



News

Here's how lockdowns have improved air quality around the world

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused industrial activity to shut down and cancelled flights and other journeys, slashing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution around the world. If there is something positive to take from this terrible crisis, it could be that it's offered a taste of the air we might breathe in a low-carbon future. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that about 3 million people die each year from ailments caused by air pollution, and that more than 80% of people living in urban areas are exposed to air quality levels that exceed safe limits. The situation is worse in low-income countries, where 98% of cities fail to meet WHO air quality standards. Measurements from the European Space Agency's Sentinel-5P satellite show that during late

.....[Read more...](#)**Date:** April 20, 2020**Source:** World Economic Forum**Cable bacteria can drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions from rice cultivation**

Half of world's population is nourished by rice crops, but rice cultivation is harsh to the climate. The rice fields account for five percent of global emissions of the greenhouse gas methane, which is 25 times stronger than CO₂. This is because the rice plants grow in water. When the fields are flooded, the soil becomes poor in oxygen, creating the right conditions for microorganisms to produce methane. Now researchers from Aarhus University and the University of Duisburg-Essen have found that cable bacteria could be an important part of the solution. In the laboratory, they have grown rice in soil with and without cable bacteria and measured what happened. "And the difference was far beyond my expectations. The pots with cable bacteria emitted 93% less methane

.....[Read more...](#)**Date:** April 20, 2020**Source:** Science Daily**On Arbor Day 2020, we are planting hope**

Arbor Day 2020 - a holiday dedicated to planting and appreciating trees - arrives as America is living through a public health crisis unparalleled in the last century. The combined loss of life, employment and even simple free movement are felt deeply across our nation. In the face of such a profound national crisis, it might seem logical to skip our annual day of celebration for America's trees and forests. But America has a proud history of rally, not retreat, in the face of our greatest challenges. That is why I believe we need to use this Arbor Day to embrace trees as a symbol of our national resolve and hope for the future. After all, there are few actions in life more hopeful

.....[Read more...](#)**Date:** April 24, 2020**Source:** World Economic Forum**Scientists use bacteria to help plants grow in salty soil**

A new study has shown that salt-tolerant bacteria can be used to enhance salt tolerance in various types of plants. The new approach could increase crop yield in areas dealing with increasing soil salinity. Each year, about 2 million to 3 million hectares of irrigated farmland go out of production worldwide due to salinity problems, according to the U.S. Agency for International Development. Increased soil salinity not only reduces water uptake for crops but can often create a nutrient imbalance that decreases plant growth and yield. Although salt levels in soil can increase naturally over time, especially in arid areas, farming practices also contribute. Irrigation water, especially recycled wastewater, contains salts that concentrate in the soil. Fertilizers also add salts

.....[Read more...](#)**Date:** April 27, 2020**Source:** Phys.Org**Your Guide to Indoor Air Quality and Indoor Air Purifiers**

Even in the tech industry, working at home used to be a luxury that few people enjoyed. But, the current pandemic has changed that. Schools have shut down, forcing parents to work from home while taking care of their children. People are isolating themselves at home to minimize their chances of exposure. People who have, or may have been exposed, are isolating themselves from others in their homes. Businesses are asking employees to work at home to limit the spread of illness. And a host of other situations. Under these conditions, maintaining a healthy environment in your own home has become even more important. "Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, several coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

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