



## United Nations Employee Speaks to Summer Interns



Krishnan Sharma recently spoke with NGO Sustainability interns about his important work at the United Nations. Mr. Sharma works in the Financing for Sustainable Development Office at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the UN. He works on ways to finance the SDGs and sustainable development.

According to Sharma one of the biggest issues with financing sustainable development is that private capital is not flowing. He has to consider the investment chain and the quantity, quality, and time horizon of investments. Mr. Sharma's office also works to incentivize private companies to invest in sustainable development. Recently, his office brought a group of about 30 CEOs together to figure out the incentives issue. This group is called the Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) is just in its beginning stages now, but it will be a big step in working with the private sector on sustainable development.

Mr. Sharma holds a Masters degree in Development Economics. At the start of his career he worked in asset management, but he always wanted to get into development so he started to do that in his job by working with emerging markets. In 1996, Mr. Sharma got his job as a Senior Economist at the UN where he has worked for almost 24 years. When asked how one can get a venerable position like his at the UN, Mr. Sharma replied that one must have a lot of ambition and a bit of luck. Mr. Sharma continues to better the world through his important work in financing sustainable development.

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## “Blowing Bubbles to Pollinate Flowers”



Eijiro Miyako/New York Times

### **Cara Giaimo**

Declining insect populations are forcing farmers and scientists to look for alternative pollination methods. To improve the tedious method of hand pollination, scientists created a bubble using soap and pollen that can be blown over fields. While this may be helpful for replacing hand pollination, many worry that this method will allow farmers to use more pesticides, killing more insect species.

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## “Coal-burning in Siberia led to climate change 250 million years ago”



Scott Simper

### **Arizona State University**

Several causes have been posited for the Permo-Triassic extinction event. Among the most popular is severe global warming from over a million years of coal burning due to widespread continual volcanic eruptions. This recent study by researchers at Arizona State University provides the first direct evidence that coal burning led to the extinction by warming global temperatures.

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“Covid-19 has led to a pandemic of plastic pollution”



Getty Images

### **The Economist - June 22nd 2020**

Surgical masks and latex gloves are popping up throughout the world's oceans "like a stubborn weed(s)". PPE in addition to electronic shopping is forcing single use plastic consumption to rise dramatically. Most of this plastic is unable to be recycled, contributing to large waste increases. The coronavirus crisis is reversing progress against single-use plastic attitudes worldwide.

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“A national US power grid would make electricity cheaper and cleaner”



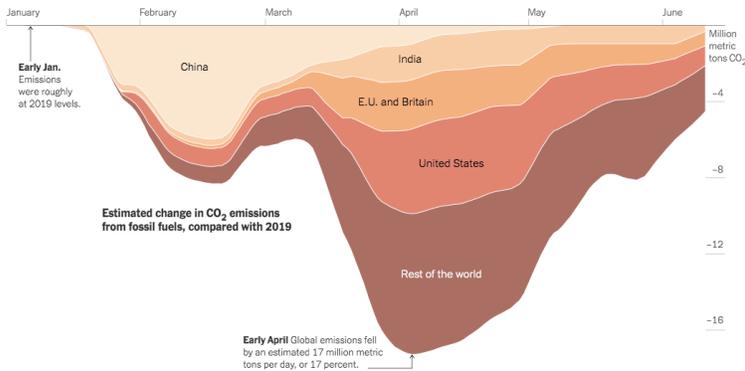
Joe Sohm/Visions of America/Universal Images Group/  
Getty Images

### **David Roberts**

The US power grid is split into three sections — the western interconnection, the eastern interconnection, and Texas — these "largely operate independently and exchange very little power." The US should build a national grid because "it will unlock renewable energy potential", "reduce greenhouse gas emissions", "save consumers money", "make the grid more reliable", and "create jobs".

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## “Emissions Are Surging Back as Countries and States Reopen”



New York Times / Nature Climate Change /Global Carbon Project

### **Brad Plumer and Nadja Popovich**

As countries reopen from coronavirus shutdowns, greenhouse gas emissions are beginning to rise. Mid-June emissions were roughly only 5% lower than the 2019 average, when throughout April they were almost 17% lower. One of the main contributors to emissions dropping was less traffic, now that things are beginning to open it is clear that people are hesitant to use public transportation and are driving instead. This shows how hard it will be to minimize GHG emissions, and how important it is for governments to implement sustainable methods of development, “green recovery” methods, when trying to help the economy.

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## “Vatican calls on Catholics to divest from fossil fuels”

### **Jordan Valinsky**

"The Vatican is urging Catholics and the private sector to 'progressively and without delay' divest from fossil fuel producers and other entities that perpetuate climate change". Pope Francis said "less harmful alternatives can be used transiently' and called on richer countries to help finance the costs so they don't 'fall disproportionately on the poorest countries'". Additionally, Pope Francis has been said to call for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to be taxed.

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## “Democrats Detail a Climate Agenda Tying Environment to Racial Justice”

### **Christopher Flavelle**

Democrats in congress have developed a climate proposal for future goals should they control the white house and the congress next year. Reduced emissions are among the many plans as well as a proposal to charge people for emitting CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere, and giving the funds to lower income families. The proposal highlights racial climate inequalities, and urges security for minority groups who are most susceptible to climate change.

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