



Forum for Environment (FfE)

*If we take care of the Earth,  
the Earth will take care of us.*

## Greenbites: Environmental News

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### Local News

#### New studies report on increasing effect of climate change

**Addis Ababa Capital-** Climate change will alter future weather and change crop and animal productivity. But economic models differ on the magnitude of these changes, according to the world's lead economic experts. Estimates on both the direction and magnitude are crucial to address world food security issues at global, regional, and national levels. Outputs from climate, crop and economic models are central to understanding the range of possible outcomes. A new study, published in a special feature of the December 17 issue of the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, describes the product of a multi-year collaboration between leading global research teams. "This is the first time that so many of the world's leading global modelers have worked together to understand where their results are similar, where they differ, and importantly, why they differ," said Gerald Nelson, the study's lead author.

(For more information visit [www.capitalethiopia.com](http://www.capitalethiopia.com) December 22, 2013)

#### Is Green Industrialization Possible?

**Addis Ababa, Fortune-** Manufacturing industries present society with a dilemma. A healthy manufacturing sector helps an economy to grow, thereby raising living standards an especially important goal for developing countries. But, as factories try to meet ever-growing consumer demands, they deplete the world's natural resources and pollute the environment. For some, the world now faces a stark choice between rising prosperity and a cleaner, more sustainable environment. In fact, with new technology and fresh thinking, policymakers can strike a durable balance between these competing interests. In developed countries, consumers are increasingly recognizing that, while their material well-being may be higher than ever, their quality of life suffers if the environment is damaged. For poorer countries, such concerns are dismissed as a rich-world luxury. Industrial expansion is the best way to eradicate poverty and must surely trump environmental concerns. The manufacturing sector creates jobs, makes affordable products for cash-strapped consumers, produces vital tax revenue that can be used to support social goals and brings in foreign currency in the form of export revenue. In short, a well-run manufacturing

sector spreads wealth across society. However, trying to satisfy the seemingly endless material demands of consumers at all levels of the economic pyramid has placed an unmanageable burden on the natural world.

(For more information visit [www.addisfortune.com](http://www.addisfortune.com) January 5, 2014)

### **Climate-model misgivings**

**Addis Ababa, The Reporter-** The most important issue in climate science today is whether the models used to predict climate change are reliable enough to inform policymakers' decisions. The credibility of climate scientists has taken a number of hits lately, with climate models having failed to predict the "pause" in global warming over the last decade or last year's increase in Antarctic sea ice. Even with the benefit of hindsight, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has struggled to explain recent developments. After all, arguably the most important issue in climate science today is not whether man-made global warming is real, but whether the models being used to predict climate change are reliable enough to inform policymakers' decisions. Of course, no one is suggesting that climate scientists should be able to predict future developments precisely. Even tomorrow's weather forecast produced using techniques that form the basis of climate models is not 100% accurate. But weather forecasts are becoming increasingly precise and climate predictions should be following suit.

(For more information visit [www.ethiopianreporter.com](http://www.ethiopianreporter.com) December 14, 2013)

### **International News**

#### **Volume of electronic waste set to rise by a third**

**Scidev.net-**The amount of electronic waste produced globally is set to grow by a third between 2012 and 2017, according to a forecast made by experts at a global partnership created to tackle e-waste. The forecast was made as the Solving the E-Waste Problem (StEP) Initiative launched an interactive, online world map depicting the amount of electronic waste produced in different countries across the globe and a report showing the amount of e-waste shipped from the United States to developing countries. On average, each person on the planet produced seven kilograms of e-waste in 2012, that is 48.9 million tonnes in total, and StEP estimates that this will rise to 65.4 million tonnes in 2017. A lot of this potentially hazardous waste ends up in developing countries, where governments still do not pay enough attention to the rising problem, which also offers business opportunities, according to Ruediger Kuehr, executive secretary of StEP. He tells SciDev.Net that the aim of the online map and the report, which were launched last month (16 December), is to allow governments, industry and other organizations to plan e-waste management and recycling of discarded mobile phones, laptops, televisions and computer monitors. The map is based on 2012 data from 184 nations.

For more information visit: (<http://www.scidev.net/global/pollution/news/volume-of-electronic-waste-set-to-rise-by-a-third.html>)

### **EU Could Cut Emissions by 40 Percent at Moderate Cost**

**Science daily (Jan 16, 2014)**- EU could cut emissions by 40 percent at moderate cost: This is a key finding from an international multi-model analysis by the Stanford Energy Modeling Forum (EMF28) and comes at a crucial time, as the European Commission is set to announce next week its plans whether to scale up its efforts on emissions reduction in the next decade. However, beyond 2040, according to the scientists the costs risk to rise substantially. Technological innovation would be needed to counter this. "In the next two decades, it is possible to achieve the transformation using existing technologies," says Brigitte Knopf of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, who led the study conducted by a dozen research groups. Thereafter, however, energy-economy system models project different costs. Some simulations show a steep increase after 2040, while others show only a linear increase. One determining factor is the degree to which new technologies can replace old ones.

For more information visit: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/01/140116113311.htm>

### **Get your cash out of fossil fuel backed funds says UN climate chief**

**BBC-** The pensions and nest eggs of billions of people around the world are being put at risk by global warming, says the UN's climate chief. Christiana Figueres has called on investors to pull their money out of fossil fuel linked funds. She said institutional investors would be in blatant breach of their

fiduciary duty if they ignored the "clear scientific evidence". Ms Figueres said that they should put their money into green assets instead. The issue of investing in oil, gas and other fossil fuel-backed funds has provoked a heated debate over the past 12 months. Environmental campaigners have argued that if the Earth is to avoid dangerous climate change, defined as temperature increases above 2C, then up to three quarters of the coal, oil and gas that remains must be left in the ground. Some financial experts have argued that if these resources are essentially declared worthless, this will have a major impact on the share values of the fossil fuel corporations that own them. Now the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), has joined the voices calling on investors to get out of high carbon assets. "The continued and dangerous rise in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is in large part the direct result of past investments in energy and mobility systems based on the use of fossil fuels," Ms Figueres told an audience of investors and corporate leaders in New York with more than \$20 trillion in combined assets. "New investments must now assist in reversing this unsustainable trend, and quickly if the world is to have a chance of staying under a 2C temperature rise," she said.

For more information visit: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-25743457>

**Compiled by: Éden Mesfin  
Forum for Environment (FfE)**

**T: +251 115 521662**

**F: +251 115 521034**

**P: 10386**

**E: [edenmesfin@gmail.com](mailto:edenmesfin@gmail.com)**

**W: [www.ffc-ethiopia.org](http://www.ffc-ethiopia.org)**

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