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December 2024 - January 2025

Your bi-monthly climate connection is here!

2024 has officially been declared the hottest year on record, marking a decade where each year from 2015 to 2024 ranked among the ten warmest ever. This relentless rise in temperatures demands urgent action. As the UN Secretary-General warns, "Blazing temperatures in 2024 require trail-blazing climate action in 2025". With Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) due for updates this year, leaders must commit to bold and immediate emission cuts. Every fraction of a degree matters as our window to prevent the worst impacts of climate change is closing fast.

Furthermore, in the recently concluded COP29, India took a strong stance on climate finance, challenging the proposed financial commitments for developing nations. Calling the pledged funds insufficient, India stressed the need for a fair and just financial framework that genuinely supports climate adaptation and mitigation in the Global South. The negotiations underscored the growing divide between developed and developing nations in securing adequate resources for climate action.

This is our bi-monthly dispatch of updates and insights on renewable energy, energy transition, climate change and the environment in general. We hope you enjoy reading it!

Happenings from home



COP29 unfolded with high expectations but delivered familiar frustrations with lofty promises with little tangible progress. The growing influence of oil-producing nations, the ongoing stalemate over climate finance and the debate over carbon markets highlighted deep divisions. While the Loss and Damage Fund saw some movement, key climate goals remain distant. Developed nations' reluctance to commit adequate financial support and the push to shift climate responsibilities onto emerging economies further strained negotiations. With current policies leading to a 2.7°C rise, far beyond the 1.5°C Paris target, urgent, decisive action is needed. As the world looks to COP30 in Brazil, the challenge remains. As the planet's future hangs in the balance, will global leaders finally move from rhetoric to real climate action, or will another year be lost to inaction? This is a piece by Mala Balaji, researcher at CAG analyses outcomes.

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From the corners of the country



India is on an ambitious path to achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, with 209 GW already installed as of December 2024. This rapid expansion of renewable energy marks significant progress, but it has also led to imbalanced regional development, with projects concentrated in select states. This uneven distribution has resulted in grid congestion, transmission bottlenecks, and infrastructure challenges, limiting opportunities for other regions and posing risks to overall energy security. To ensure sustainable and inclusive growth, a more balanced approach is needed—one that focuses on diversifying geographical distribution, strengthening grid infrastructure and enhancing energy storage solutions to build a resilient and equitable energy future for the country.

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From around the world



The Global Climate Highlights 2024 by Copernicus confirms that 2024 was the hottest year on record, surpassing 2016 by 0.10°C. Global temperatures averaged 1.48°C above pre-industrial levels, with November reaching 1.62°C, marking one of 16 months in the past 17 to exceed the 1.5°C threshold. Every month from June to December set new heat records, reflecting an alarming warming trend. Ocean surface temperatures hit unprecedented highs, with extreme marine heatwaves recorded worldwide. The Arctic saw above-average warmth, while Antarctica experienced record-low sea ice extent. These findings underscore the accelerating pace of climate change, highlighting the urgent need for stronger global policies, immediate emission cuts and increased climate resilience efforts.

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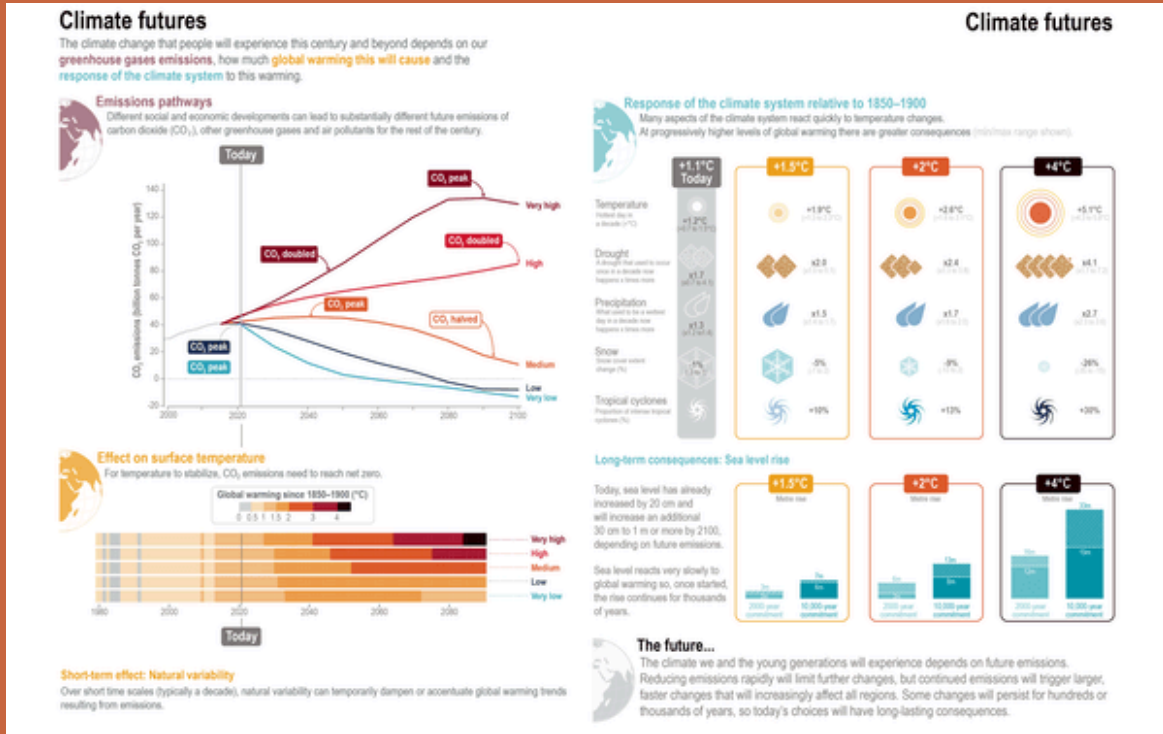
Global warnings



A new study published in Nature reveals that climate change is intensifying weather-related disasters, profoundly impacting global ecosystems. Researchers highlight that extreme weather patterns including heatwaves, floods, and drought are becoming more frequent and severe, destabilising ecosystems and pushing biodiversity to the brink of collapse. This not only disrupts natural habitats but also threatens global food and water security, increasing risks for millions of people. Rising temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns and prolonged droughts are altering ecosystems at an alarming rate. The study underscores the urgent need for decisive climate action, emphasising that immediate emissions reductions and conservation efforts are essential to mitigate further damage and protect global biodiversity.

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In a nutshell



This infographic illustrates possible climate futures based on greenhouse gas emissions and their impact on global warming. It presents five Shared Socio-economic Pathway (SSP) scenarios, showing annual CO₂ emissions, projected warming, and key climate variables' response to different warming levels. It also highlights the long-term impact on sea levels. The future climate we experience depends on our emissions and how the climate system responds, emphasizing the urgency of climate action.

[Know more](#)

Nugget



Did you know that Brazil's Amazon rainforest faced its worst drought on record in 2024. Scientists warn that up to 47% of the Amazon could experience extreme heat and drought stress by 2050, potentially transforming vast areas into degraded forests or savannas.

[Know more](#)

Climate Literacy Conference 2024



The "Climate Literacy for All: Bridging Knowledge and Action" Conference 2024 was a great success, celebrating the launch of FOCUS for Beginners, a climate change curriculum for primary school children. The event featured keynotes by Education Minister Thiru. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi, alongside insightful contributions from policymakers and experts, emphasising the importance of climate education in shaping the next generation's understanding and action on climate change.

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Environmental Law Enforcement Manual



CAG's Environmental Law Enforcement Manual aims to strengthen the investigation and prosecution of environmental crimes by addressing enforcement challenges and enhancing inter-agency collaboration. Effective enforcement is key to protecting ecosystems, preserving biodiversity, and mitigating climate change. By prioritising environmental protection, we can ensure a sustainable future where violations are treated as serious crimes. Together, we can uphold and enforce laws that safeguard our planet.

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CAG

Citizen consumer and civic Action Group

Climate Connection is an initiative of Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG) to assist and inform local communities, grassroots NGOs, environment and consumer groups, village representatives and media representatives on how to embrace renewable energy, navigate energy transition, mitigate climate change, and protect the environment they live in. We create change by developing and disseminating information resources on air pollution, climate change, environment and policies surrounding these issues.



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