



News

County exploring ways to use San Diego's land to fight climate change

With high biodiversity and rich farmland, San Diego County is exploring ways to put the region's land to use to cut carbon emissions. In an online public workshop Thursday, county officials explained ways to expand the use of wetlands, marshes, forests and agricultural lands to capture and store carbon through the county's Regional Decarbonization Framework. The framework aims to coordinate local governments and public agencies to eliminate carbon emissions in San Diego County before mid-century in order to slow the effects of global warming and stabilize the climate. It's separate from, but complementary to local climate action plans, and officials have said it's the first such regional effort in California. The plan is organized into sections covering energy, transportation, buildings, jobs and land use. On Thursday, planners discussed how land use choices can help slash carbon emissions and even capture carbon in plants and soil.

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** April 18, 2022**Source:** phys.org**Iraq 'green belt' neglected in faltering climate fight**

Envisioned as a lush fortress against worsening desertification and sand storms, the "green belt" of Iraq's Karbala stands as a wilted failure. Sixteen years after its inception, only a fraction of the 76-kilometre (47-mile) crescent-shaped strip of greenery has materialised, though the years proved a deep need for protection against mounting environmental challenges. Eucalyptus, olive groves and date palms first took root in 2006 as part of a plan for tens of thousands of the trees to form a green protective shield around the city in central Iraq. "We were very happy because the green belt would be an effective bulwark against dust," said Hatif Sabhan al-Khazali, a native of Karbala—one of Iraq's Shiite holy cities that attracts millions of pilgrims every year. Iraq's host of environmental problems, including drought and desertification, threaten access to water and livelihoods across the country. But nowadays, the southern axis of Karbala's green belt is only about 26 kilometres long while the northern axis of the 100-metre (328 feet) wide strip is even shorter, at 22 kilometres.

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** April 19, 2022**Source:** phys.org**Splash of colour along roadside verges as nature is allowed to take its course**

More roadside verges in Worcester are to become a riot of colour this summer as Worcester City Council rolls out its wildflower verges initiative. In 2020 the City Council declared a biodiversity emergency, recognising that action needs to be taken immediately to stop the decline of native species. Since then it has been looking to boost biodiversity wherever possible by keeping the edges of grass verges trimmed, planting wildflowers and leaving patches to nature itself. Working alongside Worcester Environmental Group (WEG) the council is planting a mixture of wildflower seeds along grass verges, brightening up the areas with poppies, cornflowers and a host of other plants – creating the perfect habitat to encourage bees, butterflies and other insects and wildlife. The wildflower verges will create a cheering splash of colour along the city's boundaries and main arterial routes. Information boards explaining the initiative are being put up in certain areas. Lloyd Griffiths, the City Council's Director of Operations Homes and Communities, said: "We've had lots of positive feedback so far to this new approach to managing nature in the city. Our aim is to keep our roadside verges trimmed around the edges, but also to allow nature to take over in certain areas.

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** April 22, 2022**Source:** Worcester**Protecting Species for the Good of Global Climate**

The Until now, measures to protect climate and biodiversity have often been developed in parallel. However, this is now considered outdated because many approaches can protect both climate and biodiversity. Targetted at the upcoming UN Biodiversity Conference, an international team of scientists has assessed the role of the potential future global biodiversity targets (Post-2020 Action Targets for 2030) for climate protection and found that about two thirds of these targets can also help to slow climate change. When the global community is expected to meet for the second part of the UN Biodiversity Conference in Kunming, China, in autumn, it must also adopt the next generation of UN biodiversity targets. These will then replace the Aichi Targets that were aimed for until 2020 - and have hardly been achieved. 21 "Post-2020 Action Targets for 2030" have already been pre-formulated. While they still have to be finally agreed, they aim to reduce potential threats to biodiversity, improve the well-being of humans, and implement tools and solutions for the conservation of biodiversity. In a review study for Global Change Biology, the authors assessed to which extent these 21 biodiversity targets can also slow climate change. The bottom line: 14 out of 21 (i.e. two thirds) of all targets are making a positive contribution to climate protection.

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** April 26, 2022**Source:** Environmental News Network

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