

# NGO Sustainability, Inc.



In Consultant Status with  
the United Nations Economic and Social Council

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## Advisor Profile

Poull Brien, oceans advisor, NGO Sustainability, filmmaker, broadcast television show creator, showman, partner, Wild Fish Direct, a sustainable seafood company.



Brief summary of UN Conference on Oceans, June 5-9, 2017: Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals: conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Discussed at the conference was the increasingly adverse impacts of climate change (including ocean acidification), overfishing, marine pollution, threats humans pose to our coral reef systems, farm runoff and increasing number of floating islands of plastic. In fact, by 2050 our oceans will carry more plastic than fish. Stemming the flow of waste into our waters is an area of primary concern.

In 2014 aquaculture production exceeded wild catch for human consumption for the first time, posing a significant threat to our health through fish waste and use of antibiotics. Importance was given to rebuilding wild fish stocks, creating traceability and transparency in supply chains, supporting troubled small scale fisheries, eliminating harmful fishing subsidies, ameliorating the slave conditions for fish industry workers, the deterioration of coast lives and ocean acidification.

## **12 BRIEF LESSONS ABOUT THE OCEAN AND THE WORLD**

From Ocean Atlas: Facts and Figures on the Threats to our Marine Ecosystems 2017

Without the ocean we would not survive. The ocean provides life and livelihood for a growing global population: 2.9 billion people obtain 20% of their protein from fish. The ocean covers 71 percent of the globe and is suffering because of acidification, warming, and rising sea levels (the ocean sea level has risen twenty centimeters in the last hundred years, and could reach a meter by the end of the century). We overexploit the ocean: 90% of the global fish population is maximally exploited leading to a decline in biodiversity. We dump more garbage, like fertilizers, greenhouse gases, oil, and plastic, in the ocean than it can handle. In fact, all that we consume directly or indirectly impacts the ocean. Because the ocean belongs to everyone, there is no one party responsible thus resulting in it affecting the poorest and most vulnerable.

Link: <https://www.boell.de/en/2017/05/30/ocean-atlas-facts-and-figures-about-our-relationship-with-the-ocean>



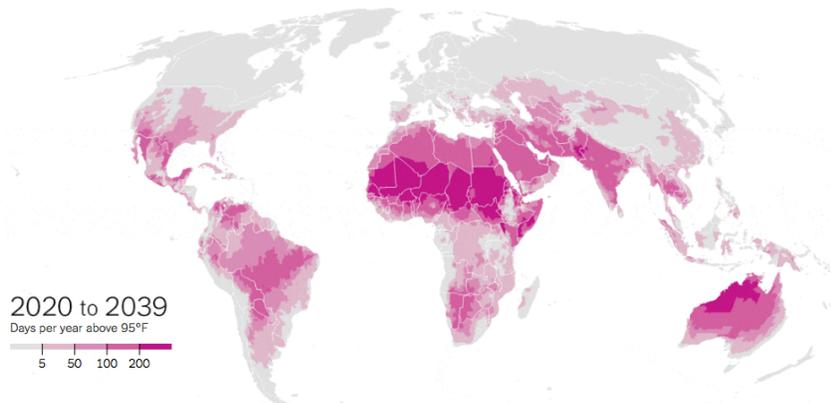
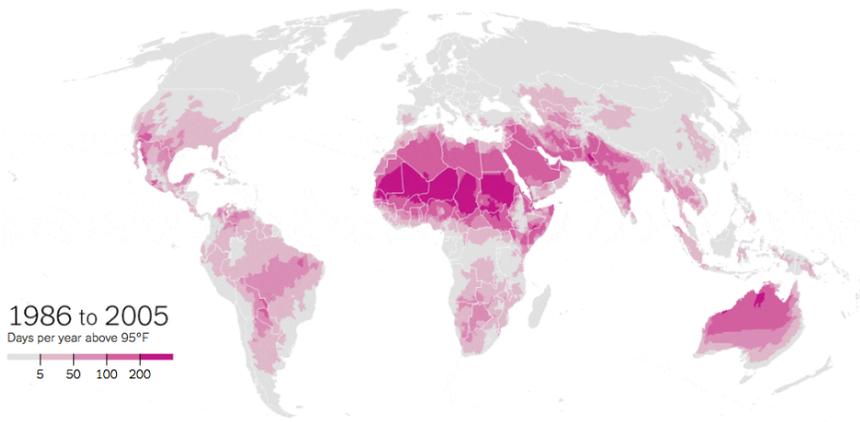
THE  
**OCEAN**  
**CONFERENCE**  
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, 5-9 JUNE 2017

## TRACKING POSSIBLE TRAJECTORY OF A WORLD OF SWELTERING DAYS

By Brad Plumer and Nadja Popovich

Hot days cripple many aspects of modern life, from agriculture to human health, to the electric grid. The Climate Impact Lab explores how ninety-five degree days are expected to multiply if the US takes moderate action, given the current pledges under the Paris climate agreement. For example, Washington D.C. experienced an average of seven days with temperatures of at least ninety-five degrees. By the end of the century, the city can expect twenty-nine of these extremely hot days.

Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/06/22/climate/95-degree-day-maps.html>



## TOO HOT FOR TAKEOFF: AIR TRAVEL IS BEING BUFFETED BY CAPRICIOUS CLIMATE

By Zach Wichter

Because hotter temperatures make for thinner air, in some parts of the country where temperatures have been unusually high, planes have struggled to take off because they weren't able to generate lift. As global climate change worsens, disturbances as such are expected, making air travel costlier, less predictable, and with a greater risk of injury to travelers. Smaller jets can perform in up to 118-degree weather, while larger jets' operating thresholds are higher, up to 127 degrees. Researchers are studying how different airports present different factors, such as elevation, to determine how much increased temperatures will affect air travel in the future.

Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/20/business/flying-climate-change.html>



## THE FIRST STEP IN ECOLOGICAL TRAVEL: HOMEWORK

By Elaine Glusac

The United Nations named 2017 the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development with a goal of promoting social inclusion, environmental protection, and economic equality. Transportation is the second largest contributor to emissions, after electricity production, which is why smarter traveling is so important. There are apps and websites for sustainable tourism; also the Travel Better Club from Sustainable Travel International and Adventure Junky. Some solutions provided by such resources include flying less, using buses and trains, gravitating towards larger more fuel efficient engines, purchasing carbon offsets, and relying on local tourism and labor while traveling so as to keep money within the community.

Link:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/29/travel/eco-tourism-greening-summer-vacations.html>

## RISE IN CARBON DEFIES SLOWING OF EMISSIONS

By Justin Gillis

In Cape Grim, Tasmania, there is a government bank of machines testing the air day and night to reveal how human activity is altering the planet. For more than two years, the station here in addition to the two across the world have indicated that the excess carbon dioxide scorching the planet rose at the highest rate on record in 2015 and 2016. Scientists are concerned because the amount of carbon dioxide pumped into the air seemed to have stabilized in recent years, since awareness of the climate crisis rose in the 1980s.

Link:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/26/climate/carbon-in-atmosphere-is-rising-even-as-emissions-stabilize.html>



## GRADE BUILDINGS ON ENERGY USE

By Danielle Spiegel-Feld

As President Trump retreats from previous presidential climate action, cities and states have more of a responsibility to develop tools to reduce emissions. For example, while cutting energy use in buildings in New York City may seem difficult because it accounts for over two thirds of the city's emissions, there are simple legal changes that could help the city reduce emissions by 80% by 2050 and create a template for the rest of the country to follow. Local Law 84 requires the city's largest buildings to report how much energy they consume each year. Participating buildings receive scores indicating how efficient they are compared to other buildings. However, even many seasoned real estate agents are unaware that this data exists, and would be unable to comprehend it if they did because it is confusing and difficult to interpret. A change in legislation would require buildings to publish their ratings, a step that has improved energy efficiency elsewhere. This type of cross state and city collaboration is crucial to finding solutions that work.



Link:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/05/opinion/new-york-buildings-energy-efficiency.html>

**OIL PRODUCER.  
CLIMATE ALLY.  
NORWAY IS A  
PARADOX**

BY Somini Sengupta

There are massive benefits to buying an electric car in Norway: the government waives taxes imposed on fossil fuel cars, electric cars can cruise bus lanes, toll roads are free, parking lots offer a free charge. Norway hopes that only electric cars will be sold in the country by 2025. However, while Norway wants to wean its own citizens off fossil fuels, it remains one of the world's largest oil producers. Yet countries are measured by how much they reduce their own emissions within their own borders, not the impact they have on the world as a whole. While Norway is in many ways a climate action leader, as one of the first countries to sign the Paris deal, its economy depends on exporting CO2.

Link:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/17/world/europe/norway-climate-oil.html>

**AS THE SCORCHERS MULTIPLY  
IN ASIA, MERCURY RECORDS  
FALL AND CLIMATE CONCERN  
RISES**

By Salman Masood and Mike Ives

Turbat, a remote town in Pakistan, faces some of the hottest temperatures ever recorded in Asia, and high levels of mercury. However, because of regular electricity shortages, it is difficult to find relief from the changes to the climate. Such changes in heat, and inability to cope with them are happening all across the globe and are forcing people to ask questions about their lifestyles and futures.

Link:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/17/world/asia/climate-change-asia-heat-records.html>



## **“RARE”: COMMUNITY LED AND POLCY SMART**

“Rare” partners with communities to design bottom-up, symbiotic solutions centered around people and their behaviors and attitudes about nature. For example, Rare worked with local groups to gain government support for rights-based fisheries management in the Philippines, Indonesia, Mozambique, and Brazil.

Rare generates support for these policies with the financial, social, and ecological benefits that come from a result of sustainable action. Close to half of the global population lives on less than \$2.50 a day and depend on the world’s remaining forests, wetlands, and coral reefs to sustain themselves, therefore solutions must be sustainably and financially viable. Rare has trained and partnered with hundreds of local communities, national governments, public and private institutions, and NGOs.

Link: <https://www.rare.org>

## **BATTLE OVER SOLAR TRADE**

By Diane Cardwell

Solar panels have become more widespread because of their sharply declining costs. However, low cost solar panel supplies from overseas, often China, have driven some American manufacturers to the brink of bankruptcy and worse. Manufacturers have pushed back with a trade case which will impact whether the American solar industry will be able to compete cost wise with conventional fuels like natural gas and coal in producing electricity. The case seeks steep tariffs and minimum price guarantees on certain solar energy equipment made outside the U.S. The commission is set to vote on this case in September, with the decision being made on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Link:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/30/business/energy->



<https://www.rare.org>

## AS BEIJING JOINS CLIMATE FIGHT, CHINESE COMPANIES BUILD COAL PLANTS

BY Hiroko Tabuchi

When China halted plans for more than 100 new coal fired power plants in the face of Trump's crusade to "bring back coal" in America, the contrast between the two countries only confirmed Beijing's new role as a leader of climate action. However, new data now shows otherwise: new coal plants being built in China make up nearly half of the new coal generation expected to go online in the next decade. 1,600 coal plants are expected in sixty-two different countries, making it impossible to meet the goals of the Paris climate agreement, to keep the increase in global temperatures from preindustrial levels below 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit. Electricity generated from fossil fuels like coal is the biggest single contributor globally to the rise in carbon emissions, which are responsible for rising temperatures.

Link:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/01/climate/china-energy-companies-coal-plants-climate-change.html?mtrref=www.google.com&gwh=190D58456B51DEE13D9F>

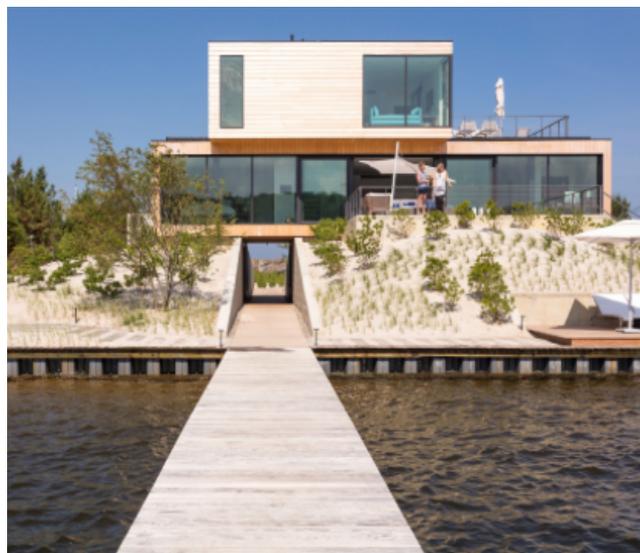
## DESIGNED TO HANDLE STORMS AND SPILLS

By Tim McKeough

R.C. and Valari Staab built a house in Seabright New Jersey that could withstand a hurricane. The house sits fifteen feet above sea level with a boardwalk between concrete retaining walls doubling as a storm drain, so that the house is one with the wind and the water. The architecture is inspired by the shape of the dunes; the couple covered the structure with mounds of sand planted with beach grasses and plants.

Link:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/30/realestate/the-hurricane-proof-beach-house.html?mtrref=www.google.com&g>



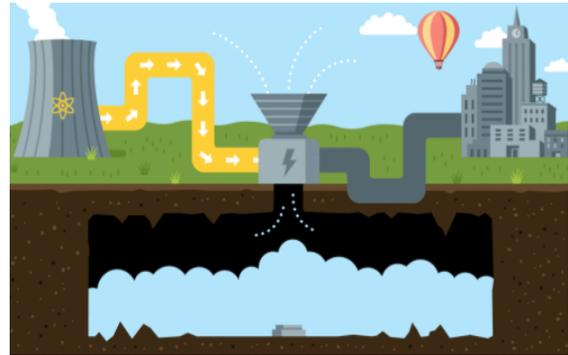
## THE BIGGEST STRANGEST 'BATTERIES'

By Diane Cardwell

Is there a battery large enough to power a city? It is too impractical to string together traditional batteries. Instead, technicians have relied on many physical forces such as temperature, friction, gravity, and inertia to keep energy stored for later release. For example, Germany capitalized on the half mile caverns to compress air, to deliver more oxygen to turbines to make electricity. Or in Tonopah Nevada, there is a solar plant that uses hot salt to extend the use of solar energy past sundown.

Link:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/03/business/energy-environment/biggest-batteries.html?mtrref=www.google.com&gwh=1D1C2DFE107170204F3D31963435BBF0&gwt=pa>  
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## CHINA TURNS ECONOMIC ENGINE TOWARD CLEAN ENERGY LEADERSHIP

By Keith Bradsher

China is capitalizing on leadership opportunity created by Trump leaving the Paris agreements. The sooty coal country which fueled China's rise to economic power represent a new ambition: to overtake the United States in the field of clean energy. For example, on a lake created by the collapse of abandoned coal mines, China built the world's largest floating solar project which provides light and air conditioning to much of a nearby city.

Link:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/05/business/energy-environment/china-clean-energy-coal->