

META



EEB
European
Environmental
Bureau

THE GOOD LIFE

Climate action we love

FUTURE ENERGY

Time to choose

HUNGRY FOR SOLUTIONS

The answer to food waste?

As climate action hits the headlines again, how will the solutions change our lives for good?
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Climate for Change

See inside for a round-up of environmental news from Europe

| **COOL CLOTHES**

| **FARM TO FORK**

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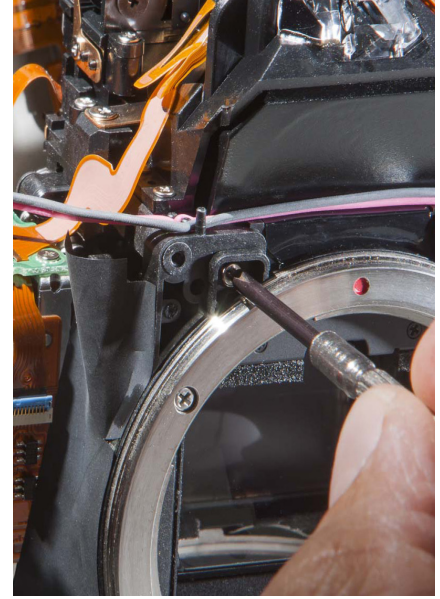
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ON THE COVER

Image: Fleet Street of the Future
WATG, London National Park City
WATG.com

EDITORIAL

Time to talk about a better future

Do you suffer from climate anxiety? Are you an eco-worrier? From fires in the Amazon and a dying Great Barrier Reef to warnings of the calamitous consequences of 4°C of global heating – there’s no shortage of incredibly tragic and genuinely frightening news. And people are rightly scared.

Hopelessness and pessimism sometimes seem like a common-sense response to the heartbreaking things we are witnessing. Yet these emotions not only weigh heavy on our shoulders, affecting our mental health and wellbeing, they also interfere with our ability – as people who believe in a better future – to successfully share our vision with the wider world.

When we feel positive about something we are more likely to engage, listen and take action. When something makes us feel hopeless, sad or shameful, we are more likely to ignore, evade or deny it.

Of course, we can not pretend that there’s anything particularly positive about living through the sixth mass extinction, or witnessing humanity accelerating towards climate catastrophe. But we do have a choice about how we balance our time between sounding the alarm bell for a world in crisis and offering an alternative vision for a better future.



The idea of a Green New Deal is a perfect example of this approach in action. Picking up the initiative from US lawmakers, the idea of a Green Deal for Europe – as called for in the last edition of META (see left) – has caught on in Brussels, and now forms a central plank of European Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen’s work programme.

What makes the idea of a Green Deal so attractive – and palatable to people and politicians alike – is that essential environmental policies are explained primarily as part of a positive future. The devil will of course be in the detail, and we will be keeping a close eye on developments, but the overarching story is clear: green policies mean safe, clean jobs, good food, thriving nature, fresh air, warmer homes, efficient transport, responsible industry – and who can disagree with any of this?

When we take the time to properly explain the benefits of the policies we advocate, we break down barriers to inaction, harness the power of public opinion and create a political space where change can take place.

As demands for climate action and environmental justice grow louder around the world, we have dedicated this issue to stories about green policies in action – demonstrating their positive results and creating the climate for change we need.



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The good life of CLIMATE ACTION



Being green doesn't just save the planet, it also makes your life better.
Emily Macintosh dives into six ways our lives are about to change for good.



After a year of school strikes and with the climate movement spawning protests all around the world, climate and environmental challenges have become major political issues.

But while you would think the case for climate action would be an easy one to make, given it is about preserving the future of all life on this, our one and only planet, we still hear too much from detractors about the supposed sacrifices people will have to make to prevent devastating climate breakdown.

In reality, climate action offers us a path to a better future for all – even for those who, for whatever reason, might not feel that environmental and climate action will benefit their daily lives.

1 Better products and cheaper bills

We all know that more renewables are a good thing, but did you know that one of the best ways to reduce emissions is to make products that do the same job they do now – but that use much less energy? Better-designed products can also be built to last and, if they do break, to be more easily repaired.

Research recently revealed that households have saved up to €1330 on lighting costs alone since EU energy efficiency rules came into force in 2009.

2 Fresh air and people-friendly planning

To reduce the amount of emissions from transport we will need cleaner vehicles – and the number of cars on our roads will need to come down.

We can plan our towns and cities better, so they are designed for people – not cars. Accessible and efficient public transport can slash car use and make cities more breathable. Car-sharing schemes will mean Europeans stop spending a huge proportion of their salary on the upkeep of vehicles that stand parked and unused 95% of the time – an expensive drain on any household's income.

Belgian carsharing scheme Cambio estimates that some drivers could save more than €2000 per year by switching to their service.

3 Less clutter

Ever felt overwhelmed by how much stuff you accumulate? Felt stressed trying to find a present for someone? Changing how we view consumption can create space for learning how to make things ourselves, spending time with loved ones, and neighbourhood alternatives that help build stronger communities.

Governments need to help encourage and support the development of locally-owned shared resource clubs and libraries. Instead of paying for expensive tools, clothes, books or other items, we should be able to borrow them and take them back for others to use when we're done.

In Brussels, *Tournevie* offers an "affordable and ecological tool library" with over 1000 tools you can book online. They also have a workspace and offer training sessions to learn how to use their tools safely.

OUR WORK and how to join in

The EEB works on two important campaigns in this area: **CoolProducts**, making ecodesign and energy labelling work for everyone; and **Right to Repair**, a campaign to make it easier to fix broken products.

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The EEB's **Clean Air Working Group** contributes to the development of air pollution rules and keeps track of what governments and cities are doing to ensure their citizens' right to clean air.

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At the EEB we work on a variety of topics linked to the **Circular Economy**, including waste prevention and management and product policy.

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4 Slower, calmer holidays

The EU could end tax exemptions and subsidies to the aviation sector and help fund improvements to Europe's railway network. We can take slower holidays, where the journey is part of the fun and we have time to relax.

Flying might have brought the world closer together, but it has fractured many communities. Far-flung exotic holidays might look good on Instagram but what you don't see is that these cost a lot of money, can involve a stressful and long journey, and you might leave with a bad taste in your mouth when you see the impact of tourism on your chosen destination. Travelling less means more time to explore the nature closer to home – with proven benefits for your mental health – and your wallet.

European long-distance train travel is already enjoying a renaissance after Austrian rail company ÖBB invested €40m in new carriages in 2016.

5 Working less, living more

Our current working time and lifestyle models are connected to an unsustainable economy – for example, working lots and being time-poor forces many people to eat carbon-intensive food, often wrapped in plastic. Countries can champion the four-day week as a way of moving to a green economy.

It seems that everyone is busy these days, and work is taking up an ever-greater chunk of our time. Not only would working less would have huge health benefits – if we all worked less there would be more work to go around, and we'd have more time to actually live the sustainable lifestyles needed to reduce emissions – for example by cooking more and repairing things when they break.

A study has found that staff were happier and 20% more productive after their New Zealand employer cut their working week to four days while maintaining their pay. The increase in productivity meant the same amount of work was done!

6 Tastier food

Over 10% of all greenhouse gas emissions come from the farm sector. 30% of the planet's land mass is now taken up by crops grown solely to feed livestock. The EU's Common Agricultural Policy – which has played a major role in developing this climate-unfriendly model of farming – needs to be reformed to keep food production at safe levels our planet can handle, so that future generations of farmers can produce the safe and healthy food we need.

Going veggie or vegan can bring benefits for your health as well as the planet. But even if you don't go fully plant-based you can save eating meat for special occasions, choose local options, and reduce food waste.

EEB member Ecodes is one of the partners in a Spanish project to develop a code of good practices against food waste. In 2016, 1300 tonnes of food that was going to be thrown away was collected from branches of just one supermarket.

The EEB's **Green Budget Working Group** is a forum to discuss how ecological fiscal reform and green budgeting can help accelerate a just transition to a sustainable Europe.

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The EEB's **Economic Transition Working Group** was established in 2018 to discuss issues such as post-growth, global trade and corporate responsibility.

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The EEB's **Agriculture Working Group** focuses on radically overhauling the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) so that it supports a sustainable and healthy food and farming system.

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Making sustainability **FASHIONABLE**



Can we can dress cool and be green?

Khaled Diab takes a look at two great textiles projects.

Our apparently insatiable appetite for clothes is bad news for the natural world – but hope is emerging as local projects expose the naked truth about fast fashion.

Together, EU citizens buy over 6 million tonnes of new clothes a year, which works out at nearly 13 kg per person. The amount of clothes purchased per person grew by over 40% in the space of just 16 years (1996-2012), according to the European Environment Agency.

The Make Europe Sustainable for All (MESA) project, which is led by the EEB, is working to raise public awareness of fashion's ugly underbelly and to promote more sustainable approaches to clothing.

Trendy thrifting

Two MESA-supported actions have encouraged people to change their behaviour to help redress the situation.

In France, *Collectif Démarqué* spearheaded a campaign, targeted at 16-25-year-olds, to show how buying second-hand clothes is both good for the planet and fashionable.

Utilising the power and reach of social media, the campaign organised an Instagram contest encouraging young people to share

photos of themselves dressed in second-hand clothes and to tell the stories behind their outfits. The six winners of the thrifty fashion photography competition were announced at a special event in Paris.

The new in old-fashioned

In Poland, the Polish Zero Waste Association organised a series of workshops on second-hand fashion. The ateliers focused both on theoretical and practical considerations. One session, targeting young jobseekers leaving state care facilities, taught participants about the psychology of colour and helped them to assemble stylish outfits that would make the best impression at job interviews. Another, which was attended by single and stay-at-home mothers, taught them strategies to upcycle Christmas outfits for them and their children.

A workshop open to the general public not only raised awareness of the environmental costs of fast fashion, but provided a practical arena for alternatives, where participants could swap clothes, make new jewellery out of old and broken items, and learn how to mend clothing.

#OutofFashion

This autumn, MESA will launch its campaign for sustainability and fairness in the textile and fashion industry. In addition to raising awareness about the environmental toll of the textiles sector, it will highlight ways to make fashion sustainable and sustainability fashionable. Follow the hashtag #OutofFashion to stay up to date.

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THE BUYERARCHY
of NEEDS
(with apologies to Maslow)

The booming app that's **CUTTING FOOD WASTE** one meal at a time



Every day, tonnes of fresh food end up in the bin.

What if you could save them from waste while getting a cut-price meal? As Roberta Arbinolo explains, the good news is: there's an app for that!

The concept is simple: by connecting consumers with local restaurants, cafes and bakeries that have unsold food, 'Too Good To Go' allows you to buy surplus food for knockdown prices.

Launched in Copenhagen in 2016, the app has taken Europe by storm, is now available in 12 countries and has been installed over 13 million times. This is not by chance: people across Europe are increasingly worried about food waste and hungry for solutions.

About one third of all food produced globally is wasted or lost, and at a very high price. Throwing away perfectly edible food is not only a waste of the huge amounts of energy and natural resources needed to produce it, freeze it, store it, and transport it; it also creates dangerous emissions that pollute the air we breathe and accelerate climate breakdown.

According to the UN, food waste has a global carbon footprint of about 8% of all global greenhouse gas emissions caused by humans. If food waste was a country, it would

be the third biggest carbon emitter after the US and China.

According to Clean Air Farming - a joint project involving the EEB and our members DUH and FNE - cutting meat and dairy waste is key to reducing emissions of methane and ammonia. At the same time, meat accounts for the highest amounts of water and nitrogen resources that are lost when edible food is thrown in the bin.

On the other hand, a 60% cut in food waste by 2030 could reduce Europe's burden of land-use by an area greater than the size of Croatia, save European householders over €73 billion and prevent 80 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

Ending food waste is also among the EU commitments to meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and is expected to play an important role in the Commission's upcoming European Green Deal.

On their end, Too Good To Go reports that the app has already helped by saving 19.8

million meals, and preventing 50,324 tonnes of CO₂. So is this the perfect solution to turn the tables on food waste?

For EEB circular economy expert Piotr Barczak, initiatives such as Too Good To Go can raise awareness about the "insane" amount of fresh food that ends up in the garbage, while directly contributing to save some of it. However, working on the supply level is key: "to get food waste off the table, supermarkets, restaurants and caterers need to stop overproducing in the first place, and adjust to have their stock empty by the end of the day." And then there's the packaging: "food waste and packaging waste often go hand in hand", Barczak says. "The app is already inviting users to bring a reusable bag to carry their savings home. It would be even better if they also encouraged them to bring reusable containers".

The success story of Too Good To Go is yet more evidence of the growing appetite for a food system that feeds people instead of bins.



From farm to fork and playground to policy



With three quarters of Europeans now living in urban areas, most European children are growing up with little or no first-hand experience of farming.

Anton Lazarus considers what this means for a food system in crisis.

In 2010 British celebrity chef Jamie Oliver tested kids on their knowledge of fruit and vegetables. In a now infamous scene (which you can easily find and watch online), Oliver meets a classroom of American six-year-olds – none of them are able to identify a tomato.

Perhaps the situation in Europe is not yet so dire, but it's not just kids who have forgotten, never learnt, or never even thought about how food is produced.

How many of us have picked up plastic-wrapped fruit from Spain or Italy, mushrooms from Poland, fish trawled from the sea in one country and processed in another? Europe's current food system is built on the long-distance transportation

Agricultural Policy (CAP) is essential: "The CAP is a tool that could achieve so much, yet it has increased destruction of the natural world and encouraged patterns of production and consumption that are bad for our health, environment and climate. What we really need is to turn this bad farm policy into a good food policy."

One problem, Nyssens says, is that too few Europeans understand farming and the devastating impact of intensive, industrial agriculture. "Most people never see, and therefore simply don't know anything, about what's going on at the other end of a production chain that starts in a field and ends in our local supermarket: there's a serious lack of connection between urban and rural life."

milk a cow!

The ECFC works to promote equal access and involvement of children, young people and adults through practical experience in a wide range of educational, environmental, recreational, social and economic activities focused around farming and within a framework of sustainable development.

Supporters of city farms argue that they don't just improve a community's natural environment, they also provide an opportunity for people to learn about how farming works, understand abstract concepts like 'food sovereignty' and to consider our current needs while anticipating those of future generations.

Nyssens agrees that the work of city farms is essential: "Their work makes it much easier for urban populations to understand what's going wrong with EU agriculture – this is essential knowledge as we make decisions about the future of farming in Europe."

The EU's Common Agricultural Policy is currently being reviewed and the EEB is calling for an ambitious overhaul so that the biggest and most polluting farms are no longer rewarded.

"Most people don't know about what's going on at the other end of a production chain that starts in a field and ends in their local supermarket: there's a serious lack of connection between urban and rural life."

of often highly-processed foods. We never really see where our food comes from, we don't understand what producing it entails.

Few readers would disagree that serious changes are needed to our food and farming system. Celia Nyssens, who works on farming policy for the EEB says a significant reform of the EU's Common

Building this link is the mission of the European Federation of City Farms (EFCF) and their members. EFCF aims to promote the interests and mutual co-operation of different types of city farms, their website is a treasure trove of information including good practice and guidance and advice on everything from food sovereignty to how to

Learn more: eeb.org/agriculture
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Member in Focus

European Federation of City Farms

Formed 1983 (informally) 1990 (official)

Organisation type Network

Number of members 13 (6 full, 7 associate)

Website www.cityfarms.org

The Federation's objectives are to promote:

- the exchange of information, best practice and expertise of people who are engaged in city farms and other community land based projects and their activities;
- the organic management of land;
- education and training of members;
- transnational projects and exchanges both as hosts and visitors;
- an annual European Conference;
- a commitment to sustainable development principles and practices in all programmes and actions;
- a programme of European co-operation and integration.

EEB Cooks



EEB's Human Resources Officer Aleks Kolodziejska brings you one of her favourite vegan recipes!

VEGAN BANANA BREAD

- 3 large over-ripe bananas
- 75 ml vegetable oil (neutral flavour)
- 45 ml unsweetened nondairy milk
- 65 g brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 250 g flour (spelt, whole wheat, unbleached all-purpose)
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 100 g chopped nuts
- 100 g chopped vegan dark chocolate

1 Preheat oven to 180 degrees.

2 Grease your loaf pan.

3 In a large mixing bowl, mash the bananas, add the brown sugar, oil, milk and vanilla extract, and mix everything well.

4 In another bowl, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt.

5 Add dry ingredients into banana mixture and use a wooden spoon to mix using as few strokes as possible. Batter will be slightly thick and some lumps are ok. If it seems too thick, add more milk.

6 Add nuts and chocolate.

7 Pour the batter into the loaf pan and smooth the top.

8 Bake for about 50min to one hour, until a toothpick inserted at the centre comes out clean.

9 Leave it to cool

10 Enjoy!



Building the energy system of the future



The recent surge in clean energy can help Europe overcome its addiction to fossil fuels. But Mauro Anastasio reveals there may be a catch.

For decades the idea of achieving 100% renewable energy was largely seen as a wishful thinking. Now, thanks to the increasing uptake of cheaper wind and solar and progress on energy storage, not only does a truly green energy system look possible – it also makes economic sense.

The renewable way

The share of renewables in the EU's energy mix has more than doubled in the last decade, rising from 8.5% in 2004 to 17.5% in 2017.

"It may seem like slow progress but given the continued drop in supply costs and increasing efficiency of our homes, industry and products, it's realistic to say renewables can soon overtake fossil fuels," said Roland Joebstl, who works on climate and energy at the EEB.

In fact, clean energy has already taken on the lion's share of electricity production. In the first half of 2019, and for the second consecutive year, European renewables produced more power than gas, coal, lignite, oil and peat combined. In March 2019, Portugal produced 100% of its electricity from hydro and wind power alone.

But despite the urgency and positive trends seen so far, many EU countries still heavily rely on fossil fuels. While the share of energy from renewable sources was over 50% in Sweden in 2017, it was still 10% or less in countries such as Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK.

"What some countries are still lacking is not wind or sun, but investments in energy networks and infrastructure that can transport and store high quantities of renewable energy," said Jonathan Bonadio, an energy expert at the EEB. "We must invest in modern interconnection and local grids now if we want to boost renewable energy exponentially in the next decades," he added.

"For the second consecutive year, European renewables produced more power than gas, coal, lignite, oil and peat combined."

Gas or not

But that's easier said than done. In recent years, the industry has successfully convinced policy makers to divert public funds to fossil fuel infrastructure such as new gas pipelines. Brussels-based lobby groups reportedly spent over €100m in 2016 to push the myth that fossil gas is clean.

A recent letter from a group of NGOs argued that "investing in continued gas use now does nothing more than rearrange the deck chairs on the Titanic." It's a waste of public money, and it will just create incentives to produce more gas at a time when we need to focus on renewables, they said in a recent public consultation.

Luckily it seems the European Commission is also questioning the fossil fuel industry's claims. Its long-term energy strategy projects a 20% decrease in fossil gas demand by 2030, which could go down by 90% by 2050, with much depending on the designs we chose for the energy system of the future.

The good news is that we have a choice, and there's still time influence the investment decisions that will show whether Europe is serious about climate action.



EXPERT Q&A

Know your rights

META sat down with Jeremy Wates, EEB Secretary General and former Secretary to the Aarhus Convention at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, to talk environmental rights. We discussed the Aarhus Convention and how it's applied at national and EU level.

What exactly is the Aarhus convention?

It's an international treaty that was adopted more than 20 years ago. Put simply, its aim is to empower the public to take part in decision making in environmental matters. In order to have effective participation, the public needs to be well informed and have access to justice.

Why do we need it?

There are three environmental rights in the Aarhus Convention: access to information, public participation and access to justice. The convention guarantees these rights on environmental matters for the public and environmental groups, in the EU and its member states.

And how is it applied in the EU?

The Convention is applied by the EU at two levels: the national level and the level of the EU institutions. To ensure action at the national level, EU directives exist on access to information and public participation, but not on access to justice. This is an issue as a directive would be a way to make sure that the member states are meeting the standards of the Convention.

Are there any problems with how the EU applies the convention?

Yes. There is a major problem at the EU level regarding access to justice. Environmental groups and citizens have very limited access to the European Court of Justice. These restrictions are not allowed, which has led to the EU being found in non-compliance with the Convention. The EU was initially reluctant to acknowledge the problem and has moved very slowly to explore how it could come into line.

What should we expect for the future?

At the EU level, we would like the new Commission to make amending the Aarhus Regulation one of its first priorities. We hope that all three institutions will take progressive positions in the process, and we will certainly push for that. That is the most important step. The Commission should also come forward with a proposal for a directive on access to justice so that the level of access to justice can be raised in all member states.

The EEB's Law Working Group brings together legal and policy experts from across our membership network.

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The EEB is a partner in the PAC project (Paris-Agreement Compatible Scenarios for Energy Infrastructure), which aims to increase NGOs' participation in preparing cables and pipelines to allow for 100% renewables.

A series of workshops allows civil society organisations to improve their expertise on what it's needed to transition to clean energy. The aim is to make one of the key instruments for European energy policy, the European-wide Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP), truly compatible with the Paris Agreement.

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CAMPAIGN NEWS



The **EU Ecolabel** is a voluntary scheme that rewards products and services for having less negative impact on the environment. The EEB officially represents environmental NGOs at EU level in the EU Ecolabelling Scheme and receives funding from the European Commission to participate in the programme and promote its benefits to the public.

Ecolabel holiday

More and more of us are looking for ways to ensure our holidays are great green getaways. But if you've already picked your favourite natural park, packed your toxic-free sun cream, and booked your two-day train tickets, what more can you do to cut the impact of your vacation? One option: book accommodation with the EU Ecolabel.

Read more: meta.eeb.org/fowk



Europe Beyond Coal is an international campaign to combat the worsening impacts of climate change and air pollution by accelerating the move away from coal and towards clean, renewable energy. The EEB is a founding member of Europe Beyond Coal, and works closely with groups from across Europe to make sure energy systems are coal-free by 2030.

Hidden Mercury emissions

Across Europe coal burning is the single biggest source of mercury pollution entering the air. Apparently skyrocketing mercury emissions from a Bulgarian lignite plant reveal the operator may have underestimated the amount of toxic substances they pumped into the air for years.

Read more: meta.eeb.org/qujw



The EEB is co-leading the **Right to Repair** coalition, an EU-wide campaign to ensure our everyday products are designed to be repaired and last longer instead of being replaced. The campaign was set up by EEB members Restart Project alongside ECOS, iFixit, Rundertisch Reparatur and the EEB, and brings together environmental NGOs, repair activists and professionals and consumer groups

Disposable smartphones

Extending the lifespan of smartphones and other electronics by just one year would save the EU as much carbon emissions as taking 2 million cars off the road, a new EEB study reveals. Experts assessed the climate benefits of making smartphones, notebooks, washing machines and vacuum cleaners more durable.

Read more: meta.eeb.org/9kqx

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Interested in joining our team? eeb.org/opportunities

EVENTS

REPORTS

#StandTogetherNOW

20-27 September Join your local climate strike
globalclimatestrike.net

Transforming farm subsidies to prevent climate breakdown

25 September Brussels
 How can the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) help the farming sector become climate neutral?

An EU budget to address the climate emergency

15 October Brussels
 How can EU money be used to help boost green projects rather than pollution?

Sailing the winds of change for Europe's environment

18 November Join us for our annual conference in Berlin
eebconference.eu

eeb.org/events

Spotlight Report on Sustainability in Europe

Who is paying the bill?
 (Negative) impacts of EU policies and practices in the world

SDG WATCH
 Report published by SDG Watch Europe

Who is paying the bill?
 (Negative) impacts of EU policies and practices in the world

Eurobarometer Survey
Decoupling Debunked
 Evidence and arguments against green growth as a sole strategy for sustainability

MAKE EUROPE SUSTAINABLE FOR ALL

Decoupling debunked
 Evidence and arguments against green growth as a sole strategy for sustainability

COOLPRODUCTS DON'T COST THE EARTH

coolproducts
 REPAIR TO PROTECT
 EEB European Environmental Bureau

CoolProducts don't cost the Earth
 The climate cost of planned obsolescence

SEPTEMBER 2019
DESTINATION CLIMATE NEUTRALITY
 A FIVE YEAR POLICY BLUEPRINT FOR EUROPE

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS
 EEB European Environmental Bureau
 IDDRI CLIMACT

Destination Climate Neutrality
 A five year policy blueprint for Europe

eeb.org/library

News from our network



#Frinão campaign gives Portugal's Tâmega river hydropower reprieve

The Portuguese government dropped plans for the Fridão hydropower dam on the Tâmega river – after a successful campaign started by EEB member **GEOTA**.

Over 5,500 people came together to support the #frinão campaign to stop the construction of two huge dams in an earthquake zone just 6 km upstream from the city of Amarante.

But other hydropower projects as part of the Tâmega Hydropower Scheme still pose a threat to the river, an important refuge for migrating fish species.

Read more: eunaoassino.com

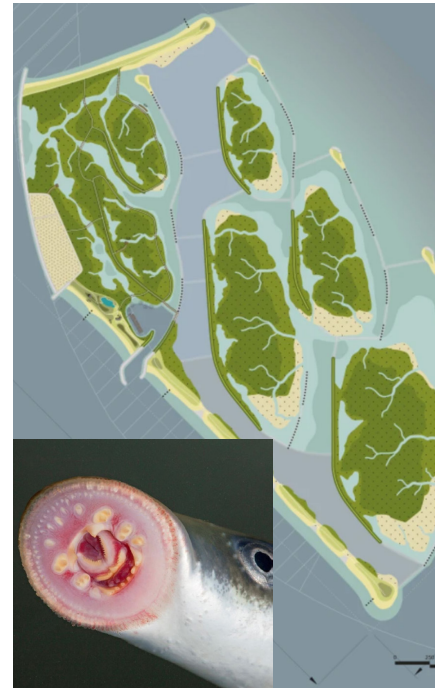


Extending the life of Belgian nuclear plants was illegal – EU court

The European Court of Justice has ruled that lifetime extensions granted to the aging Doel 1 and 2 nuclear power plants in Belgium were illegal. The decision followed a crowdfunded legal action brought by two EEB members: **Bond Beter Leefmilieu (BBL)** and **Inter-Environnement Wallonie (IEW)**.

Sara Van Dyck of BBL said: "As the court ruled, the Espoo and Aarhus Conventions require cross-border environmental impact assessments and public participation in decisions to extend the life of nuclear power plants. We now expect the Belgian courts to follow the European advice and quickly pass a judgement."

Read more: iew.be and bondbeterleefmilieu.be



Happy fish to enjoy unique migration river

Construction is set to begin on a unique and innovative project to restore a natural and open connection between the IJsselmeer and the Wadden Sea on the Dutch coast.

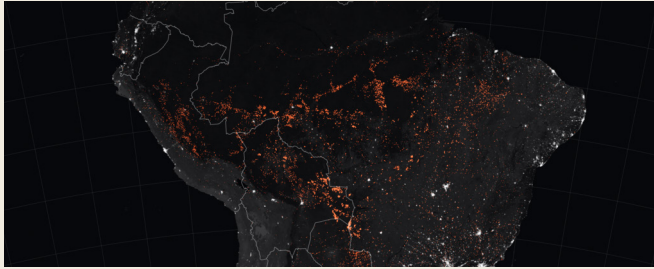
Millions of migratory fish such as the sea trout, salmon, the river lamprey, the eel and the European flounder are expected to use the impressive fish migration river, due to open in 2023.

EEB member **Waddenvereniging** was one of five Dutch nature groups that developed the plan, now backed by major donors and local and national governments.

Read more: vriendenvandeblijvis.nl

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EUROPE CAN HELP SAVE THE AMAZON BY CHANGING ITSELF

Europe did not light the fires ravaging the Amazon, but it did provide some of the matches. There is plenty the EU can do to save and protect the rainforest, and much of that begins at home.

meta.eeb.org/r4ou



TWO REASONS WHY CHEAP FLIGHTS MAY COST US THE EARTH AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

While the volume of air travel continues to skyrocket, something else is in the air. META takes a look into the hidden costs of flying and the rising movement to Stay Grounded.

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TREATED LIKE TRASH: HOW ROMA IN ROMANIA ARE FORCED TO LIVE BY CITY DUMPS

Marginalisation and racism force hundreds of Roma in Romania to live in Pata Rât, Europe's largest waste-related ghetto.

meta.eeb.org/5pef

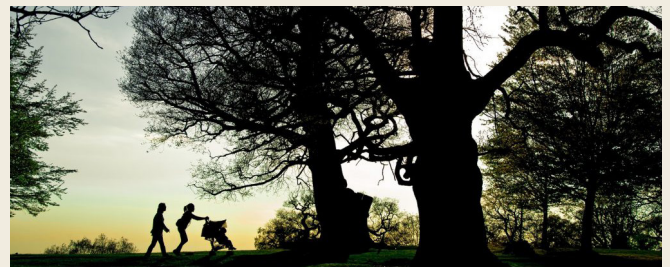


News in BREF: Could you be a Waste Treatment Watchdog?

The EEB has a seat at the table during the Sevilla Process – talks between the EU, member states and businesses about updating environmental rules for industry. Technical standards are set in documents called BREFs.

A new guide to help environmental groups ensure that EU waste treatment rules are properly followed - the Waste Treatment BREF - was published in July. EEB's Aiki Kriekouki told META: "National and local groups have a key role to play".

meta.eeb.org/inv3



TURNING CONCRETE JUNGLES INTO NATIONAL PARKS

When people hear the word national park, they usually think of forests, mountains and even savannahs. They do not usually picture cities. Yet, earlier this week, London became the world's first-ever 'national park city' when it signed up to the International Charter for National Park Cities.

meta.eeb.org/gsmt

A NEW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE EU

John Hontelez, EEB Secretary General

The outgoing European Commission presented a Sustainable Development Strategy in May 2001. This Strategy contains important notions and proposals. It emphasises the urgency and political leadership required. It advocates the use of financial instruments to make the market work for the environment, as well as the abolition of environmentally perverse subsidies. And it sets specific objectives for four important policy areas (climate change, mobility, nature and natural resources, and public health). In this way it created expectations, which have only partly been fulfilled.

This autumn, a first assessment of its implementation and results will take place. This should lead to a commitment from the new Commission to the Strategy, amended or not, complemented with concrete actions in its five-year work programme.

The outgoing Commission has begun a public consultation in ending in October. The Annual Conference of the EEB, 'A new sustainable development strategy for the EU', 20 September 2004, is likely to be the only occasion for discussing the successes, failures and lessons of the Strategy directly with EU politi-

cians and officials in that period. The conference conclusions could become an important contribution to the new Commission's dedication to sustainable development.

The EEB is worried about attempts to sideline the environmental agenda and make it subordinate to narrowly defined 'competitiveness proofing'. We see some industries, for example, chemical producers, riding this wave by fiercely fighting one of the most important pieces of draft legislation the outgoing Commission produced, REACH (which aims to phase out the production and use of hazardous chemicals). We are convinced that protection and improvement of the environment are a precondition for a sound economy, and in fact for peace, in the longer term.

Making a success of the Sustainable Development Strategy means strong leadership from the European Commission. And it needs determination to make the Lisbon Process, which aims to make the EU the most competitive economy in the world, a tool for the more inclusive and longer-term goal of creating an EU where environmental protection, social objectives and economic activities go truly together.

In other words, the Lisbon Process should be directed in such a way that it becomes a concrete contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy.

The EEB has a history of promoting sustainable development as central part of EU policies. With environmental allies it successfully lobbied for sustainable development to become part of the Treaty of the European Community (and more recently into the new Constitution). With the European Trade Unions Confederation, the Platform of European Social NGOs and others it presented ideas to make sustainable development work, recently in their joint campaign 'Investing for a Sustainable Future'. It has consistently campaigned for the integration of environmental objectives in sectoral policies and for making a market for the environment.

We hope that the EEB conference will inspire both civil society organisations and EU decision-makers to make the next period of five years of EU policy a giant step in the right direction.



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About us



The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is the largest network of environmental citizens' organisations in Europe with around 150 member organisations from over 30 countries.

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