



## News

**Arctic Plants May Not Provide Predicted Carbon Sequestration Potential**

The environmental benefits of taller, shrubbier tundra plants in the Arctic may be overstated, according to new research involving the University of Stirling. Current ecosystem and climate models suggest that, as the Arctic warms, tundra ecosystems are becoming more productive, with greater photosynthesis resulting in more carbon being removed, or sequestered, from the atmosphere. However, most models do not consider the transfer and fate of this carbon below-ground, and how this can interact with soil carbon through the activities of soil microorganisms. This is critically important because the vast majority of carbon in Arctic ecosystems is found in soil and 'permafrost' (permanently frozen soil or sediment) in the form of organic matter produced by the incomplete decay of dead plants, animals .....[Read more...](#)

**Date:** July 02, 2020**Source:** Environmental News Network (ENN)**Curbs help 4 metros meet clean air targets**

NEW DELHI: Unprecedented lockdown measures resulted in four cities — Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru — achieving 95% of their 2024 National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) targets in a short span of 74 days, says a study on concentration of different air pollutants in these cities for over 10 weeks during the March-June period. Researchers found all the four cities managed to better their 2024 NCAP target by around 30%, with Kolkata surpassing its target by over 50% during the lockdown due to Covid. Besides studying PM levels, researchers from Mumbai-based Respirer Living Sciences and Delhi-based Carbon Copy analysed average levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) and benzene as part of their ongoing NCAP tracker project to monitor implementation .....[Read more...](#)

**Date:** July 04, 2020**Source:** The Economic Times**Germany to Ban Single-Use Plastics From 2021**

Germany has agreed to ban the sale of single-use plastic straws, cutlery, cotton buds and food containers from July 2021, aligning with an EU directive intended to reduce plastic waste. Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze, says, "Many disposable plastic products are superfluous with no sustainable use of resources. In addition, plastics end up too often in the environment or in the oceans. We are taking an important national step in the fight against the plastic flood." The ban will go into effect on July 3, 2021. The German Association of Local Utilities (VKU) estimates that common plastic items make up around 10% to 20% of waste from parks, public places and streets with takeaway packaging for food and beverages made from polystyrene having the largest share. ....[Read more...](#)

**Date:** July 06, 2020**Source:** Earth.org**Nudes tops greenery-covered Forest School in Pune with looping cycling track**

Architecture studio Nudes has designed a school covered in plants and topped by a cycling track shaped like an infinity symbol for Pune, India. Forest School in Pune is the winning entry for a competition to design a new educational facility for the city in western India. Nudes' plan for the school is to build a conjoined pair of six-storey cylindrical towers wrapped in greenery, with a looping cycling track on the roof. At 32 metres at its highest point, the school will feature a double-height auditorium at ground level with five floors of classrooms above. The cycling track that tops the building will create two bridges between the towers, one raised over the other to complete the endless circuit. Stepped balconies covered in plants will ring the exterior of both buildings, creating a vertical forest up the facade. "Pune is approximately three hours by road from Mumbai, and the city has witnessed dramatic urban growth in the last decade," said Nudes founder Nuru Karim. ....[Read more...](#)

**Date:** July 12, 2020**Source:** Dezeen**Things to Know Before Spraying Pesticides On Your Garden**

After months of work, your quarantine garden might finally be paying off ... for insects. Or even worse, no one gets to eat the fruits of your labor because a fungus got to the plants first. The situation might send you researching pesticides — a daunting task, given the range of options (and opinions) on how to best deter pests. "Whenever I talk to gardeners, it's either, 'I want something that will kill these bugs and do it right now and I want to hear them scream as they die,' or it's somebody that says, 'I want to get rid of the bugs, but I just want to shoo them away and I don't want to use any chemicals,'" says Mike Merchant, an entomologist with Texas A&M University. "The answer really depends on the gardener." If you're unsure which category you fall into, or just want to better understand your options, this .....[Read more...](#)

**Date:** July 15, 2020**Source:** Discover Magazine

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