

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS



Updates on the Amazon Rainforest

In August, the Amazon rainforest made international news when tremendous fires engulfed the world's largest rainforest. While the number of fires decreased by 35% by the end of September, 19,925 fire outbreaks still occurred. Fortunately, heavy rains in early October have helped put out some of the fires in the Bolivian Amazon. People continue to protest the national government, expressing their dissatisfaction with its response time to the fires; the national government claims that it has already spent more than \$20 million in attempting to putting out the fires.

The Guardian

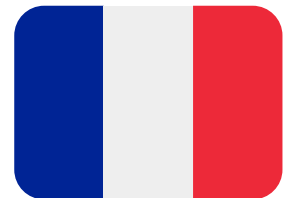
USA Today

InsideClimate News

Recap of the Gilets Jaunes (Yellow Vest) movement

Almost a year ago, the Gilets Jaunes movement emerged in Paris to protest an increase in fuel prices that were meant to fund environmentally-friendly projects.

These protests, some ultimately becoming violent, later expanded to include other issues of economic inequality in France. In response to these national debates, President Macron promised to modify his plans for the country's economic development. His new plans included cuts in income tax and a more decentralized government. This movement highlights the debate over long-term environmental health and short-term economic well-being. How can we work to balance the two? How can we effectively communicate the lasting benefits of protecting our environment now?



Read more!

BBC News



Increased frequency of Super El Niño events

A new study finds that since the 1970s, El Niño events have shifted westward thousands of miles. This means that El Niño is forming in naturally-warmer areas of the Pacific, which increases the chances of strong events. These stronger "Super" El Niño events, such as those in 1982, 1998, and 2015-2016, have significantly raised global temperatures. Higher temperatures have killed coral reefs, flooded parts of Africa and Asia, made other parts of the world arid, and damaged fisheries particularly on the west coast of South America.

Washington Post

BBC News

Ozone hole near the South Pole smallest ever

But, unfortunately it likely isn't due to cuts down on pollution, and rather unusual weather in Antarctica. Regardless, this means that less UV radiation is hitting Earth. The hole usually reaches its peak size in September and October, and disappears by the end of December. Historically, efforts to reduce the size of the ozone hole began with the Montreal Protocol in 1987, when the United Nations banned the use of chlorofluorocarbons and other chlorine-containing compounds incorporated in refrigerants and aerosols.



BBC News

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM

Environmental Activism in China

China is often cited as a nation with a large environmental impact, affecting people and places on both a local and global scale. However, progress has been made in combating China's lack of action relating to a number of environmental concerns. Activism in the country regarding environmental issues has increased substantially in recent years, as citizens have mobilized and are using their voices.

Documentaries on Environmental Activism in China

Under the Dome (2015 - 1h 44m)



Under the Dome is a Chinese documentary film by Chai Jing, a former China Central Television journalist, concerning air pollution in China.

Plastic China (2016 - 1h 26m)



Plastic China is a Chinese documentary film by Jiuliang Wang depicting the lives of two families who make their living recycling plastic waste imported from developed countries.

DICE UPDATES

- DICE is still looking for motivated Master's and PhD students who are interested in promoting Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice conversations at the Nicholas School to join our executive board. Although we have distinct positions, we work together as a team to implement our events and initiatives. We encourage anyone who is interested in being part of the team to contact us even if you are not sure what position is right for you.
- We will be having a general body meeting in January. Look for more information on the date, time, and location.

RESOURCES:

NC DEQ Community Mapping System (CMS)

- NC DEQ is seeking feedback about the BETA version of the CMS

EJ Atlas

- A collection of environmental justice cases around the world

EJ Screen

- EPA's environmental justice screening and mapping tool

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Deeper Discussion: Navigating Disability at Duke Nicholas School

- 11/18, 5-6pm, LSRC A211
- Featuring Liana Yirka, Diversity Outreach Specialist at NC Wildlife Resources Commission

International Potluck

- 11/22, 5pm-8pm
Field Auditorium
[Click to RSVP](#)