



Good News — Bad News

These are turbulent times, with many positive developments related to creating a sustainable future, as well as some glaringly bad news that we would like to simply ignore. Nevertheless, I believe it is imperative that we all have some understanding of the growing scientific evidence regarding the climate emergency. That emergency might not appear to have direct impact on our lives, but the following articles demonstrate that our lives are indeed impacted by airborne plastic, extreme weather, pollution causing cancers, and many international disasters that are disrupting the supply chain, energy prices, and the stability of democracies worldwide:

California bans sales of new gasoline-powered vehicles by 2035

This ban is significant because there are up to 17 U.S. states that follow California's emissions standards and environmental-related laws, including Maryland. This ban therefore applies to over half of the U.S. population. When California creates these laws, manufacturers must adjust accordingly — if they want to maintain their market share. <https://bit.ly/3EpV00K>

Horn of Africa drought places 22 million people at risk of starvation, says UN

This title speaks for itself. Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia are among the many countries in Africa that are now facing famine caused by unprecedented multi-year droughts, something never seen before. And when continual droughts occur, people must migrate to find new food sources, forcing neighboring countries to absorb millions or refugees. Closer to home, climate emergency-induced droughts in South America are creating a similar "climate migration" along the Mexican border. <https://bit.ly/3TYTmJe>

The World is Awash in Plastic. Nations Plan a Treaty to Fix That

Earlier this year in Kenya, over 175 nations agreed to a plan to improve recycling, clean up the world's plastic waste, and curb the production of plastic. This treaty is an important step to reducing our planet's dependence on plastic, now shown to be airborne everywhere in the world. A study indicates that each of us now inhales



approximately 16 bits of plastic every hour. <https://nyti.ms/3Xbhw6a>

Plummeting sperm counts, shrinking penises: toxic chemicals threaten humanity

This article is the most concerning, threatening our ability as humans to procreate.

Scientists have determined that sperm count in humans could approach zero by 2045. This frightening prediction is based on our continual exposure to chemicals in our soap, shampoos, electronics, and carpeting, to name a few. PFAS, the forever chemicals that never break down and are used in a lot of consumer products, are of particular concern to our health. <https://bit.ly/3Omh7K5>

Tropical forests can partially regenerate in just 20 years without human interference

Many countries now focus on setting aside 30% of their land and marine resources as protected areas, which scientists claim will significantly help to stabilize the planet, protect biodiversity, and allow the fish stock of the oceans to recover and thrive. This article indicates that forests would recover quickly without any human intervention, if we just protect these spaces. <https://bit.ly/3TXAdYe>

For a more complete list, visit <https://bit.ly/3GwOBnf>

Please let us know if you have any comments or ways that our Town can become more sustainable by emailing us at: tos.environmentcommittee@gmail.com.

[Editor's Note: Last month's issue of the Journal erroneously listed Cumberland Avenue as Barton Rubenstein's address. My apologies!]