



News

A Look At The 5 Biggest Environmental Concerns Of 2018

The World Economic Forum has mentioned that air pollution has been found to be the biggest current environmental issue that threatens public health. It is estimated that between 7,500 to 52,000 individuals die yearly in the U.S. due to exposure to emissions released in power plants. Air pollution impacts people in different ways; it affects early development of brain, causes respiratory complications, and brings other severe health issues in people and the other living creatures and organisms. So what are the top 5 biggest environmental concerns we are seeing in 2018 and how do we go.....[Read more...](#)

Date: December 02, 2018**Source:** Blue and Green Tomorrow**Mosses could help rapidly detect pollution**

Drug-sniffing dogs are an accepted part of our modern world. In the near future, could pollution-sniffing mosses be equally common? Although plants seem inactive compared to animals, a team led by Dr. Xingcai Qin, a chemist at Nanjing University, China, has shown that a common species of moss rapidly responds to sulfur dioxide, a pollutant produced by burning fossil fuels. Monitoring these responses with cameras could rapidly and cheaply detect pollution, the researchers reported recently in *Analytical Chemistry*. Cars produce sulfur dioxide, but the biggest sources are power plants and industrial facilities. Sulfur dioxide can harm human health and contributes to smog and acid rain. Other research groups have shown that mosses can work as pollution indicators, but this new method should be more rapid and easy to apply. "We hope traffic cameras and security cameras in factories, homes, offices and shopping malls accompanied with plants can be used to monitor gas pollution," said Qin.....[Read more...](#)

Date: December 05, 2018**Source:** Mongabay**More bioplastics do not necessarily contribute to climate change mitigation**

Plastics are usually made from petroleum, with the associated impacts in terms of fossil fuel depletion but also climate change: The carbon embodied in fossil resources is suddenly released to the atmosphere by degradation or burning, hence contributing to global warming. This corresponds to about 400 million metric tonnes of CO₂ per year worldwide, almost half of the total greenhouse gases that Germany emitted to the atmosphere in 2017. It is estimated that by 2050, plastics could already be responsible for 15% of the global CO₂ emissions. Bioplastics, on the other hand, are in principle climate-neutral since they are based on renewable raw materials such as maize, wheat or sugar cane. These plants get the CO₂ that they need from the air through their leaves. Producing bioplastics therefore consumes CO₂, which compensates for the amount that is later released at end-of-life. Overall, their net greenhouse gas balance is assumed to be zero. Bioplastics are thus often consumed as an environmentally.....[Read more...](#)

Date: December 07, 2018**Source:** Science Daily**Eco-friendly 'algae curtains' could help curb air pollution in crowded cities**

Air pollution is an enormous problem in many urban areas, but two European architects have developed plant-filled plastic curtains designed to turn building facades into "living walls" that help purify dirty air. The curtains contain a maze-like network of tubes filled with microscopic algae, which like all green plants remove carbon dioxide from the air while pumping out oxygen via the carbon-sequestering process known as photosynthesis. Air flows into the bottom of the curtains and rises through the tubes, feeding the microalgae along the way. "Microalgae have exceptional properties that have been discovered by biologists that allow them to re-metabolize some of the waste that our city generates," said Claudia Pasquero, an architect with the London-based firm EcoLogicStudio and one of the developers of the algae curtains. "What we've done is try to understand how we can integrate.....[Read more...](#)

Date: December 12, 2018**Source:** NBC News**#6 Planting Urban Forests To Counter India's Pollution**

"Palash, Arjun, Babul, Kalm..." Sunny Verma, executive director of the Indian company Afforestt, reeled off the names of the indigenous trees that have been planted to create an urban forest in the heart of Delhi. Aiming to cleanse the Indian capital of its air pollution, the for-profit social enterprise is one of many Indian ventures taking a stand against climate change through forestry. The city suffers from bad air quality in both summer and winter and has a particularly poor track record in tackling it — a problem that is common to much of the country. Last June, the World Health Organisation's World Global Ambient Air Quality Database showed that 11 of the 12 cities with the worst air quality.....[Read more...](#)

Date: December 06, 2018**Source:** Ventures Africa

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