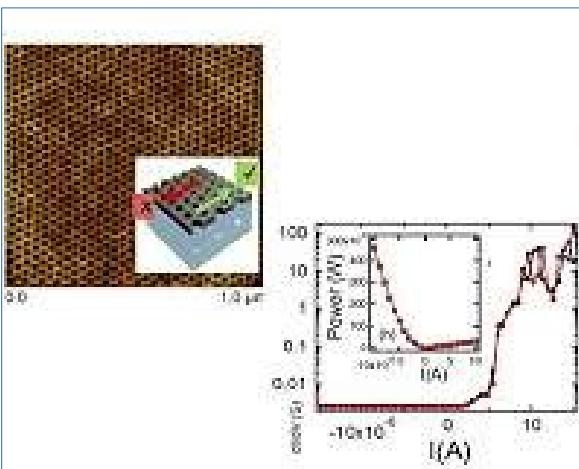


RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON BATTERIES

Microwaved plastic increases lithium-sulfur battery lifespan

Purdue engineers have figured out a way to tackle plastic landfills while also improving batteries - by putting ink-free plastic soaked in sulfur-containing solvent into a microwave, and then into batteries as a carbon scaffold. Lithium-sulfur batteries have been hailed as the next generation of batteries to replace the current lithium ion variety.

[Read more on Energy Daily.](#)



New device could increase battery life of electronics by a hundred-fold

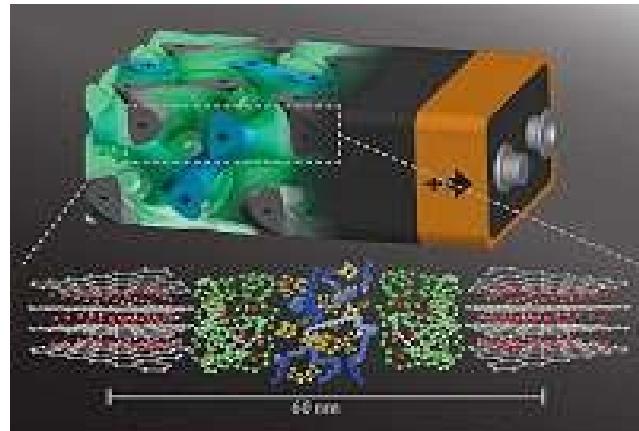
Among the chief complaints for smartphone, laptop and other battery-operated electronics users is that the battery life is too short and - in some cases - that the devices generate heat. Now, a group of physicists at the University of Missouri has developed a device material that can address both issues.

[Read more on Energy Daily.](#)

Self-assembling 3D battery would charge in seconds

The world is a big place, but it's gotten smaller with the advent of technologies that put people from across the globe in the palm of one's hand, most demanding faster charge times.

[Read more on Energy Daily.](#)





YOUR RECYCLING GETS RECYCLED, RIGHT? MAYBE, OR MAYBE NOT



Credit: Wiqan Ang

Oregon is serious about recycling. Its residents are accustomed to dutifully separating milk cartons, yogurt containers, cereal boxes and kombucha bottles from their trash to divert them from the landfill. But this year, because of a far-reaching rule change in China many recyclables are ending up in the local dump anyway.

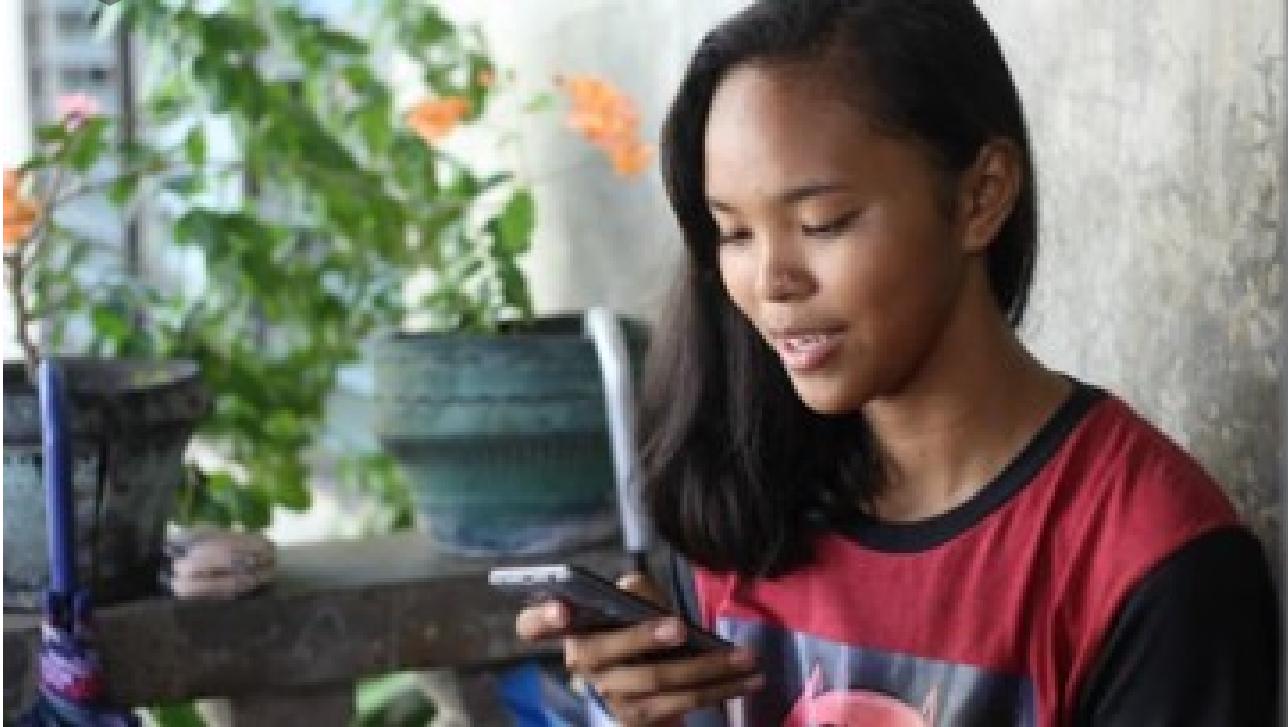
In recent months thousands of tons of material left curbside for recycling in dozens of American cities and towns have gone to landfills.

In the past, the municipalities would have shipped much of their used paper, plastics and other scrap materials to China for processing. But as part of a broad antipollution campaign, China announced last summer that it no longer wants to import "foreign garbage." Since Jan. 1 it has banned imports of various types of plastic and paper.

Read more on [The New York Times](#).



HOW TO MEASURE DIGITAL INTERVENTIONS IN DEVELOPMENT



Credit: Girl Effect

It's a familiar question for anyone working in development — whether setting up a savings club for young mothers or a public awareness campaign to encourage HIV testing — how do you know if it's working? This big question has even more relevance now that many development organizations are turning to digital products to reach and engage program participants.

In traditional development terms, we are accustomed to thinking of outcomes and impact in terms of behavior change: Higher savings rates or increased HIV testing rates, for example. Our desired outcomes might be the same for new digital interventions — and now, thanks to the nature of digital interventions, we have significantly more data to add to the portfolio, alongside new metrics such as dwell time, page views, and bounce rates.

But what does it all mean? Does the fact that we have data for digital interventions mean that we can understand our impact more accurately and quickly, or does more data just mean more confusion?

[Read more on Devex.](#)

**Marching for Environmental Justice
Council of Canadians Annual Conference
Ottawa, Ontario
June 23, 2018**



Credit: David Zakus

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