

APS Environment News

APS Public Interest - Dr Susie Burke - s.burke@psychology.org.au

December - 2012

CONTENTS

Campaigns.....	2&3
Workshops.....	4
Info-graph.....	5
Conference	6
Report.....	6
Article.....	7&8
Journal invite & articles	9
Resources	10&11
Declaration	12

VERY SHORT CLEVER VIDEOS !!

Just over **one minute to spare**? WATCH:

- ❖ A history of the UNFCCC in 83 seconds:

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/d739nf7>

About **2 minutes to spare**? WATCH:

- ❖ Anthropocene – the geology of humanity and the power of data

vimeo.com/39048998

About **4 minutes to spare**? WATCH:

- ❖ Visualises the transformation in health and wealth over the past 200 years –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbkSRLYSojo>

from

Australian Science Communicators

More info at:

<http://ict4lifesciences.org.au/events>



Environment Victoria

Did you see our infographic on the amazing growth of jobs in the Victorian solar industry which went viral around the world?



Global fossil fuel subsidies grow 30%

Last month the International Energy Agency (IEA) released its [2012 World Energy Outlook](#). They warned that if the world is to avoid global warming of more than 2 °C, no more than one-third of known fossil fuel reserves must be consumed by 2050. Most of these reserves are coal, highlighting the importance of keeping Victorian brown coal in the ground. So we'll send a copy of this report to Premier Baillieu and Minister Ferguson to remind them that proceeding with their planned coal allocations would be a terrible idea.

The IEA also found that subsidies to fossil fuels continue to distort energy markets and grew globally to \$523 billion in 2011. That's almost 30% higher than in 2010! In contrast, financial support to renewable energy in 2011 amounted to just \$88 billion.

Environment Victoria recently began a new campaign for the end of fossil fuel subsidies in Australia. We've been cooking up some big plans to make these subsidies a national issue - more to be revealed soon. We're starting with the ridiculous \$5.5 billion in carbon price compensation that's keeping our dirtiest polluters like Hazelwood open.

[Please sign the petition and send a message straight to the Prime Minister if you haven't done so already >](#)

!! SIGN

Community Campaign for Clean Energy

Our Climate Change Minister, Greg Combet has just announced yet another cut to government support for the solar industry



Let Greg Combet know you're not happy!

<http://100percent.org.au/content/time-stop-solar-coaster>

Our politicians just don't seem to get it. The simple fact is solar is the only source of power that is getting cheaper the more we use it, and helping Australians put solar on their roof is one of the best ways to help them manage their energy bills.

Recently released data shows that solar is being taken up by low and middle income households. This is because they know it will help them reduce their cost of living.

The government has caved in to weeks of lobbying from energy generators and retailers like Origin who are deeply threatened by the ability of solar to create cleaner, cheaper power than the coal and gas alternative.

It threatens the jobs of thousands of people working in small businesses across the country. Chopping and changing policy is deeply unfair to those people trying to make a living helping Australians embrace a clean energy future.

Send a message to Greg Combet now and let him know you want a solar powered future, not just more expensive polluting coal and gas.

<http://100percent.org.au/content/time-stop-solar-coaster>

PETITIONS !!



Australia's Climate Action Summit

Let's make sure climate change is a top issue in the coming Federal election. The election will most likely be held around August or September next year, so we propose to hold the 2013 Climate Summit before then, in June or July.

A team of 15 people have just started organising a Climate Summit. We would like input from as many people as possible to make it the best and most inspiring Summit ever. Let's take advantage of the news that is coming out about more and more evidence of the reality of climate change and the effects it is having on ordinary people. The summit is a great way to enthuse groups to become more active and to recruit more people. It's a place to share inspiring stories about the success of BZE, 100% Renewables and state based campaigns. And it's a powerful way to recruit people to campaigns, especially people like farmers and other people concerned about Coal Seam Gas. Please pass this message on to your contacts.

Please send us your ideas. If you want to do a workshop or help the planning team then let us know. Send ideas and suggestions to climate-summit-2013@googlegroups.com.

Annie Nielsen, The Climate Action Summit Planning Team, 042526516



High speed rail: get on board

Recently released [a report](#) identifies \$48 billion in benefits to the Australian economy from high speed rail, from less congested cities to less polluted skies – and that's not to mention the benefits to regional towns. The benefits are clear. What we need now is a clear commitment from the government to invest high speed rail.

We want the government to get on board and commit to building high speed rail in Australia.

Our goal is **5000** signatures! So far **4255** people have supported this campaign, which represents **85.1%**



CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK AUSTRALIA

FREE WORKSHOPS

Here at CANA we've organised two **FREE** training events with The Climate Commission, for gaining, or improving, skills on communicating climate change. Bookings are now open via the links below.

The Climate Change Spokesperson: Media Training for Scientists and Community Groups

Tuesday 18th December, Sydney: The Climate Institute, Level 15, 179 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Thursday 20th December, Melbourne: Australian Conservation Foundation, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton VIC 3053

A free, full day workshop which aims to build the confidence and skill of scientists and community groups to communicate climate science to the Australian public.

- Latest research on how Australians process messages about climate change
- Effective techniques to talk about climate change through the mainstream media
- Practical skills in preparing for and performing media interviews
- Personalised feedback on mock media interviews (for up to ten participants)

Outline

9:45am - 10:00am Arrive and register

10:00am -12:30am Climate change communications and the media

12:30pm - 1:30am Lunch

1:30pm - 3:30pm Media performance skills intensive

(Maximum of ten participants for afternoon session)

Facilitators

Amanda McKenzie, Senior Media Advisor, The Climate Commission

Larissa Brown, Climate Communication Researcher, The University of Cambridge

RSVP Essential by Friday, 14 December 2012 to admin@cana.net.au or book directly online.

NOTE: Maximum of 20 participants in the morning and 10 in the afternoon.

Fantastic Info-graphic guide

How Many Gigatons of Carbon Dioxide...?

have we released to date?

530Gt
added 1850-2000

380
added since 2000

more can we "safely" release*?

500
our 'carbon budget'

are left to release?

745
in fossil fuel reserves of top 100 coal, gas, oil companies

2,050
all known fossil fuel reserves

Author:

[InformationIsBeautiful.net](http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2012/dec/07/carbon-dioxide-doha-information-beautiful) See more: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2012/dec/07/carbon-dioxide-doha-information-beautiful>

CURRENT HUMAN EMISSIONS PER YEAR **31** gigatons

* before 2050 and still have a chance of staying below 2°C war

TIME BEFORE WE BREAK OUR 'CARBON BUDGET'



13 YEARS

average yearly emissions increase: 3%

	31 Gt	500 Gt	745 Gt	2,050 Gt		
GLOBAL WARMING IF RELEASED	+0.8°C 1.4°F	+1.5°C 2.7°F	+2°C 3.6°F	+3-4°C 5.4-7.2°F	+5-6°C 9-10.8°F	over 20th century's average temperature
SCENARIO	happened	inevitable	"safe" limit*	tipping point	nightmare	
SEA LEVEL RISE BY 2100		0.85m	1.04m	1.24m	1.43m	relative to 1990 sea level
DROWNING CITIES			Amsterdam	New York	Bangkok	knee-high flooding
OCEAN ACIDIFICATION	30% more acidic	CORAL stops growing	dissolves	dead	150% more acidic	oceans become more acidic as they absorb CO2
ARCTIC SEA ICE ANNUAL REDUCTION		15%	30%	45-60%	75%	
HEAT	increasing global heat waves		every Euro summer a heatwave	Italy, Spain, Greece deserts	unknown	some inland temperatures will reach +10°C (+18°F)
CORN & WHEAT YIELDS		-10%	-20%	-30-40%	unknown	US & Africa wheat Indian corn
% MORE HEAVY RAIN OVER LAND		7%	13%	20-26%	35-42%	
HURRICANE DESTRUCTIVENESS		+7.5%	+15%	+22.5-30%	+37.5-45%	
SPECIES AT RISK OF EXTINCTION			30%	40%	unknown	
REALLY SCARY THINGS			Greenland ice sheet starts to disintegrate. Will take 50,000 years to melt	Huge amounts of CO2 & methane released by melting permafrost in Siberia	Ocean floor methane released causing runaway climate change. Possibility of	

2013 Climate Adaptation Conference



25 – 27 June 2013

Hilton Hotel, Sydney

The NCCARF Climate Adaptation 2013 knowledge & partnerships conference will bring together end users and researchers from across Australia to share experience in adaptation and showcase activities, strategies and research.

Abstract submission deadline 15 February 2013

Acceptance notification 27 March 2013

Presenter & Early Bird registrations close 11 April 2013

Applications now open for Student travel and registration grants for Conference.

SEE MORE - www.nccarf.edu.au/conference2013/



Turn down the heat – World Bank Report

The World Bank has [released a report](#) predicting a "cascade of cataclysmic changes that include extreme heat waves, declining global food stocks, and a sea level rise affecting hundreds of millions of people" if the global community fails to act on climate change.

"This report is a sobering look at what a four degrees warmer world would look like. There would be a massive disruption of some of our most basic systems," said Jim Yong Kim, the President of the World Bank.

At the report launch, Mr Kim spoke about his three year old son. "When he's my age, he could be living in a completely different world – one in which we don't have enough food to feed our population; one in which cities are inundated with water. The window is narrow. We've got to take action now."

But the report indicates that with immediate and sustained action, the world could still avoid the worst damage, citing the World Bank's 'green growth' findings that more efficient and smarter use of energy and natural resources can reduce climate impacts without slowing poverty reduction or affecting economic stability. Potential solutions suggested in the report include:

- putting the US\$1 trillion worth of global fossil fuel subsidies to better use
- introducing natural capital accounting
- expanding investments in green infrastructure and public transport
- increasing renewable energy production
- increasing energy efficiency
- introducing carbon pricing schemes.

SEE MORE - <http://caha.org.au/>



CLIMATE AND
HEALTH
ALLIANCE

A healthy environment shouldn't just be for the rich

ARTICLE by Jason Byrne, Senior Lecturer, [Griffith University](#)



If your environment is polluted, you're probably poor. Kaptain Kobold/flickr

Ever heard of “environmental justice”? No? It links social and environmental discrimination. Still doesn't sound familiar? Well if you've seen the movie [Erin Brockovich](#) – which examines how a single mother fought against a Californian utility that polluted the environment – you've watched a movie about environmental justice.

“[Environmental justice](#)” describes efforts to fix the pollution burden faced by marginalised groups. Such groups usually lack social, economic, and political power. They include indigenous people, poor people, immigrants, homeless, elderly, non-white people, people with disabilities, unemployed, sole-parents and the like.

Earlier this year the Victorian Environmental Defenders Office quietly released a potentially groundbreaking [report](#) on environmental equity in Australia. Until now, Australia has paid little attention to environmental justice, but this report has the potential to radically alter Australia's planning landscape.

What is environmental justice and where did it come from?

The environmental justice movement began as an offshoot of the US civil rights movement in the United States in the late 1970s, but has since grown internationally. At first, it was a grassroots response to pollution in communities. “People of colour” (African-Americans, Latinos, Asians and others) lived in neighbourhoods hosting noxious land uses such as waste dumps and polluting factories.

They fought against corrupt businesses, discriminatory land use zoning, biased decision-making and unequal law enforcement. They used protests, community rallies and direct political action to achieve their goals.

In 1991, the National People of Color Summit in Washington DC adopted [Environmental Justice Principles](#). Since then, researchers have demonstrated that marginalised people are significantly more likely to inhabit polluted, dangerous, or otherwise unhealthy places. Scholars have documented hundreds of cases of environmental injustice.

Like its US counterpart, the Australian environmental movement has mostly been white, middle-class, and concerned with protecting so-called wilderness areas. But Australia may now be on the cusp of embracing environmental justice, thanks to the Victorian EDO's environmental justice report.

A healthy environment shouldn't just be for the rich

ARTICLE by Jason Byrne, Senior Lecturer, [Griffith University](#)

Cont . . .

Marginalised Australians in contaminated areas

Until recently, Australia has not had a recognisable environmental justice movement. This is surprising. Nearly every Australian city has contaminated industrial areas that are close to working-class neighbourhoods. These places have extensive air, soil and water pollution. Marginalised and vulnerable people also live nearby. They include recent immigrants, indigenous people, homeless, unemployed, and the working poor. Such groups also lack easy access to environmental benefits like parks and green space.

In Australia, the plight of poor and marginalised people who live in toxic and polluted neighbourhoods has typically been identified as a “social justice” or “public health” issue, not as an environmental concern.

The report is based on detailed research. It discusses three Australian case studies: a toxic dump in Tullamarine; indigenous involvement in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan; and coal seam gas and desalination plants in rural Australia.

The report suggests that environmental justice is not recognised in the same way here as in the United States. But it also acknowledges that this might be about to change. The report gives particular attention to the problems with Australia’s environmental planning and environmental enforcement systems. And it makes recommendations for how these problems might be remedied.

The evidence is in, time for action

Australian scholars have also begun to investigate environmental justice issues. There are now several excellent studies demonstrating that Australia has environmental justice problems. These problems include coal seam gas and [coal dust pollution](#), [climate justice](#), exposure to asbestos and lead, pesticide contamination, [remote indigenous settlements](#), and access to [green space](#).

For example, in 2003 Mariann Lloyd-Smith and Lee Bell [documented](#) a chemical fire in a toxic waste dump in Bellevue, Western Australia. They investigated how local authorities dismissed residents concerns about health impacts. Annemarie De Vos and Jeffery Spickett also [examined the same fire](#) from an environmental health perspective. Both studies found lax enforcement of environmental laws, poor regulation, haphazard monitoring and very poor follow-up with residents. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation has followed the case in a report on [Stateline](#) in 2006, and in a [Four Corners](#) story.

Australian planning and environmental regulatory systems have left a legacy of harm in our cities, towns and rural areas. This harm has affected both nature and people. Asbestos roofs, soil and water contamination, air pollution and toxic waste dumps exist in every state.

Planning law changes are taking us backwards

Recent changes to state [planning laws in Queensland](#), and forthcoming changes in New South Wales, mean that environmental injustices are likely set to increase.

State Governments are looking to wind-back environmental regulations to boost land and property development (so called cuts to “[green tape](#)”). They are also changing the powers of local government to investigate and monitor environmental problems. And they are cutting funding to independent watchdogs protecting the public interest, watchdogs like the [Environmental Defenders Office](#).

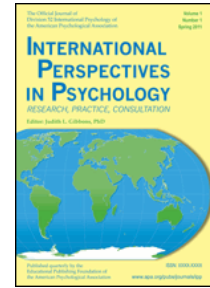
Without these independent organisations monitoring government actions, who will? Environmental injustice is a problem in Australia, so what are we going to do about it?

The Conversation – 26 Nov 2012

SEE: <http://theconversation.edu.au/a-healthy-environment-shouldnt-just-be-for-the-rich-10439>

INVITE to PUBLISH RESEARCH in New JOURNAL

Consider publishing your work in *International Perspectives in Psychology: Research, Practice, Consultation*. It is a broadly based journal, entering its second year of publication. Any questions ask: Prof. Helen Ross, School of Agriculture and Food Sciences The University of Queensland. Email helen.ross@uq.edu.au



Mother Pelican Journal of Solidarity and Sustainability - ARTICLES - December 2012

Page 1. [Hakone Vision on Governance for Sustainability in the 21st Century](#), International Environmental Governance Architecture Research Group and Earth System Governance Project

Page 2. [We cannot avoid the global crisis... but we can deal with it](#), by Paul Gilding

Page 3. [Who Will Get This Economy Going? No One](#), by Dave Gardner

Page 4. [Mobilizing the Global Business Community to Achieve Sustainable Prosperity](#), by Robert Engelman

Page 5. [Human Happiness and the Environment – Address by Uruguayan President José Mujica at the Rio +20 Summit](#), translated by Verónica Pamoukaghlián

Page 6. [The Economics of Oil Dependence: A Glass Ceiling to Recovery](#), by Victoria Johnson, Andrew Simms, and Tony Greenham

Page 7. [Global Map of Ecosystem Functionality](#), by Lisa Freudenberger, Pierre Ibisch, and Peter Hobson

Page 8. [Efficiency and Entrepreneurship: Key Ingredients for Infinite Growth](#), by Milton Mountebank

Page 9. [Carrying Capacity and Overshoot: Another Look](#), by Paul Chefurka

SUPPLEMENTS

1: [Advances in Sustainable Development](#) (prayer, study, action, news, pubs, tools, data, models)

2: [Directory of Sustainable Development Resources](#) (library of 1000+ links to online resources)

3: [Long-Term Strategies for Sustainable Energy](#) (clean energy, mitigation and adaptation strategies)

4: [Short-Term Strategies for Sustainable Energy](#) (education, taxes, basic income, ISO standards)

5: [Fostering Gender Equality in Society](#) (gender solidarity and equality, men and women in society)

6: [Fostering Gender Equality in Religion](#) (liberation from patriarchy, men and women in religion)

Luis T. Gutierrez, PhD, PE Editor, *Mother Pelican Journal of Solidarity and Sustainability*
<http://pelicanweb.org>



The website features selected new research and reports relevant to post carbon transitions.



How would you lead us out of our climate predicament?

The Guardian newspaper in the United Kingdom recently asked 50 readers and public figures to answer this question very concisely: How would you lead us out of our climate predicament? In just one or two sentences each the respondents put forward a range of ideas and perspectives about the top priority for addressing climate change. The contributions were sought to mark a frightening milestone for October 2012 – we have 50 months to avoid climate disaster. [Read the full post.](#)

NEW REPORT: *Too late for 2 degrees? Low Carbon Economy Index 2012*, PricewaterhouseCoopers

The annual PwC Low Carbon Economy Index centres on one core statistic: the rate of change of global carbon intensity. This year they estimated that the required improvement in global carbon intensity to meet a 2°C warming target has risen to 5.1% a year, from now to 2050. The report is available [here](#)

NEW RESOURCES: Presentations from the Fourth Meeting of the Low Carbon Society Research Network, Oxford:

NEW BOOK: *2052 – A Global Forecast for the Next Forty Years*, Jørgen Randers

Jørgen Randers is Professor of Climate Strategy at the [Norwegian School of Management](#) and co-author of [The Limits to Growth](#) (1972). More details about his new book are available [here](#).

NEW RESOURCES: German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU) 'Towards Low Carbon Prosperity' Symposium resources.

Held in Berlin in May 2012. Keynote delivered by Chancellor Angela Merkel. Summaries, videos and written documentation [here](#).

SEE MORE website: www.sustainable.unimelb.edu.au



MELBOURNE SUSTAINABLE
SOCIETY INSTITUTE



1. A new publication from the Institute of Psychoanalysis:

Engaging with Climate Change: Psychoanalytic and Interdisciplinary Perspectives.

It is an absorbing read - each of the 12 chapters very engaging and unique. Any one chapter would be very appropriate and interesting for a psychoanalytic or psychology reading group or a book club or group. This would be a wonderful way to open up the subject and help break the taboo on talking about climate change. More information about the book here

It can be ordered from Readings Brain Centre bookshop, 30 Royal Pde, Parkville). Ph 9347 1749

It is also available online through the [Book Depository](#) for \$40.68 or can be purchased from the UK online at [Karnac Books](#)

Beyond the Couch Videos - On our website we have a [link](#) to videos of the talks in the Beyond the Couch series on which the papers in the book are based.

2. Papers from the recent Melbourne workshop held by Psychology for a Safe Climate: Turning a Blind Eye to Climate Change: Integrating Psychological, Sociological and Cultural Perspectives.

The following papers from the workshop are linked here to our website.

Some others are not available yet as they are to be published in psychoanalytic journals in the coming year.

Understanding the Denial of Climate Change.

Introduction to Turning a blind eye to climate change workshop
by Sue Pratt

Why are we losing the battle as emissions rise ?

by Lyn Bender

From turning a blind eye to omnipotence—The psychology of denial and the denial of psychology

by Charles Le Fevre

Denial through a psychoanalytic lens.

by Ben Nisenbaum

Anthropocentrism: is it a root of climate change denial?

by Julie James

SEE MORE RESOURCES AT - www.psychologyforasafeclimate.org/articles.php



READ more about **GREEN & HEALTHY Hospitals** world wide at: <http://greenhospitals.net/>



CLIMATE AND
HEALTH
ALLIANCE

Health is the most important motivation for climate action

Media release - 3 December 2012

Health and medical groups in Australia have joined international colleagues in calling for health to be central to the international climate talks, saying "human health is profoundly threatened by our global failure to halt emissions growth and curb climate change."

The [Climate and Health Alliance](#), a national coalition of Australian health groups, along with its members the Public Health Association of Australia, the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, Doctors Reform Society, Australian Association of Social Workers, and the Australian Medical Students Association have signed the [Doha Declaration for Climate, Health and Wellbeing](#).

The [Doha Declaration](#) calls for health to be central to climate action, and highlights the opportunities to improve health through emissions reductions - pointing out that reducing fossil fuel consumption and moving to low carbon energy systems can deliver many benefits to health worldwide.

"The impact of climate change on health is one of the most significant measures of harm associated with our warming planet," the Declaration says. "Protecting health is therefore one of the most important motivations for climate action."

The Declaration calls for:

- the health impacts of climate change to be taken into account nationally and internationally in developing climate policies;
- investment in climate mitigation and adaptation programs to protect and promote health to be significantly and rapidly increased; and
- the health sector to be engaged and included in designing and leading climate mitigation and adaptation worldwide.

International signatories to the [Doha Declaration on Climate Health and Wellbeing](#) include the World Medical Association, the International Council of Nurses, International Federation of Medical Students, Health Care Without Harm, European Public Health Association, Royal College of General Practitioners (UK), Climate and Health Council, OraTaiao: The New Zealand Climate & Health Council, NHS Sustainable Development Unit, Umeå Center for Global Health Research, and many others.

"As representatives of health communities around the world, we argue that strategies to achieve rapid and sustained emissions reductions and protect health must be implemented in a time frame to avert further loss and damage," the health and medical groups declare.

"We recognise that this will require exceptional courage and leadership from our political, business and civil society leaders, including the health sector; acceptance from the global community about the threats to health posed by our current path; and a willingness to act to realise the many benefits of creating low carbon, healthy, sustainable and resilient societies."

Read the [Doha Declaration on Climate, Health and Wellbeing](#) at: <http://dohadeclaration.weebly.com>

For media enquiries and background resources: Fiona Armstrong media@caha.org.au or 0438900005.

W: www.caha.org.au

NOTE: Special edition of Outreach magazine on health available to all delegates at the COP18 global climate talks in Doha Qatar – with our Doha Declaration J.

Available at: www.stakeholderforum.org/sf/outreach/