



News

Tree Planting Does Not Always Boost Ecosystem Carbon Stocks, Study Finds

Planting huge numbers of trees to mitigate climate change is “not always the best strategy” – with some experimental sites in Scotland failing to increase carbon stocks, a new study has found. Experts at the University of Stirling and the James Hutton Institute analysed four locations in Scotland where birch trees were planted onto heather moorland – and found that, over decades, there was no net increase in ecosystem carbon storage. The team – led by Dr Nina Friggens, of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Stirling – found that any increase to carbon storage in tree biomass was offset by a loss of carbon stored in the soil. Dr Friggens said: “Both national and international governments have committed to plant huge numbers of trees to mitigate climate change, based on the simple[Read more...](#)

Date: July 16, 2020**Source:** Environmental News Network (ENN)**Honeybees reveal environmental pollution in their surroundings**

Honeybee colonies are bioindicators of environmental contamination in the area, since they get coated in everything that there is in the environment, including pollutants, and they end up taking it all back to their bee hives. Bees sample a significant range of spaces, because they have a wide flight range, becoming covered with whatever build-up is in the air, water and the ground, as well as on trees and flowers. In addition, when they reach the hive, they also transport nectar they have collected, which passes to the other bees, and spreads throughout the hive. However, the use of hives to understand the state of environmental contamination involves capturing bees and extracting what they have ingested and transported on the surface of their body. Also, sampling can be done with larvae, pollen reserves and honey. All of this is tedious and, at times, detrimental to the hive.[Read more...](#)

Date: July 17, 2020**Source:** Phys.org**Cacti and other iconic desert plants threatened by solar development**

With their tough skins, pointy armor and legendary stamina, cacti are made to defend themselves from whatever nature throws at them. But large solar energy facilities are one threat that cacti weren't built to withstand, according to a study by the University of California, Davis. The study, published July 20 in the journal Nature Sustainability, chronicles the impacts of ground-mounted solar energy development in the Mojave Desert on native plants and their cultural significance to indigenous tribes in the region. "We're talking about iconic and threatened plants—cacti, especially, and Mojave yucca," said co-leading author Steve Grodsky, an assistant research ecologist at UC Davis. "These are the plants most people envision when they think about the desert, and they're also the most negatively[Read more...](#)

Date: July 20, 2020**Source:** Phys.org**India's programme to create 200 urban forests has seen no progress in four years**

During the virtual celebration of World Environment Day on June 5, Prakash Javadekar, India's Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, launched the Nagar Van project. The scheme aims to create urban forest cover in 200 cities across the country in the next five years. Oddly enough, in 2016 Javadekar launched the exact same scheme at a commemorative function at the Sanjay Gandhi National Park in Borivali, Mumbai. None of the experts The Third Pole's correspondent spoke to were aware of any progress on the scheme. Nor is any government data available on what goals were achieved on planting “200 city forests” between 2016 and 2020. Despite the lack of progress, there is no denying the benefits of urban forests and the critical role they play in augmenting city life.[Read more...](#)

Date: July 20, 2020**Source:** Scroll.in**Plastic waste entering oceans expected to triple in 20 years**

Plastic waste flowing into the oceans is expected to nearly triple in volume in the next 20 years, while efforts to stem the tide have so far made barely a dent in the tsunami of waste, research shows. Governments could make drastic cuts to the flow of plastic reaching the oceans through measures such as restricting the sale and use of plastic materials, and mandating alternatives, but even if all the most likely measures are taken it would only cut the waste to little less than half of today's levels, the analysis found. Previous estimates put the amount of plastic reaching the oceans each year at about 8m tonnes, but the true figure is much higher at about 11m tonnes, according to the paper published in the journal Science. If current trends continue, the amount of plastic waste polluting the oceans will grow to 29m tonnes a year by 2040, the equivalent of 50kg for every metre of coastline in the world.[Read more...](#)

Date: July 23, 2020**Source:** The Guardian

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