



News

Ecological impacts of palm stearin spill to the coastal ecosystem

In August 2017, a marine accident occurred in the Pearl River Estuary where a cargo vessel accidentally released about 1,000 tonnes of palm stearin into the sea. Over 200 tonnes of palm stearin reached the southwest coasts of Hong Kong. The general public and green groups expressed concerns that such palm oil pollution could adversely affect the marine life and marine ecosystem, yet there was a lack of scientific information on the toxicity of the palm stearin toward marine organisms in the scientific literature, making it impossible to accurately evaluate its ecological risk. Subsequently, Professor Kenneth Leung Mei Yee from School of Biological Sciences and the Swire Institute of Marine Science, The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and his research team launched a comprehensive 18-month[Read more...](#)

Date: December 20, 2019

Source: Science Daily

Op-ed: Yes, food is grown in sewage waste. That's a problem

You may not realize it but some foods you eat may have been grown in soil containing toxic sewage wastes. Labeling is not required. In 2019, about 60 percent of sewage sludge from 16,000 wastewater processing facilities in more than 160 U.S. cities has been spread on our soils – farmland and gardens, as well as schoolyards and lawns. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) allows this use of sewage waste, claiming it has beneficial use because it contains properties similar to fertilizer—certain heavy metals, phosphorus and nitrates—that could enhance soil conditions. The agency does not require testing for other chemicals in the sewage waste. Yet, millions of tons of sewage are processed annually and the waste can contain upward of 90,000 chemicals plus and an array of pathogens,[Read more...](#)

Date: December 23, 2019

Source: Environmental Health News

This railway station opens an 'oxygen parlour' to combat air pollution

In a unique initiative to battle rising air pollution in cities, an 'Oxygen Parlour' has been opened at Nashik railway station to provide an experience of breathing clean air to the commuters. The initiative comes with the efforts of Airo Guard in collaboration with the Indian Railways. The co-founder of Airo Guard, Amit Amritkar said that the concept of Oxygen Parlour is based on the recommendation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). "In 1989, NASA had conducted a study in which they identified some plants that better absorb the five most harmful pollutants from the air. We have planted most of those plants here," Amritkar told ANI on Monday. He said that these plants can clean the air in an area of 10X10 feet around them. "There are around 1500 plants here, so, these[Read more...](#)

Date: December 24, 2019

Source: The Economic Times

Group wants to plant trees for every baby born in Allegheny County

(Pittsburgh) — All babies born at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital in Oakland from now until Jan. 1 will have five trees planted in their honor. The effort is through the nonprofit Plant Five for Life, which has a lofty long-term goal of planting trees for every baby born in Allegheny County. Christina Graziano launched Plant Five For Life in April of 2018, and she said 2,000 families have participated, leading to more than 6,000 trees planted in and around the region. During this holiday season, new parents leaving Magee will receive a sticker indicating the trees will be planted on their child's behalf, a Magee spokesperson confirmed. "We'll be designing programs to bring those children and families back to the sites and to the trees year after year," Graziano said. "And for families to have[Read more...](#)

Date: December 24, 2019

Source: Witf Live Inspired

Dark times await Odisha's Talabira as forests razed for mining

Till less than a month ago, a lush forest area in Talabira village in Odisha's Sambalpur district was standing tall, with trees several decades old. The morning of December 7, 2019, however, marked the beginning of the end of this green expanse. As the winter breeze swept into the forest areas of Sambalpur district in Odisha, hundreds of personnel of security forces rushed in these areas, particularly near Talabira village. Local people said they had in fact seen security personnel from Odisha police, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and others, parading the village roads near the forest areas, a couple of days earlier and guarding the gates leading to the forests. The high security in this green patch in eastern India was to facilitate smooth, large-scale felling of thousands of trees and prevent any opposition. What is left now is an expanse of tree stubs that remain from the mass axing activity. Officials and labourers load the trunks of cut trees onto trucks to clear the forest for mining and claim that the cut trees are being taken away for[Read more...](#)

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Source: Mongabay

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